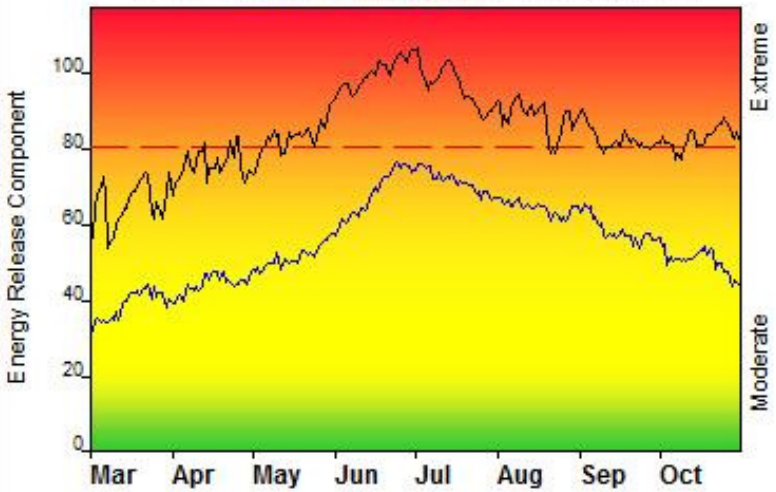
2018 Year to Date UCR Fire Danger Pocket Cards – *9/18/2018*

FIRE DANGER -- UCRIFMU-Grass/Sage/PJ-2018

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 45 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 1973 - 2017

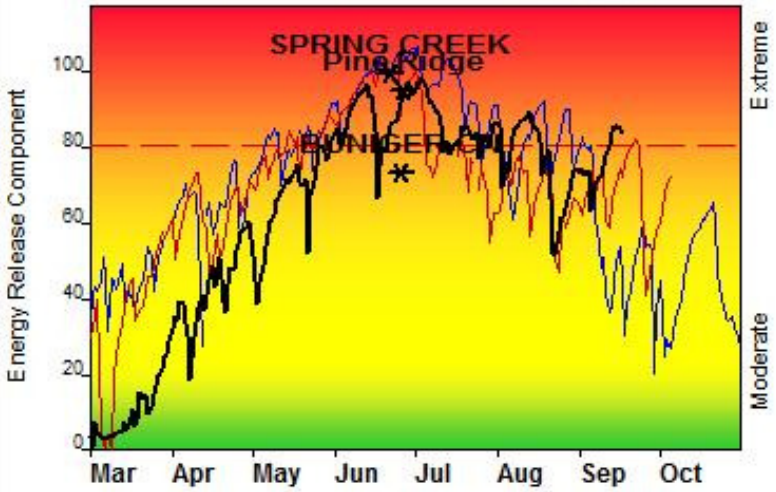
Average -- shows peak fire season over 45 years (9329 observations)

90th Percentile -- 10% of the 9329 days from 1973 - 2017 had an Energy Release Component above 80

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 2018



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, RH above 40% will limit fire spread in sage/grass. Because of 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 fairly steep slopes. The Hatchet Fire (1996) was a wind-driven event in PJ, with sage/grass scattered throughout the understory.

Responsible Agency: 6-2010UCRIFMU alisonrichards

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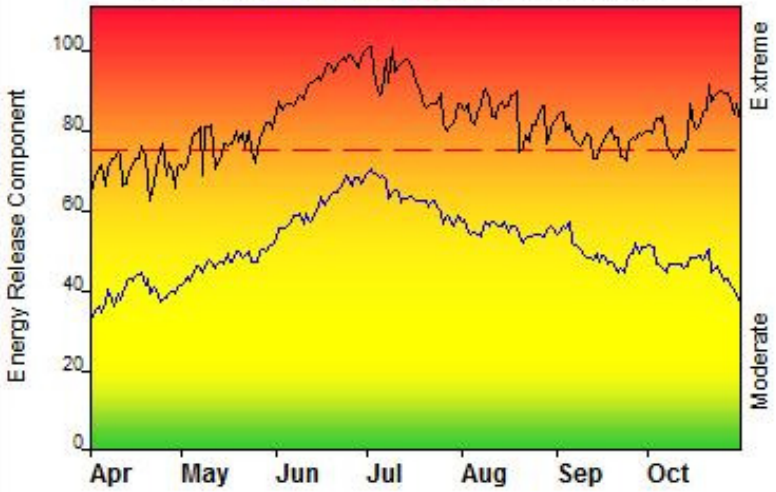
Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team

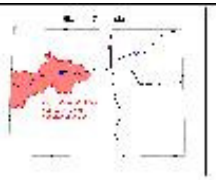
FIRE DANGER -- UCRIFMU-Mt. Brush/Aspen-2018

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 34 years data



Fire Danger Area:

- West Central Colorado
- WRF-GJD-GMF
- Areas 6000-8500 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 1973 - 2017

