

# Southern Area

## Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

**Subject:** Potential for Extreme Fire Behavior

### Discussion:

Areas of Oklahoma and Texas (See map) are experiencing an extreme drought. The lack of moisture has dried all fuel size classes to record or near record levels for this time of year. Energy Release Component values are above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for all of western Texas and central and western Oklahoma.

**Intensity and severity will increase and will significantly affect burning conditions.**

### Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- Anticipate fire to creep under wetlines and retardant lines in areas where fine fuel matting is seen.
- Anticipate any ignition in flashy fine fuels to ignite easily and move rapidly.
- Anticipate fire whirls because of a combination of fine flashy fuels, terrain, dry atmospheric conditions and strong surface instability.
- Anticipate large acres to be consumed in a short period of time.
- Anticipate fires to exhibit extreme spread rates, elongated flaming fronts, and increasing fire brands; **expect more long range spotting.**
- Anticipate dependent and independent crown fires in timbered areas.

### Mitigation Measures:

- Indirect tactics may have to be used.
- Ensure firefighters have good anchor points - keeping one foot in the black
- Utilize aircraft to cool and pre-treat fuels in advance of line construction.
- Utilize aircraft as an aerial observer to help inform firefighters on the ground of fire movement and watch out situations along the fire edge.
- Given increased intensity and increased flame lengths safety zones will need to be larger than on fires usually associated with this fuel type.
- Know where your safety zones are and be able to get to them quickly.

### Area of Concern:

