

2012 Durango Interagency Dispatch Center Annual Report



*Archuleta County
Dolores County
Hinsdale County
La Plata County
Mineral County
Montezuma County
San Juan County*

The DRC Annual Report Contents:

- Section 1: Narrative Summary
- Section 2: DRC Fire Activity
- Section 3: Resources
- Section 4: Aviation (Helicopters; Tanker Bases.)
- Section 5: San Juan IHC Annual Activity
- Section 6: Fuel Graphs



**Little Sand Fire, Pagosa Ranger District, San Juan National Forest,
13 May to 9 July, 2012**

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SECTION 1 - Narrative Summary

DURANGO ZONE 2012 FIRE NARRATIVE

The 2012 fire season in Durango Zone was the busiest in ten years. A less than average snowpack in the San Juan Mountains melted off some six weeks early in the spring, so conditions started out dry. The first fire of the year, East Fork, burned 25 acres in early April at an elevation of 8500 feet on the Pagosa District. This was a precursor of the extreme fire season to come.

A lightning storm moved through the Durango region on May 12, quite unusual for that time of year. Seven fires popped up in the zone, including one near Little Sand Creek north of Pagosa Springs. The Little Sand fire was reported to be burning in an inaccessible area of the Piedra drainage in heavy dead and down timber. Wildfire Decision Support System (WFDSS) analysis led to a decision by resource managers to monitor and manage the fire rather than fully suppressing it. After a week, the fire was still only ten acres in size, but on May 22 it began to move and grow. Before the summer was over, Little Sand hosted a Type 2 team, two Type 3 teams, and a National Incident Management (NIMO) team. It reached a size of 24,133 acres, making it the largest fire on the San Juan National Forest since 2002. June was a month of record dryness. Both the Burning Index and the Energy Release Component stayed above the 97th percentile across the zone, causing fire restrictions to be put in place. A human-caused fire on June 22 began on BLM land and quickly moved onto private land in Montezuma County. The Weber fire grew over 700 acres on the first day. Over 100 homes were immediately threatened and evacuations began. A Type 2 team was ordered. Rapid response from aircraft, crews, and engines kept structure losses to one outbuilding, but the fire burned 10,100 acres just south of Mancos before it was controlled a month later. The next day, the State Line fire started near Bondad Hill on La Plata County and Southern Ute land. The Type 3 team deployed to that fire and held it to 350 acres, again narrowly avoiding destruction of several nearby residences.

Lightning ignited numerous new fires in late June. Quick response by resources diverted from Little Sand and Weber kept these fires from growing to hundreds of acres. Finally, some rain arrived along with the lightning to slow down the spread of fires; however, precipitation was spotty, as evidenced by the Air Park fire on Southern Ute lands which took everyone by surprise in late July. This lightning fire near Nighthorse Reservoir burned in an area that had been missed by the summer rains. It quickly spread to 500 acres, threatening 150 residences and 20 oil and gas wells.

August lightning ignited several extended attack fires from 5 to 40 acres in the Ute Mountain region, as well as one more large fire, Burns, which charred 170 acres on Archuleta County. Finally the intermittent monsoon rains dampened enough of the zone to slow ignitions, and many of the zone resources headed north to Idaho, Montana, and northern California to assist on their project fires.

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SECTION 1 - Narrative Summary - Continued.

By mid-August, Durango Dispatch had been in service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for nearly three months straight. Both Expanded Dispatch and Buying Teams operated continuously out of the Sonoran Rooms of the Public Lands Center. Between the Initial Attack operation and Expanded Dispatch, some 50 dispatchers came in from all over the country to help staff and support the ongoing fire activity. It was not until early September that all the excess dispatch personnel were demobilized. Things appeared to calm down, but that was not the end of the story. The 2012 fire season still had one more big trick up its sleeve.

