

SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: October 10, 2011	DATE/TIME ISSUED: October 10, 2011 @ 0830
NEXT UPDATE: October 11, 2011	SIGNED: Francis Mohr

*This is a general fire behavior outlook for the Southern Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to assist wildland firefighters with making sound decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. This outlook is not intended to replace onsite observations and fire behavior, or spot weather forecasts issued by the National Weather Service.

Some products provided in the outlook often are not updated prior to posting. Refer to updated information on the Southern Area Coordination Center Website as it becomes available:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/index.htm>

Fire Weather Summary:

*****Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories*****

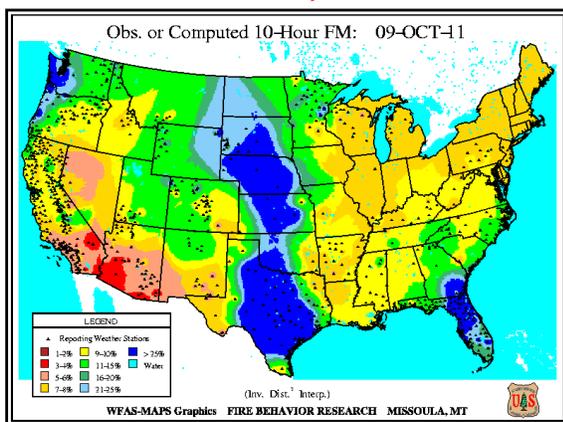
None at this time

- For complete fire weather information and specific detailed forecasts see:
<http://www.weather.gov>
- Refer to the MesoWest Regional Surface Maps to access weather observations.
<http://mesowest.utah.edu/index.html>
- For updated fire danger and fuel moisture values link to:
<http://wfas.net/>

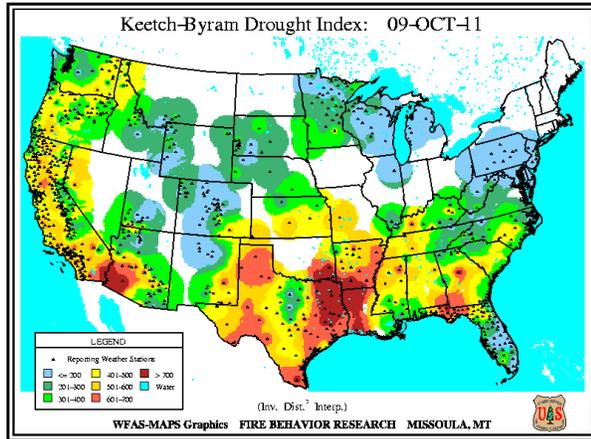
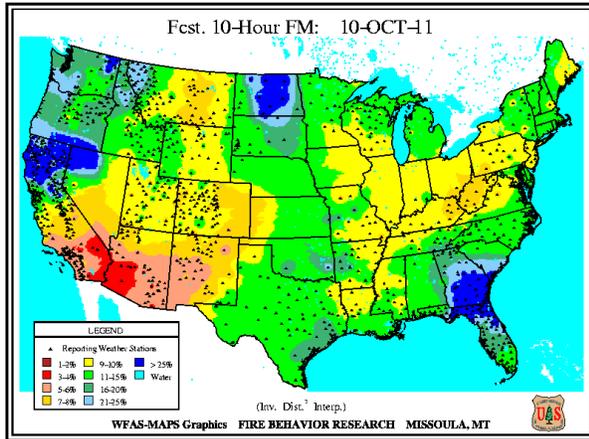
Fuels Conditions:

State of the Fuels will be updated daily to reflect the trend with changing weather conditions.

