

SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: August 1, 2011	DATE/TIME ISSUED: August 1/0730 Hrs
NEXT UPDATE: August 2, 2011	SIGNED: Brenda Wilmore

*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 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>

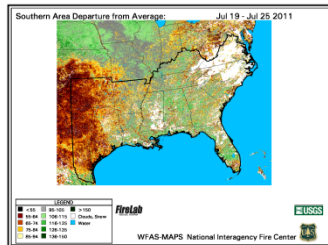
Fire Weather Summary:

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

There are no Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories currently in effect in the Southern Area.

- 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/>

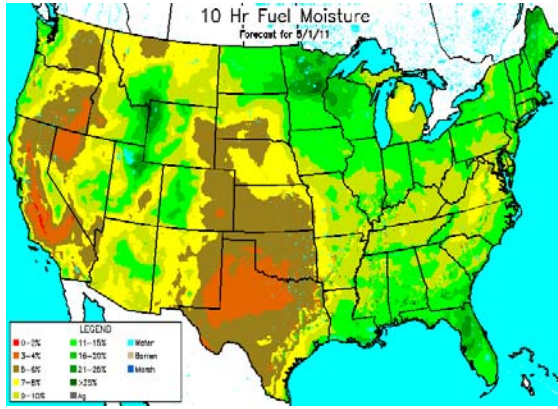
Fuels Conditions: State of the Fuels will be updated weekly or as the conditions warrant.



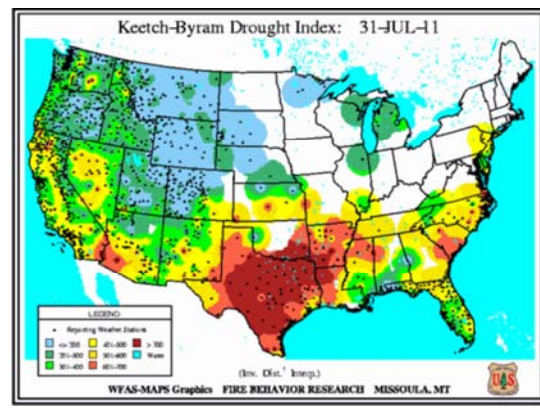
Fine fuels in Oklahoma and Texas remain extremely dry due to the prolonged drought conditions. FDFM in the low single digits are common. Live fuels are acting as a heat source rather than a heat sink due to curing and drought stress. In Central Texas the Juniper fuels have been stressed to the point of mortality in several areas. Fires initiating in dead fuels are transitioning rapidly to fuel types with a live component.

The ERC's and KDBI's throughout most of Texas and Oklahoma are at all-time maximums. Continued monitoring of fuels is necessary in local areas due to gradual drying and spotty precipitation bringing moisture levels down seasonally.