On October 12, the zone received over 9,000 lightning strikes, again an anomaly for that time of year. Between October 5 and November 4, a total of 40 fires were reported in the zone. Four of the fall fires went large. The biggest of these topped 1400 acres. Expanded Dispatch and the Buying Team re-convened; local Type 3 teams were deployed to both Vallecito and Roatcap. Extended attack also lasted for several days on the lightning-caused Little East and Cinnamon Bear fires, as well as the railroad-caused Goblin. The zone ordered engines, crews, helicopters and air tankers to suppress these fires. No one in Durango can remember ever fighting fires to that extent or magnitude, so late in the year.

Balmy temperatures marked the entire month of November, and there was zero snow pack in the mountains below 9,000 feet at Thanksgiving. As of mid-December, two large fires on the San Juan still smoldered, not having received enough precipitation to be called out.

Overall 2012 was a successful year for one so busy. New Division Supervisors, Task Force Leaders, Type 3 Incident Commanders, and Initial Attack Dispatchers became qualified, while other firefighters opened task books to begin working on higher qualifications. The Durango Zone partner agencies hosted over 100 engines and 25 crews from as far away as Alaska, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. At one point in late June, five air attack ships, four single engine air tankers, and ten helicopters were simultaneously working fires in the zone. For all this activity, only a handful of minor incidents were reported. It is commendable that everyone kept safety in the forefront during a year that was extremely busy not only here but everywhere in the Rocky Mountain geographic area.



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SECTION 2 - Fire Activity

2007 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies							2010 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies								
UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres	UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres		
MVP	12	3.0	0	0.0	12	3.0	MVP	7	1.0	0	0.0	7	1.0		
SJD	48	165.8	1	0.1	49	165.9	SJD	19	8.9	2	0.2	21	9.1		
SJF	80	98.3	18	4.1	98	102.4	SJF	47	87.4	26	10.1	73	97.5		
SUA	24	142.0	5	0.9	29	142.9	SUA	40	9.3	0	0.0	40	9.3		
UMA	0	0.0	2	0.6	2	0.6	UMA	21	2.4	14	2.1	35	4.5		
TOTALS	164	409.1	26	5.7	190	414.8	TOTALS	134	109.0	42	12.4	176	121.4		
2008 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies							2011 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies								
UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres	UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres		
MVP	12	13.0	0	0.0	12	13.0	MVP	18	20.0	0	0.0	18	20.0		
SJD	23	278.0	2	0.2	25	278.2	SJD	30	4.9	3	0.3	33	5.2		
SJF	38	53.8	27	5.0	65	58.8	SJF	53	141.6	32	152.5	85	294.1		
SUA	35	48.0	3	17.0	38	65.0	SUA	47	705.2	0	0.0	47	705.2		
UMA	37	245.5	27	13.5	64	259.0	UMA	58	9.3	19	160.2	77	169.5		
TOTALS	145	638.3	59	35.7	204	674.0	TOTALS	206	881.0	54	313.0	260	1194.0		
2009 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies							2012 - Fire and Acres for Federal Agencies								
UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres	UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres		
MVP	9	3.0	0	0.0	9	3.0	MVP	15	19.55	0	0.00	15	19.55		
SJD	25	18.4	4	1.3	29	19.7	SJD	55	150.00	2	10,136.30	57	10,286.30		
SJF	59	9742.0	15	1.7	74	9743.7	SJF	77	26,412.75	44	1,258.15	121	27,670.90		
SUA	48	145.0	32	2.0	80	147.0	SUA	60	698.60	2	5.80	62	704.40		
UMA	66	46.0	12	1.6	78	47.6	UMA	53	94.65	14	19.45	67	114.10		
TOTALS	207	9954.4	63	6.6	270	9961.0	TOTALS	260	27,375.55	62	11,419.70	322	38,795.25		
5 year average Federal Agencies (2006-2011)							Fire and Acres, Colorado State Forest Service, Durango District								
UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres	UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres		
MVP	12	8	0	0	12	8	2007	86	1793.5	27	337.0	113	2130.5		
SJD	29	95	2	0	31	96	2008	29	120.2	33	15.7	62	135.9		
SJF	55	2025	24	35	79	2059	2009	24	16.2	11	32.2	35	48.4		
SUA	39	210	8	4	47	214		134	109.0	42	12.4	176	121.4		
UMA	36	61	15	36	51	96	2011	Fire information not available							
TOTALS	171	2398	49	75	220	2473	2012	83	353.2	39	821.2	122	1174.4		

Grand Total all agencies: Fires 465, Acres 40,432.32. DRC Counties 139 fires, 1,557.2 acres. Federal agencies 325 fires, 38,872.12 acres.

