

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Utah

Valid July 25th – Aug 8th, 2024

Subject: Conditions supporting Very Active to Extreme fire behavior remain in place across much of western Utah. Crews arriving on site to new and emerging wildfires in these areas should anticipate unusually high fire behavior for the time of year based on both recent and more long-term weather/fire danger trends.

Discussion: The following conditions are being or will be experienced/observed:

- Above normal fine fuel loading and continuity across northwest Utah.
- Critical live fuel moisture values with grass and brush type fuels available for ignition.
- ERCs above the 90th-95th percentile.
- 100 and 1000-hr time lag fuels are at historical lows and seeing complete consumption.
- Extended weather forecasts calling for a return of hot and dry conditions to much of Utah.

Difference from normal conditions: Live and dead fuel moistures are at or below normal for the time of year. Fine fuel loading is above normal across northwest Utah, increasing the potential for rapidly moving fires and extreme fire behavior. **Current and NFDRS are setting new records for the time of year across northwest Utah where conditions have been hot and dry for an extended period.** See ERC chart on pg. 2

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- Anticipate flashy fine fuels and sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, gamble oak and mixed conifer to ignite easily and exhibit **advanced rates of spread, elongated flaming fronts and increasing fire brands; expect more long range spotting, even in absence of slope and wind. You can't out run it!**
- Anticipate dust devils and fire whirls to develop in hot, dry and unstable conditions, especially in fine flashy fuels, that may jeopardize control lines and contribute to erratic fire behavior.
- Expect longer burn periods at mid to higher elevations.
- Fine fuel loadings in some areas are dense and continuous and will support extreme rates of spread regardless of fuel heights.

Mitigation Measures:

- Modify tactics to account for potential high rapid rates of spread and high resistance to control.
- Communicate retardant drop effectiveness and modify as necessary; higher coverage levels or altered tactics may be required.
- Park all vehicles in clean, cold black; avoid driving or parking in unburned fuels.
- Ensure solid anchor points – keep one foot in the black.
- Constantly re-evaluate LCES – Lookouts – Communications – Escape Routes – Safety Zones.
- Consult the latest weather and fire danger information at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/>

Area of Concern: Much of Utah and the AZ Strip (see map on pg. 2)

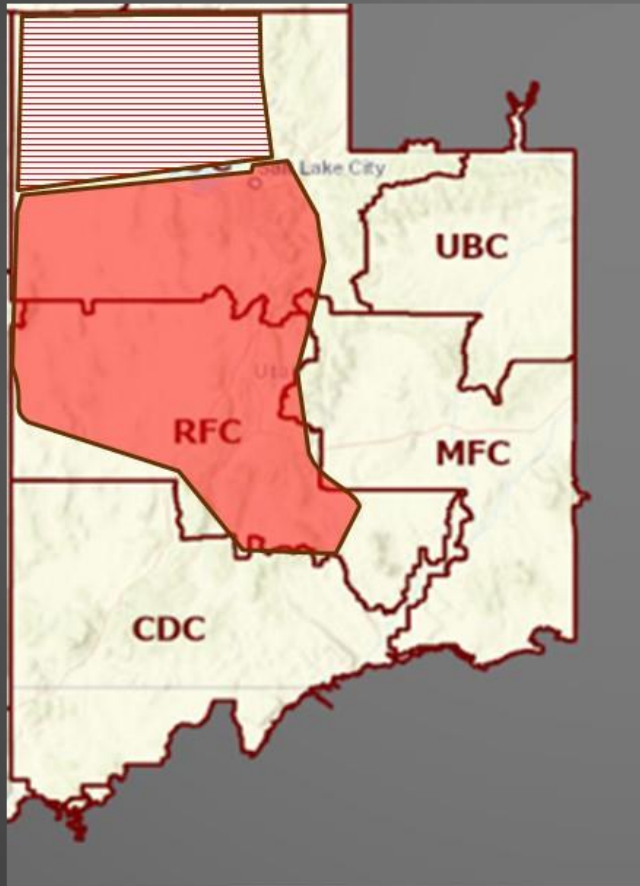
Issued By: Great Basin Coordination Center Predictive Services.

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Low live and dead fuel moisture and above normal fine fuel loading



Low live and dead fuel moisture and extreme fire danger and fire behavior

Climatology Years: 2012-2022

GB25 NW Utah

Valid Date: 07/23/2024

