SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

Friday, October 09, 2020

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PREPAREDNESS LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Area</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

COMPACT STATUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Central</th>
<th>Southeastern</th>
<th>Mid–Atlantic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
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Southern Area Activity/Impacts
10/08/2020

Current Situation:

Initial Attack (I.A.) Activity: Light
Total I.A. fires and acreage: 14 fires for 26 acres
New Fires on Federal Protected Lands in: 0 fires for 0 acres
New Fires on State Protected Lands in: 0 fires for 0 acres
Other I.A. reported through non-FAMWEB Channels: 4 fires for 17 acres in AL, MS, TX & VA
Prescribed Fire Activity: State and/or Federal Lands – 272 prescribed fires for 2,590 acres in FL, GA & SC

Significant Activity
10/08/2020

New Large ICS–209 Incidents**/Critical Updates: None reported.

Large/Significant Activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Name</th>
<th>Incident Number</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Acres + or –</th>
<th>% Ctn. /MMA</th>
<th>IMT Assigned</th>
<th>Structure Loss</th>
</tr>
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# = No updated information was submitted; * = No change in status

Definitions:

Full Suppression/Perimeter Control: Implies a strategy to “put the fire out” as efficiently and effectively as possible, while providing for firefighter and public safety.
(p) Point or Zone Protection/Limited Perimeter Control: Involves protecting specific points from the fire while not actively trying to line the entire fire edge.
(c) Monitor/Confine: Management actions conforming to a monitoring strategy that periodically checks the fire to ensure it continues to meet objectives, and where no further action is taken.
For specific information on fire activity (new wildland and prescribed fires by agency/unit, year-to-date totals, and large incident specifics), please refer to the Southern Area Summary or Detailed Situation Reports.
** For the purposes of this report “Large ICS–209 Incidents” are defined as fires that exceeds 100 acres or larger in timber and slash (fuel models 8–13), 300 acres or larger in grass and brush (fuel models 1–7), or when a Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) is assigned. Incidents with structures damaged or destroyed are also included, regardless of size.
Red Flag Warnings: None.

Fire Weather Watches: None.

Fire Weather Summary/Outlook: Hurricane Delta moves into Louisiana coast early evening; ends 9-day rain free pattern for the southeast as rain spreads through the weekend; still rain free Oklahoma/Texas.

The main impact to the fire environment will be the moderate plus rain field which will be spreading up and near the track of the hurricane, and then east/southeast through the weekend. Expected rain accumulations along and near the track should around 3 to 8 plus inches with otherwise widespread nearer 0.65 to 1.5 plus inches. The Appalachian Mountains should see a singularity with higher rain amounts of 2 to 3 plus inches. Delta’s rain will not reach back west into Oklahoma or central and west Texas. Across western Oklahoma and northwest Texas, lower 8-15% RH minimums, warm temperatures, and periods of gusty winds into the 20s mph this weekend and next week will create conditions for episodes of higher fire danger. Next week, still expecting a cold front to move through the south creating another period of rain and a continuing period of overall low fire danger.

Puerto Rico: Still Status Quo. A higher and broad coverage rain activity pattern will remain a fixture of the island’s topical weather through the next several days. Fire potential will continue to trend at low to very low levels.
**Tropical Atlantic Summary and Outlook**: The NHC this morning is advising on Category 2, 105 mph Hurricane Delta this morning very close to moving over/near Cancun, Mexico.

At 7AM CDT, Cat 2, 100 mph Hurricane Delta was about 425 miles south of Cameron, LA, and moving to the northwest at about 15 mph. On the current forecast track, Delta is expected to strengthen back to a Category 3, 115 mph hurricane before slightly weakening again before making landfall near Grand Chenier, LA and the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge. The tropical storm wind field at land fall is forecast to span the coast from just east of Houston, TX east to just east of Baton Rouge, LA. Locations near the hurricane’s center can expect to see winds exceeding tropical storm force for about 17 hours.

**Weather Patterns/Trends/Discussion and Outlook**: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan

**Outlook Summary**: Overall, we are expecting a generalized upward trend back to seasonal (average) levels for most of the Southern Area through fall; all due to the broader warmer and drier weather patterns created, chiefly, by the current and strengthening La Nina, as well as by other supporting intraseasonal atmospheric oscillations. Exception to this overall outlook is likely to be in areas of Oklahoma and west Texas where a drier condition is expected to continue and further develop.

**Past Weather and Drought**: With the exception of D0 to D3 drought conditions in west Texas from the Panhandle south to essentially the southern Trans Pecos, and similar conditions in far western counties of Oklahoma, the rest of the Southern Area is essentially drought free courtesy a high rain activity/frequency pattern over summer as well as from numerous tropical high rain fall events.

**Recent/ongoing Fire Activity and Area Discussion (By exception)**: Fire activity has been minimal and below average for most of our GACC state area; again due to a developing and “wetter” producing summer and early fall La Nina-ish and favorable MJO rain producing weather pattern. Texas saw fire activity fall through September from a more active period in August as rain activity increased in eastern areas.

**Fuel Conditions (by exception)**: Fuel moistures remain and have continued to trend at very high and much above average levels across all fuel classes. Again, the exception is in our more western areas of Oklahoma and Texas where moistures continue to remain below average.

**Outlook Discussion**: For October, high and well above average rain fall from September’s robust tropical and otherwise higher late summer rain activity (due to the evolving La Nina episode) has dramatically altered the fire potential threat for the month. While we expect broadly drier and warmer than average weather to be the transitioning trend, very high fuel moistures, soil moistures, and robust “green” vegetation, will have a significant muting effect to any early to mid-month environmental and fuels drying events. Exceptions are likely primarily for Oklahoma and an area from southeast Louisiana to west-central Mississippi which have 30-day rain deficits of about 1 to 2 inches. The occurrence of the first freeze for Oklahoma/Texas (typically later in the month) will be a signal for increasing fire danger in the grass fuel types.

For November, expecting broader enhanced drying during November as a drier/warmer than average La Nina pattern strengthens. Antecedent very moist fuel conditions from September, that still yet to be determined fuels impacts from any drying/low RH episodes expected during October, fall freeze events, and the unfolding fall leaf drop period necessarily complicates the outlook for November. While timing of these events will be critical, conditions seem borderline at this time for precisely indicating above average fire potential. With the drier and warmer conditions high risk, managers should at least plan for at least “average” fire potential.

For December-January, with the exception of western Oklahoma, and areas of central and west Texas, expect mostly seasonal (average) fire potential for the rest of the Southern Area. The expected warmer and drier than average La Nina induced weather pattern for the month could produce some periods of elevated fire ignition risk conditions early in the month. Cured grass fuels along with a drier winter forecast could keep western Oklahoma and areas of central and west Texas in elevated to above average fire risk.

**National Incident Management Situation Report**