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SECTION 2 - Fire Activity - Agency Breakdown

FEDERAL AGENCY/UNIT FIRE ACTIVITY

UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres
MVP	15	19.6	0	0.0	15	19.6
SJD	55	150.4	2	10,136.3	57	10,286.7
SJF	77	26,412.8	44	1,258.2	121	27,670.9
<i>SJF-COL</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>1,413.6</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1,085.6</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>2,499.2</i>
<i>SJF-DOL</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>20.4</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>31.4</i>
<i>SJF-PAG</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>24,998.0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>152.8</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>25,150.8</i>
SUA	60	698.6	2	5.8	62	704.4
UMA	53	94.7	14	19.7	67	114.3
Total Federal	260	27,376.0	62	11,419.9	322	38,795.9

LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES, REPORTED BY COUNTIES.

UNIT	Lightning Caused	Lightning Acres	Human Caused	Human Acres	Total Fires	Total Acres
AUX	21	176.6	8	30.5	29	207.1
DLX	5	52.4	1	0.3	6	52.7
LPX	44	92.2	17	376.6	61	468.8
MNX	13	32.0	13	413.9	26	445.9
SJX	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Local	83	353.2	39	821.2	122	1,174.4

Represent numbers reported through Durango Interagency Dispatch Center.

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SECTION 2 - Fire Activity - Incident Responses

INCIDENT RESPONSE ACTION BY DURANGO DISPATCH

This table shows all incidents in which Durango Dispatch was involved.

Information taken from WildCAD Computer Aided Dispatch System.

<u>Unit</u>	Fires, Wild & Prescribed	Smoke Checks/ False Alarms	Misc. Includes SARs, Law Enforcement, m Resource Orders
Archuleta County	28	13	6
Dolores County	6	6	1
La Plata County	66	19	4
Montezuma County	45	7	0
Mesa Verde National Park	17	9	4
Southern Ute Agency	67	69	0
Ute Mountain Ute Agency	71	37	2
Tres Rios Field Office	58	21	1
Columbine Ranger District (USFS)	52	90	45
Dolores Ranger District (USFS)	24	63	6
Pagosa Ranger District (USFS)	49	73	21
DRC (Misc out of DRC Area direct responses)	0	0	144
Total	479	407	234

Grand Total of Incidents: 1120

Large Fires with Incident Management Teams Assigned					
FIRE NAME	STATE	AGENCY	START DATE	CAUSE	ACRES
LITTLE SAND	CO	SJF	13-May-12	LIGHTNING	24,900.00
WEBER	CO	MNX/SJD	2-Jun-12	HUMAN	10,133.00
STATELINE	CO	LPX/SUA	23-Jun-12	HUMAN	350.00
AIR PARK	CO	SUA	22-Jul-12	LIGHTNING	499.00
BURNS	CO	AUX/SUA	19-Aug-12	LIGHTNING	170.00
GOBLIN	CO	SJF	5-Oct-12	HUMAN (TRAIN)	1,074.00
VALLECITO	CO	SJF	12-Oct-12	LIGHTNING	1,400.00
ROATCAP	CO	MNX/SJD	24-Oct-12	HUMAN	320.00
COAL CREEK	CO	SJF	4-Nov-12	HUMAN	127.00
					38,973.00

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SECTION 3 - Resources

The Durango Dispatch zone has approximately 518 interagency red carded individuals to draw from for incident assignments. Out of these, approximately 99% percent actively participated in fire during 2012.

