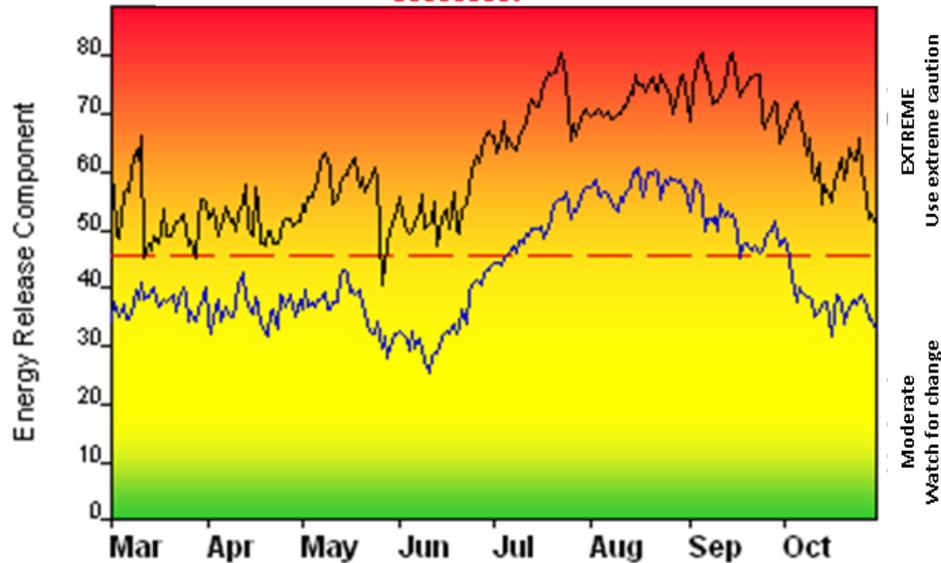


FIRE DANGER -- (SWMT-East of Divide High Elev.)

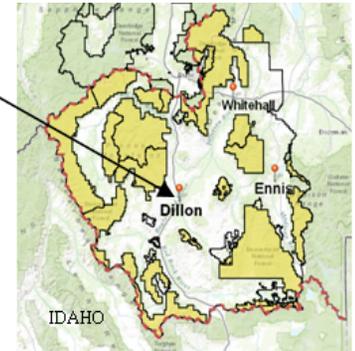
Maximum, Average, & Critical Value, based on 14 years of Data



Fire Danger Area

- SWMT East of Divide High Elev. (Timbered & Mountainous)
- Fire Wx Zones MT 110/111
- RAWS: Yellowmule (244606), Wise Rvr (245405), Red Rocks (245410), French Creek(245415), Harkness (245416), Burnt Crk (245506), Steele Creek (245417)

DILLON, MT



Fire Danger Interpretation

Maximum—Highest ERC by day for 2000-2013

Average— shows peak fire season over 14 years (3405 observations)

Critical Value— Fire activity increases rapidly above ERC >45 and increase of large fire potential with ERC > 57. 41% of the 3405 days from 2000-2013 had ERC above 45.

Energy Release Component (ERC)

Serves as a good characterization of local seasonal fire danger trends resulting from the area's fuel moisture conditions. The ERC is a relative index and should be compared to historic trends and thresholds on the pocket card. The ERC relies heavily on large and live fuels, has low variability, and is not affected by wind speed.

Local Thresholds—WATCH OUT:

Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior.

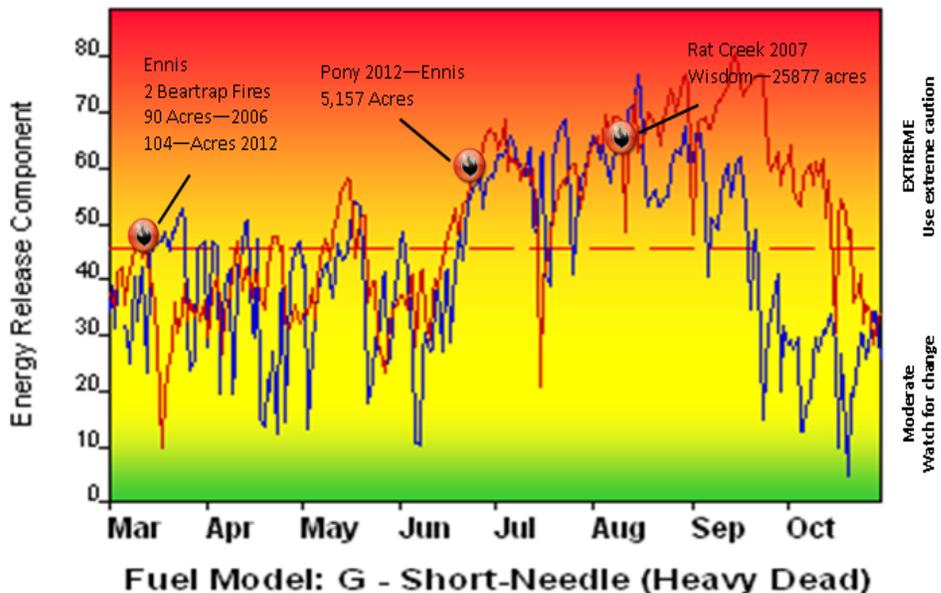
20' wind speed over 15 mph

RH Less than 20%,

Temperature over 80°

1000 hr fuels < 12%

Years to Remember: 2007 2012



SWMT-East of Divide High Elev.

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

- Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends calculated from 2 pm temperature, humidity, daily temperature & rh ranges, and precipitation duration.
- Wind is NOT part of ERC calculation
- Watch local conditions & variations across the landscape—Fuels, Weather & Topography
- Listen to forecasts—especially WIND

Past Experience:

This area includes higher elevation mixed conifer timber fuel types. Fuel loading and dryness are the primary contributing factors in the area. Fire activity generally increases above an ERC of 45. Fire growth potential tends to increase after short drying periods (7 days) with a combination of ERC > 57, and 1000 hour fuel moisture < 12%. Surface fires can transition to crown fires rapidly under these conditions. Slope and wind alignment can increase spread by a factor of 15X. Pony Fire was an early season fire that transitioned to a crown fire rapidly on steep slopes. The Bear Trap fires were early spring fires that grew rapidly with steep slopes and alignment in combination with ERC near 48 and 1000 hr fuels < 12%. Rat Creek was typical of later season fires crowning with approaching cold front winds. Long range spotting common in sub-alpine fir. Fuels effected by mountain pine beetle may exhibit faster rates of spread (5X-10X), may have more receptive fuel bed to spotting and transition more quickly from a surface fire in both the red and gray stages. Surface fuel loads also increase within 5 to 10 years after MPB due to falling snags. Watch long duration fires during fall frontal passage.