Observed 10 Hr. FM Friday, Oct. 9, 2011



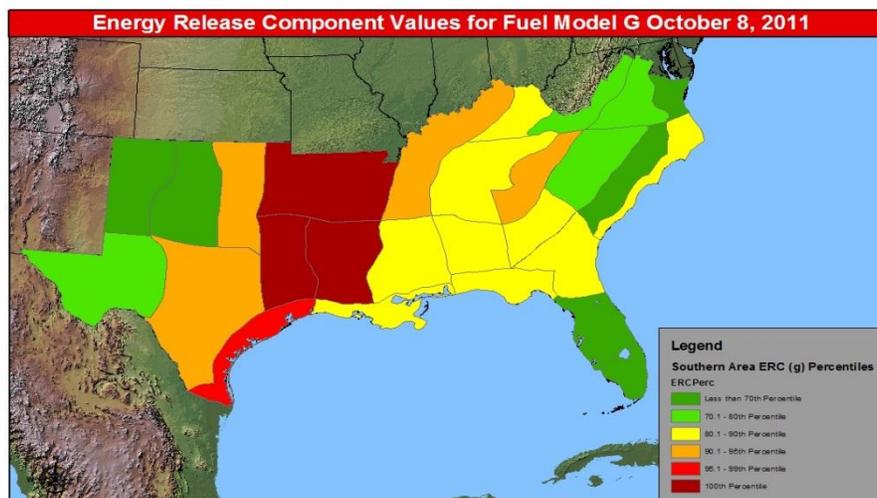
The one hour fuel moistures adjust more quickly to existing weather conditions and the potential of fire starts. The 10 hour fuel moistures are moderate to high in eastern portion of the region as result of recent rains. In Central Texas low 100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures are allowing fires to rapidly expand. These fuels pose increased difficulty of control and containment due to higher heat intensity and more extended mop-up.



Southern Area – Precipitation Past 24 Hrs. October 10, 2011



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending October 9, 2011
(very similar to values shown for October 8th)



Energy Release Components for fuel model G, expressed as a percentile of their historical value. High values indicate areas where current ERC values are meeting or exceeding historical values for that area.

Fire Behavior Outlook

Northwest Texas, Panhandle, Oklahoma

Low probability of large fire growth. Moisture content of fine fuels, the major component of the fuel loading in this type, has increased significantly. Very low to almost nil probability of ignition exists. The 10 and 100 hr. fuel moisture contents have also been affected. Potential for heat intensity development, escalating fire behavior, spread or size is very low.

Central Texas

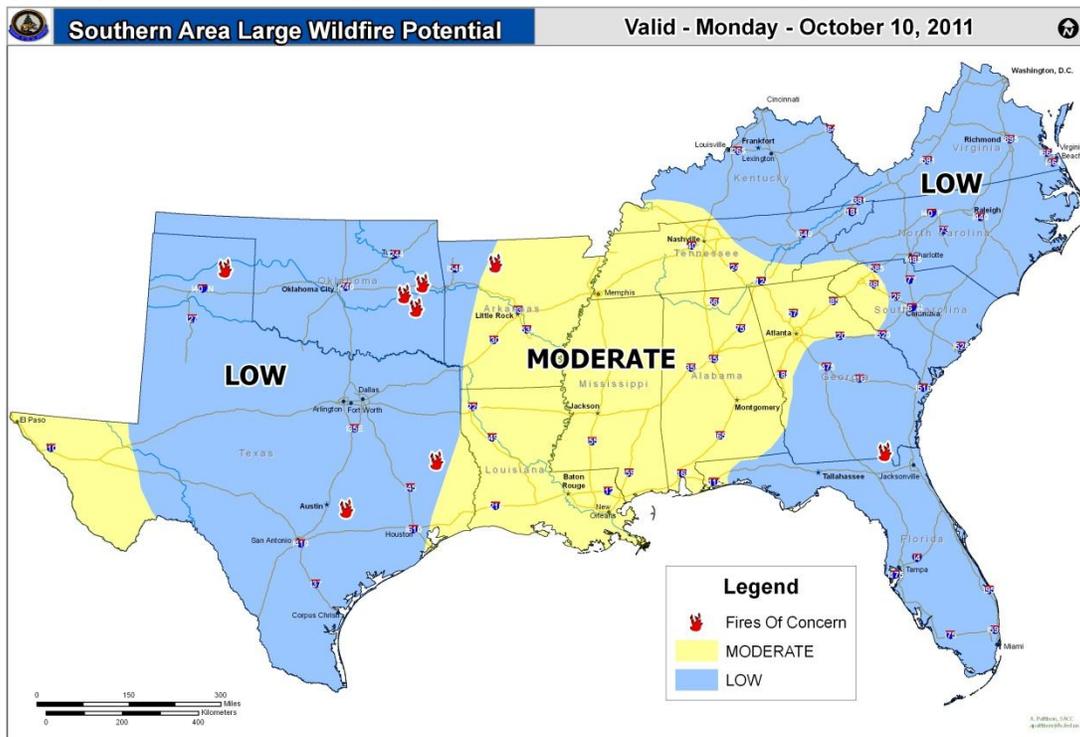
Low probability of large fire growth. Effect of recent moisture and higher humidities has lower probability of ignition over much of this area. Larger size dead woody fuels were also affected. Drought stress on live fuels has caused very low live moisture content. Recent moisture could elevate moisture content in these live fuels. Dead standing fuels, mostly which are 1, 10 and 100 hour size, have been significantly dampen and less vulnerable for quick ignition, rapid heat intensity development or extreme behavior.