As of November 2012, Durango Dispatch processed 1,007 requests resulting in the mobilization of 4,756 personnel.

UNIT	OVERHEAD	ENGINE/WT	CREWS	DOZER/TP	AIRCRAFT	RESOURCES DISPATCHED TO THE UNITS IDENTIFIED FAR LEFT COLUMN FROM OUTSIDE OUR ZONE. This includes resources ordered to support any fires, prescribed or wildfire. Total requests received were 748 for a total of 1,304 personnel.
DRC	0	0	0	0	0	
DRS	12	3	16	1	22	
MVP	15	3	0	0	0	
SJD	116	67	16	2	51	
SJF	276	57	29	4	76	
SUA	27	3	16	0	22	
UMA	2	0	2	0	10	
Total	448	133	79	7	181	
UNIT	OVERHEAD	ENGINE/WT	CREWS	DOZER/TP	AIRCRAFT	RESOURCES DISPATCHED TO SUPPORT ROCKY MTN. AND NATIONAL EVENTS. This list does include Contract Equipment under the unit marked Private (PVT). Total requests received were 656 for a total of 1,055 personnel.
DRC	0	0	2	0	0	
DRS	78	21	0	0	0	
MVP	31	4	0	0	24	
SJD	20	6	0	0	0	
SJF	355	14	9	0	36	
SUA	5	1	0	0	0	
UMA	24	2	0	0	12	
PVT	0	10	0	0	2	
Total	513	58	11	0	74	
UNIT	OVERHEAD	ENGINE/WT	CREWS	DOZER/TP	AIRCRAFT	RESOURCES DISPATCHED TO SUPPORT INITIAL ATTACK ACTION IN OUR ZONE. These includes Federal, Cooperators, and Contract Equipment. Total resources dispatched for IA were 1,221 for a total of 2,833 personnel.
DRC	0	0	0	0	0	
DRS	41	221	5	0	5	
MVP	9	7	1	0	2	
SJD	75	84	5	0	17	
SJF	305	53	15	0	18	
SUA	84	91	1	0	16	
UMA	81	62	0	0	24	
Total	595	518	27	0	82	

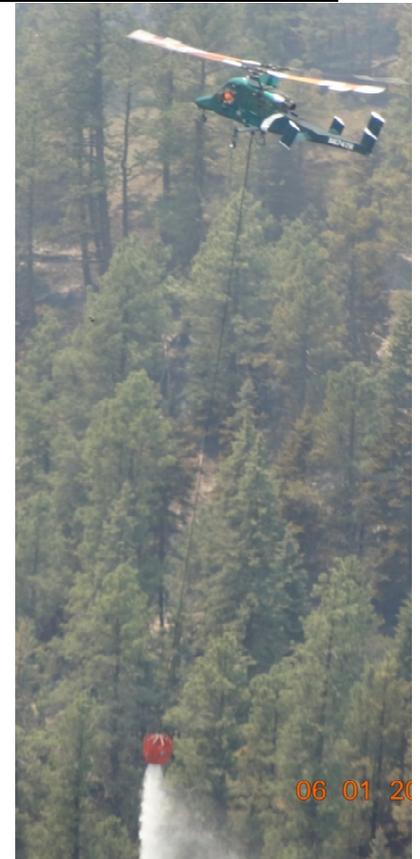
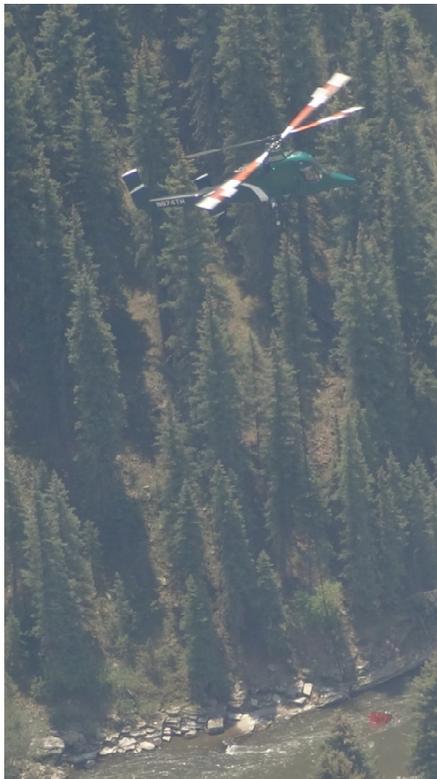
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SECTION 4 - Aviation Activity - Helicopters

