

Fire Behavior Forecast Number 5

Name of Fire: Buckweed

Prediction For: Day Shift 10/24/07

Day Forecast Issued: 10/23/07 2100

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Weather

Red Flag Warning in effect today for strong winds and low RH

Today sunny, temps around 90, relative humidity around 8%, **eye-level** winds will be 10 to 15 with gusts to 20 mph from the E/NE.

Fuels

The fuels around the fire area are comprised of chemise, sage, and mixed chaparral. Fuel age class is 10+ years old and approximately 15 tons per acre (light to moderate load). There are several burned areas from 2002 and 2003, which have lighter/younger fuels within them.

Fire Behavior

General: Similar to yesterday, areas that are aligned with the wind can expect extreme fire behavior. Where wind, slope and fuels align expect rates of spread to be from **2 – 7+ mi/hr**. Spotting distance was measured up to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile the day of ignition. Flame lengths could reach **11 – 60 ft** in areas of mature continuous brush (fuel model 4). Fine dead fuel moisture ranges from 2 to 6% today and therefore the probability of ignition 60 to 100%. Competing upslope and general winds may cause erratic fire behavior.

Specific:

Division Y & Z – The fire activity will be expected to be confined to the canyon south of Camp 14. The easterly winds will cause these flanks to be the most vulnerable parts of the fire.

Divisions A, B, C, D, E, F – There is little residual heat in these areas except for riparian areas with heavy dead and down fuels.

Division M – The southeast edge have the most potential for spread today, since there is still heat in pockets of fuel here.

Air Operations

Air operations may be hampered by gusty winds throughout the day.

Safety

Refer to your IRPG page 4 for review of the Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires, all could apply here.