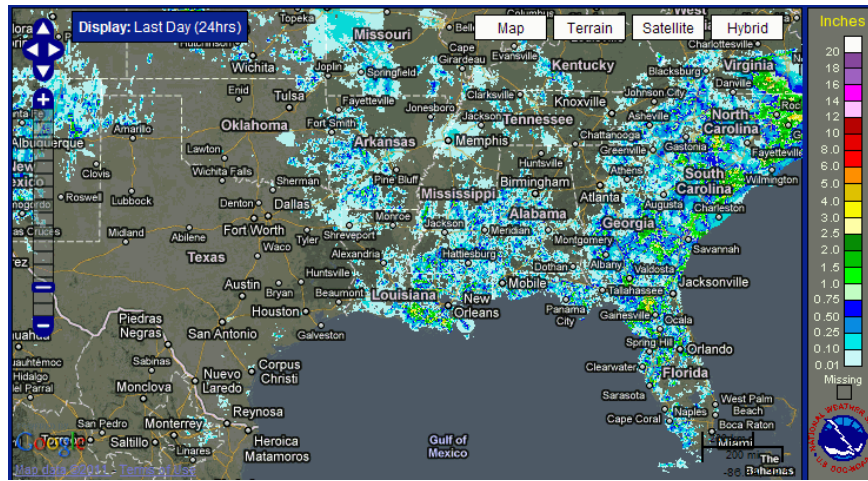
WFAS—10 Hour Forecast Fuel Moisture



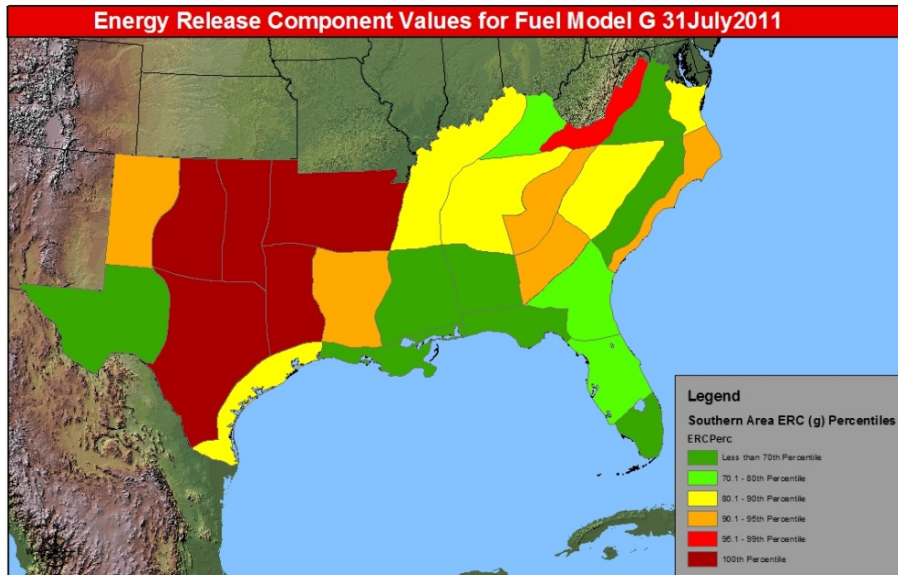
WFAS — KDBI



Southern Area 2 – 24 hour precip. ending August 1, 2011 @ 21:40



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending July 29, 2011



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

Ensure **LCES** and the **Standard Fire Orders** are implemented prior to any action on a fire.

Texas/Oklahoma Panhandles

Very High probability of large fire growth. The forecast for Monday indicate several extreme weather and fuel parameters will overlap in this area. One hour fuel moistures are predicted to be less than 3%, relative humidity will be less than 20% coupled with winds in the 15-20 mph range. The Probability of Ignition will be near 100% any wind- will enable rapid growth rates. This area also continues to set new ERC and KDBI records. Resistance to control will be high today, indirect attack and flanking attack will be safest option for perimeter control.

Interior Texas/Oklahoma

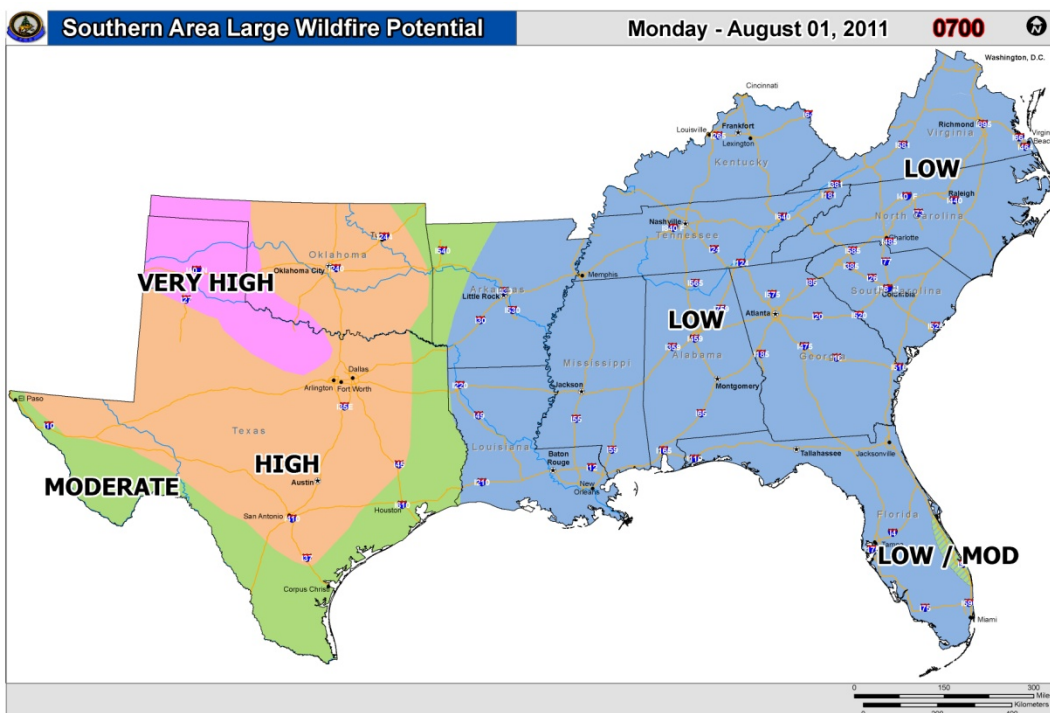
High probability of large fire growth. This area has not received precipitation for several weeks, this coupled with extremely dry fuels, will elevate fire behavior potential. Expect any new start to grow rapidly. Transition to shrub and timber types is likely. Resistance to control will be high today, indirect attack and flanking attack will be safest option for perimeter control.