<i>Home Unit</i>	<i>TAIL #</i>	<i>Hours Flown</i>	<i>Passengers Delivered</i>	<i>Water Delivered</i>	<i>Cargo Delivered</i>
CO-MVP	0RL (T3S)	276.7 Hrs.	631	67,075 Gals.	77,460 Lbs
CO-UMA	7DE (T3S)	288.7	608	162,134 Gals	51,590 Lbs
CO-SJF	8HX (T2S)	363.5	925	599,158 Gals.	117,470 Lbs.

Aviation Statistics: Provides a detailed breakdown of aviation assets utilized by type, and location.

	Helicopter TYPE 1	Helicopter TYPE 2	Helicopter TYPE 3	RECON	HEAVY AIR TANKERS	SEATs	LEAD PLANE	AIR ATTACK	AIR SUPER MODULE
LOCAL AREA	0	0	1	3	22	74	10	48	5
NATIONAL	28	8	13						
RMA AREA	0	0	3						



Aircraft used on the Little Sand Wildland Fire, 2012
 Photos by Fred Ellis, Pagosa Ranger District, San Juan National Forest

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SECTION 4 - Aviation Activity - Durango Tanker Base

Durango Airtanker Base Info
 Flew 222 Missions.
 Flew on 8 fires.
 196,112 Gallons of retardant pumped.

Durango Tanker Base		
Agency	Loads	Fires
CO-AUX	4	KERNS EAST
CO-AUX	15	BURNS
CO-DLX	5	CROSS CANYON
CO-GMF	2	ELK CREEK
CO-LPX	3	KJ
CO-LPX	1	PERINS PEAK
CO-LPX	16	LITTLE EAST
CO-SJD	7	LIGHTNER
CO-SJD	2	POINT
CO-SJD	1	VOSBURG PIKE
CO-SJF	3	RD 151
CO-SJF	9	ABCD MISC
CO-SJF	4	CINNAMON BEAR
CO-SJF	31	VALLECITO
CO-SUA	4	KING
CO-SUA	8	PONDEROSA
CO-SUA	21	AIR PARK
CO-SUA	6	FTRAIL 2
NM-N1S	6	CR 4901
UT-MOD	1	RECAPTURE CREK
UT-MOD	1	CRANDAL CANYON



Cortez SEAT Base info
 Flew 101 Missions.
 Flew on 27 fires.
 70,942 Gallons of retardant pumped.

CORTEZ SEAT BASE		
CORTEZ	Loads	Fires
CO-LPX	2	STATELINE
CO-NPS	4	PARK POINT
CO-SJD	75	WEBER
CO-UMA	10	ESCARPMENT
CO-UMA	2	CAT
CO-UMA	2	HOOF
CO-UMA	2	SLEEPING
UT-MLF	4	SEELEY

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SECTION 5 - San Juan IHC Activity Summary



The San Juan Interagency Hot Shot Crew

was assembled on April 9 and active as a Hot Shot

crew until September 22, 2012. The following is a breakdown of our statics:

COMMITTED TO FIRE ASSIGNMENTS	106 DAYS
TRAVELLED FOR A TOTAL OF	18 DAYS
COMMITTED TO TRAINING ON HOME UNIT	14 DAYS

This has been one of the busiest fire seasons for the San Juan Hot Shots since 2007. The crew fought five fires in Colorado, and five fires in Wyoming. Additionally; fought two fires in Arizona, and one fire each in Texas, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, and Nebraska. The crew workload this fire season can be summed up by one statistic: the crew earned 1,000 hours of overtime this season. And even after the season was over, the crew overhead and some extra fire fighters were assembled into a ten person fire module for a ten day assignment to the Gilead fire in Wyoming, and assisting with ongoing local fires in the fire season that won't end.