Northeastern & Central Texas

Low probability of large fire growth. Recent moisture has significantly lessened probability of ignition. Juniper and Oaks are experiencing die-back due to the drought stress. These fuels contribute to the dead fuel loading and fire intensity of crown fuels. Currently they are significantly dampen and thus less vulnerable for combustion and/or escalating fire behavior

Eastern and Central Areas of the South

Low – Moderate probability of ignition and large fire growth. Sunny days, radiant heating, seasonal temperatures and very dry air lessened surface fuel moisture content, increasing probability of ignition and potential surface fire development over a portion of the central southeast states. However recent moisture from both from the east and west directions has lessen that area. More seasonal temperatures and slightly higher RH's with partially cloudy skies have also lessened fire potential within this area.



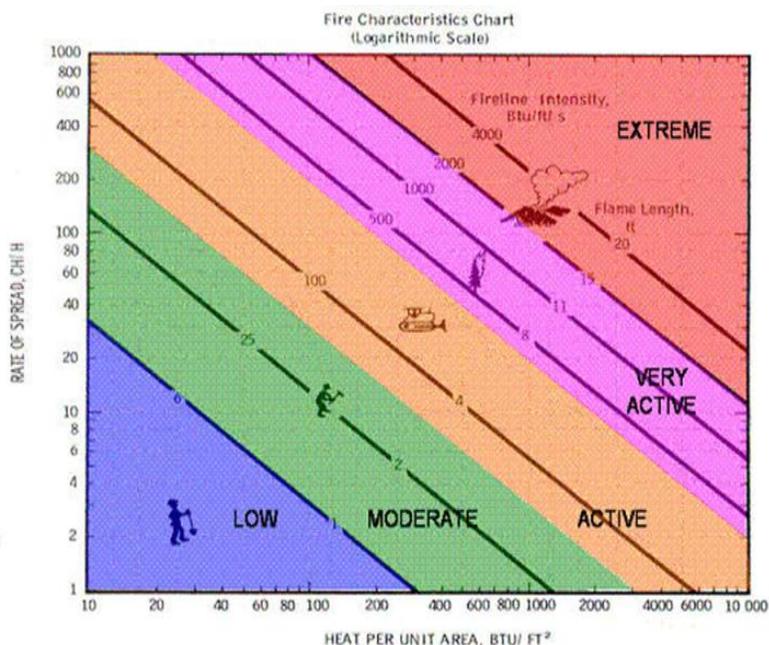
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior and large size potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources is applicable to the geographic area scale and not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather and topography must be used for specific incidents.

FIRE BEHAVIOR INTERPRETATION:

This tool provides an evaluation of potential effectiveness of various resources and capabilities based on a visual assessment of active flame length. The implications of observed or expected fire behavior are critical components of suppression strategies and tactics, particularly in terms of determining resistance to control, effectiveness of various resources and safety.

FIRE BEHAVIOR ADJECTIVE RATING	FLAME LENGTH (FEET)	INTERPRETATION FOR APPROPRIATE FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
LOW	0-4	Generally attack at the head or flanks are successful, handline should hold fire with very little resistant to control.
MODERATE	4-8	Fire is too intense for direct attack at the head. Handline cannot be relied upon; additional support from engine, dozer, tractor plow or air support is needed.
HIGH	8-11	Fire can present control problems; torching, crowning and spotting can be expected. Control efforts at head of fire are often ineffective.
VERY HIGH	11+	Crown runs, intense surface burning and spotting are common; control efforts at head are ineffective.
EXTREME		Although uncommon, can best be described as erratic fire behavior that goes beyond human methods of control or prediction. Rare events such as well-developed and sustained fire whirls, independent crowning and plume dominated fire growth.

The Fire Characteristics Chart (“Hauling Chart”) is an excellent tool for evaluating safety and potential effectiveness of fireline resources. The Hauling Chart is also a useful tool to help firefighters assess the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by the behavior of the fire.



Stay updated by viewing the Southern area 7 day Significant Fire Potential product:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/Fire_Potential.htm

Longer range outlooks reference the Climate Prediction Center link:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php>