FIRE DANGER -- UCRIFMU-Grass/Sage/PJ-2020

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 31 years data

Fire Danger Area:

- West Central Colorado
- WRF-GRD-GMF
- Areas 4300-7500 ft
  * Meets NWCG Wx Station Standards

Fire Danger Interpretation:

EXTREME -- Use extreme caution

High -- Watch for change

Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1990 - 2020

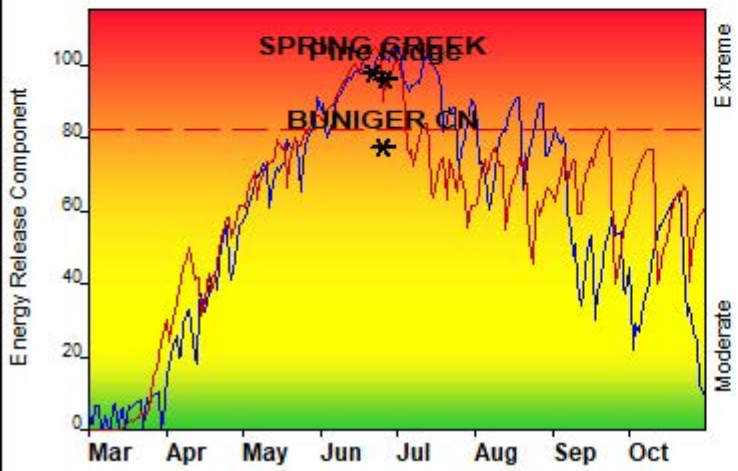
Average -- shows peak fire season over 31 years (6646 observations)

90th Percentile -- 10% of the 6646 days from 1990 - 2020 had an Energy Release Component above 82

Local Thresholds - Watch out:

Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: **20' Wind Speed** over 10 mph, **RH** less than 15%, **Temperature** over 85, **Energy Release Component** over 80

Years to Remember: 2002 2012



Fuel Model: G - Short-Needle (Heavy Dead)

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

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

Past Experience:

Fires in the sage/grass are very responsive to changes in RH, wind and slope. Each of which can trigger rapid spread rates in these light fuels. Wind above 10 mph will aid fast rates of spread. Conversely RH's above 40% will limit fire spread in sage/grass. Due to the sparse nature of surface fuels in most pinyon/juniper stands, fires in this fuel type are confined to a single lightning-struck tree or group of trees PJ Fire (1995) in the absence of wind. Dense PJ stands can support active crown fire but usually require winds of 15 mph or steep slopes. The Hatchet Fire (1995) was a wind driven event in PJ with sage/grass scattered throughout the understory.

Responsible Agency: UCRIFMU

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Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team