SAN JUAN INTERAGENCY HOTSHOTS

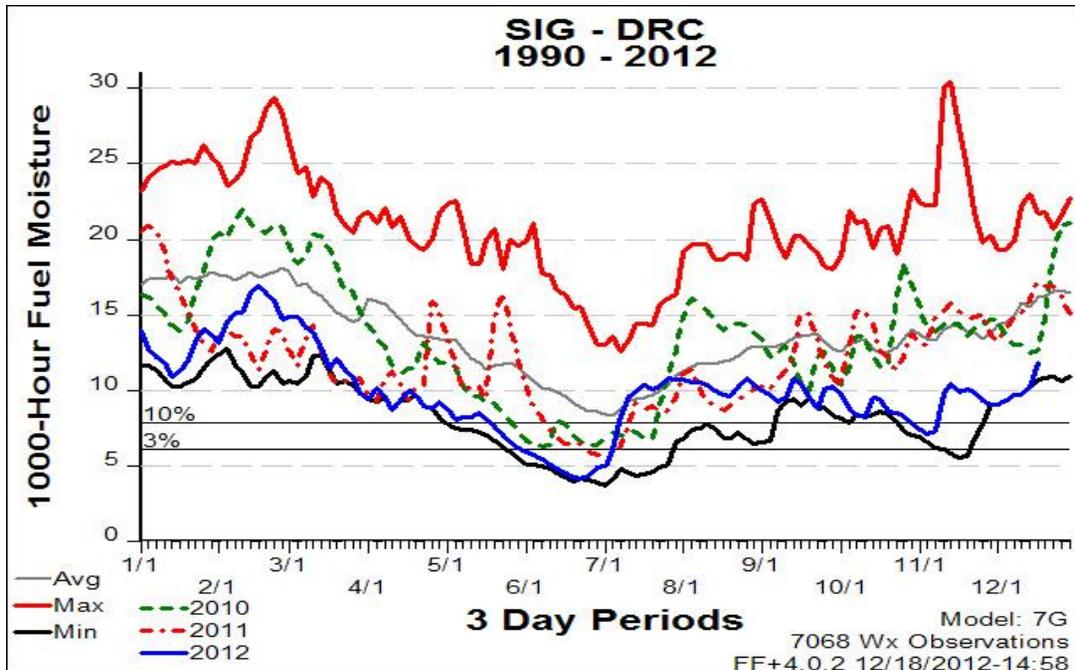
***No project time is listed due to the heavv fire activitv.**



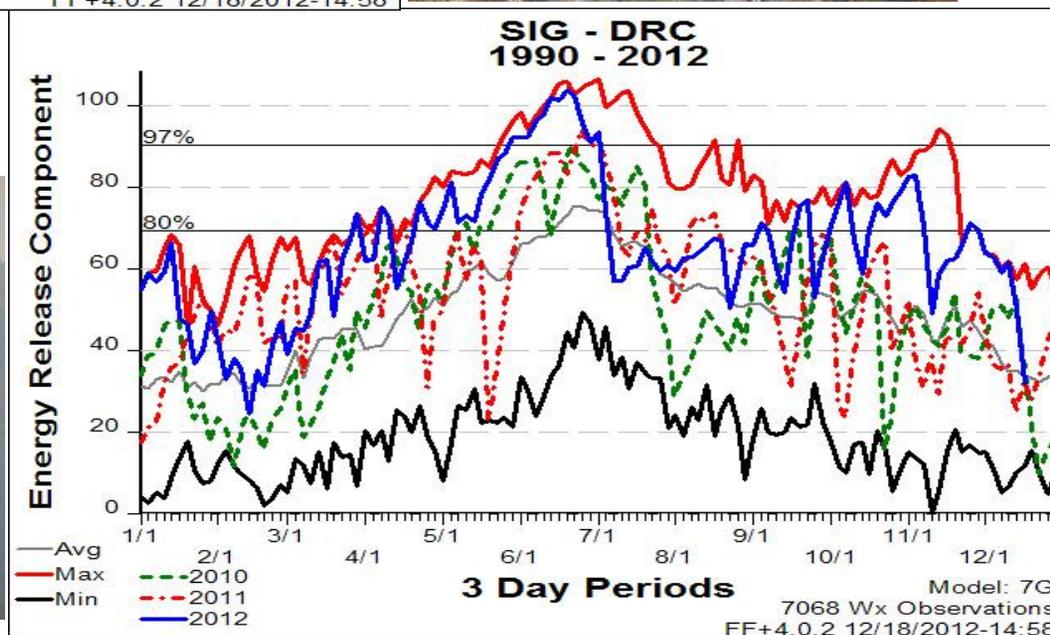
**Burnout on Weber Fire,
Tres Rios Field Office**