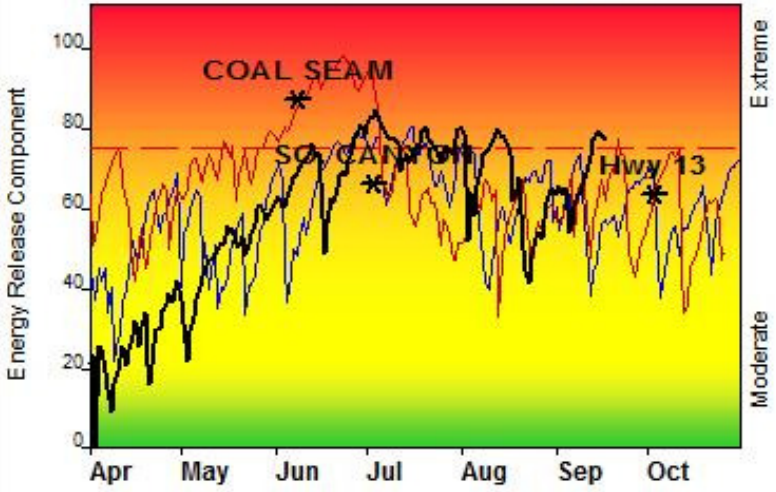
Average -- shows peak fire season over 34 years (6745 observations)

90th Percentile -- 10% of the 6745 days from 1973 - 2017 had an Energy Release Component above 75

Local Thresholds - Watch out:

Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, **RH** less than 15%,
Temperature over 85, **Energy Release Component** over 71

Years to Remember: 2008 2012 2018



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:

Aspen and various low shrubs such as snowberry generally act as barriers to fire spread during most of the year; they can support fire during early spring, late fall, or in periods of severe drought. Oak tends to display a threshold effect; fire behavior will remain somewhat sedate and then suddenly increase in intensity after burning conditions improve past a certain point. The Horse Mountain Fire (1998) was a typical moderate-condition brush fire, but the Coal Seam Fire (2002) grew rapidly in drought conditions; 40 mph winds pushed 15 ft flames through Gambel oak even though its LFMC was still near 160%. Updated 9/18

Responsible Agency: UCRIFMU alisonrichards

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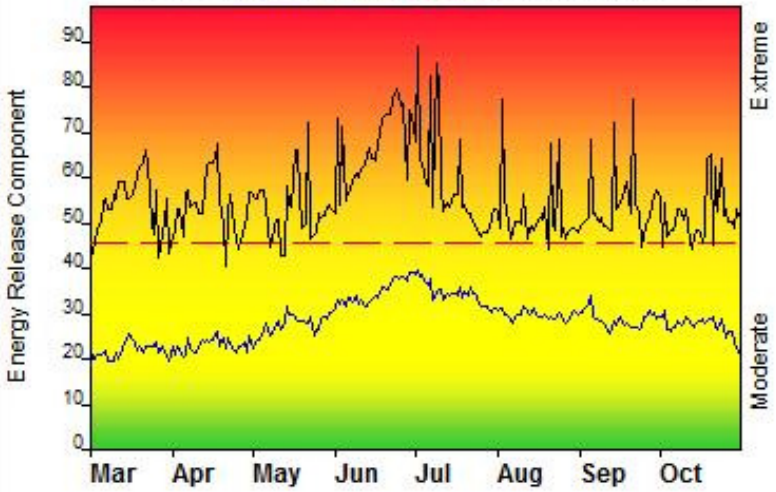
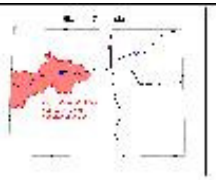
Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team

FIRE DANGER -- UCRIFMU-Timber-2018

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



Fire Danger Area:



- West Central Colorado
- WRF-GRD-GMF
- Areas above 8500 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 1988 - 2017

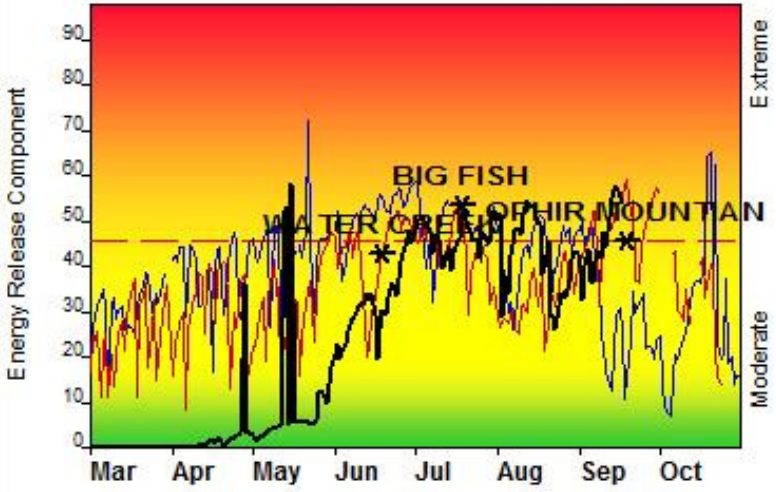
Average -- shows peak fire season over 31 years (7018 observations)

90th Percentile -- 10% of the 7018 days from 1988 - 2017 had an Energy Release Component above 46

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 75, **Energy Release Component** over 64

Years to Remember: 2002 2010 2018



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:

Timber fires usually spread by creeping surface fire, passive torching, and short-range spotting. They are usually controllable under moderate conditions (eg. Spraddle Creek Fire, 1998). During more extreme conditions, resulting from extended drought, wind and/or slope can support extreme fire behavior with active crown fire and long-range spotting. Extreme spread rates are usually related to high wind, such as the 7,000 acre run on the Big Fish Fire in August 2002 caused by a cold frontal passage with winds over 30 mph. The heavy dead/down fuels in these stands can also create fires that exhibit plume-dominated fire behavior that results in extreme, erratic, fuel-driven fire spread.

Responsible Agency: UCRIFMU alisonrichards

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Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team