South and East Texas Border

Moderate fire behavior can be expected today with any new start. This area is starting to be confined to the Texas coast that generally receives rain everyday keeping fine fuels moist and temperatures a bit lower.

Eastern two-thirds of the Southern Region

Low/Moderate/ Low fire behavior expected. VA and NC received rain over the weeknd but will be drying today as the high pressure is expected to remain over the northern half of this area through the early part of the week. Precipitation over the last week has moderated ERC's and KDBI. Fine fuel moistures will generally be greater than 10% throughout the area. Continue to monitor thunderstorm development in the afternoon. The Low/Moderate area in FL remains dry.



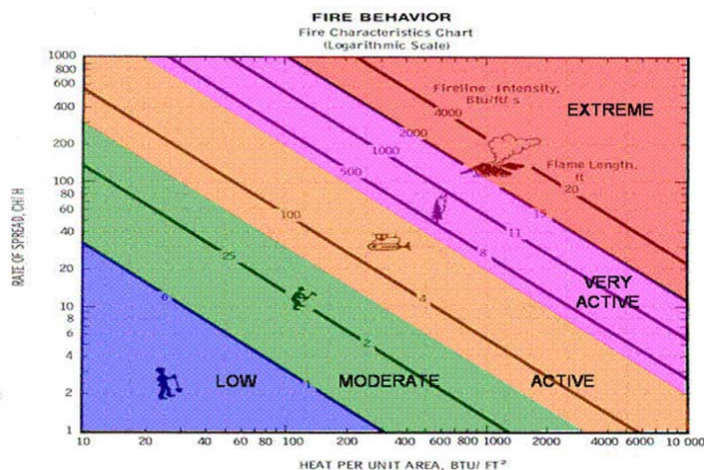
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources applicable to the geographic area scale and is not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather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

FIRE BEHAVIOR INTERPRETATION:

Visual assessment of active flame length and evaluation of potential effectiveness of various resources and capabilities. The implications of observed or expected fire behavior are critical components of suppression strategies and tactics, in particular terms of determining resistance to control, effectiveness and safety of various resources.

FIRE BEHAVIOR ADJECTIVE RATING	FLAME LENGTH (FEET)	INTERPRETATION FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT
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 Hauling Chart is an excellent tool for measuring safety and potential effectiveness of fireline resources. Additionally, the Hauling Chart is also a useful tool to help firefighters get a perspective on the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by resistance to line construction by fire behavior.



Outlook:

The high pressure system will slowly build to the east over the next few days bringing warm dry weather. Oklahoma and Texas will continue to set record drought indicies. The next frontal passage coming into the area from the north is expected around Friday and should bring widespread precipitation to the eastern part of the Southern Area.

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>