FIRE DANGER -- Coastal Plains PSA

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 10 years data

Fire Danger Area:
- Dead F.M. Critical %s
- 10Hr. - 7%, 100Hr. - 13%
- 1000Hr. - 14%
* Meets NWCG Wx Station Standards

Fire Danger Interpretation:

**EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
(Caution) -- Watch for change
**Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Burning Index by day for 2004 - 2013
Average -- shows peak fire season over 10 years (908 observations)
90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the 908 days from 2004 - 2013 had an Burning Index above 55

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
- Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 25%
- Temperature over 90, Energy Release Component over 44

Years to Remember: **2006** **2008**

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

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:
- Burning Index gives day-to-day fluctuations calculated from 2 pm temperature, humidity, wind, daily temperature & rh ranges, and precip duration.
- Wind is part of BI calculation.
- Watch local conditions and variations across the landscape – Fuel, Weather, Topography.
- Listen to weather forecasts – especially WIND.

Past Experience:
The Burns Ranch Fire occurred on 3/18/2008 in Hidalgo County, burning 26,600 acres. The fire burned in grass & brush. Heavy herbaceous fuel loadings present due to above normal precipitation in 2007. A minimum RH of 12%, sustained winds from 13-27 mph from the Northwest, with gusts to 41 mph, was observed at the Linn-San Manuel RAWS. With large amounts of cured herbaceous fuels and critical fire weather present, very active fire behavior was observed.

Responsible Agency: Mike Dunivan, TFS

Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team
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Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 10 years data

Energy Release Component

May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

Extreme
Moderate

Fire Danger Area:
- Dead F.M. Critical %’s
- 10Hr. - 7%, 100Hr. - 13%
- 1000Hr. - 14%
* Meets NWCG Wx Station Standards

Fire Danger Interpretation:

- EXTREME – Use extreme caution
- Moderate – Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum – Highest Energy Release Component by day for 2004 - 2013
Average shows peak fire season over 10 years (1840 observations)
90th Percentile – Only 10% of the 1840 days from 2004 - 2013 had an Energy Release Component above 44

Local Thresholds – Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
- 20’ Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 25%,
- Temperature over 90, Burning Index over 55

Years to Remember: 2009 2011

SMAC Fire Blanco Rd

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

Past Experience:
The SMAC Fire occurred on 6/18/2011 in Brooks County burning approximately 30,000 acres. Weather observations from the AWOS in Falfurrias included South to Southeast winds from 16-23 mph with gusts up to 31 mph, minimum RH of 28% and maximum temperature of 102 degrees. Extreme fire behavior was observed in grass and brush fuels. Live fuel moisture measured from Mesquite, in nearby Starr County, was 98%. The 10th percentile for Mesquite in the Coastal Plains is 100%.

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 – ERC calculation.
- Listen to weather forecasts – especially WIND.

Responsible Agency: Mike Dunivan, TFS
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