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SECTION 6 - Fuels



Energy Release Component (ERC) - The total heat released per unit area within the flaming front at the head of a moving fire, measured in BTUs.



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SECTION 3 - RESOURCES REPORT REQUESTED BY RMACC

5 YEAR AVERAGE - 2007 THRU 2011

RESOURCES TO NATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS											Total People	INCOMING FIVE YEAR AVERAGE						
DRC	DRS	MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA	PVT	Total	People	DRS		MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA		
O/H	0	16	7	4	67	3	2	0	99	x1	99	O/H	26	17	18	185	7	15
Eng/WT	0	41	5	11	19	2	4	17	99	x3	297	Eng/WT	6	0	0	2	0	0
CRWS	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8	x20	160	CRWS	0	0	0	11	0	1
DOZ/TP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x2	0	DOZ/TP	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/C	0	0	2	0	5	0	3	0	10	x2	20	A/C	0	5	0	6	0	4

RESOURCES TO RMA ZONE ASSIGNMENTS											Total People	OUT						
DRC	DRS	MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA	PVT	Total	People	DRS		MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA		
O/H	0	94	22	23	170	23	9		341	x1	341	O/H	14	4	10	62	2	3
Eng/WT	0	106	7	3	4	8	4	21	153	x3	459	Eng/WT	3	1	1	3	0	1
CRWS	9	0	0	0	8	0	6	0	23	x20	460	CRWS	0	0	0	10	0	2
DOZ/TP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x2	0	DOZ/TP	0	0	0	0	0	0
A/C	0	0	21	0	32	0	10	2	65	x2	130	A/C	0	5	0	6	0	3

RESOURCES TO INITIAL ATTACK ASSIGNMENTS											Total People	IA FIVE YEAR AVERAGE						
DRC	DRS	MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA	PVT	Total	People	DRS		MVP	SJD	SJF	SUA	UMA		
O/H	0	25	9	70	291	84	80	0	559	x1	559	O/H	67	15	47	184	81	85
Eng/WT	0	35	7	69	105	88	60	0	364	x3	1092	Eng/WT	44	11	46	72	75	73
CRWS	0	1	0	4	13	1	0	0	19	x20	380	CRWS	2	0	1	3	3	1
DOZ/TP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x2	0	DOZ/TP	1	0	0	0	0	1
A/C	0	4	2	10	26	16	24	0	82	x2	164	A/C	7	6	19	19	16	31

CREWS UTILIZATION			
	DRC	RMC	NIC
CRW-1	3	13	8
CRW-2	3	6	0

INCOMING RESOURCES		
	Total	5 YR
O/H	103	268
Eng/WT	16	8
CRWS	34	12
DOZ/TP	0	0
A/C	55	15

OUTGOING RESOURCES		
	Total	5 YR
O/H	287	95
Eng/WT	120	9
CRWS	33	12
DOZ/TP	1	0
A/C	51	14

IA RESOURCES		
	Total	5 YR
O/H	803	479
Eng/WT	333	321
CRWS	25	10
DOZ/TP	0	0
A/C	106	98