An Interagency Incident Support Website

SACC Southern Area Coordination Center

Mobilizing Incident Resources ...throughout the Southeaste

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SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: August 3, 2011	**DATE/TIME ISSUED: August 3/0800 Hrs**
NEXT UPDATE: August 4, 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

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Fire Weather Summary:

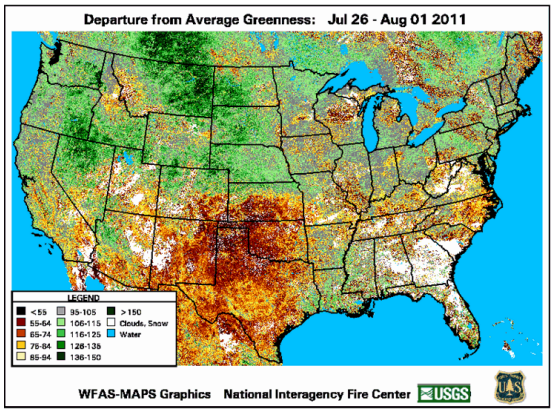
***Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories

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/

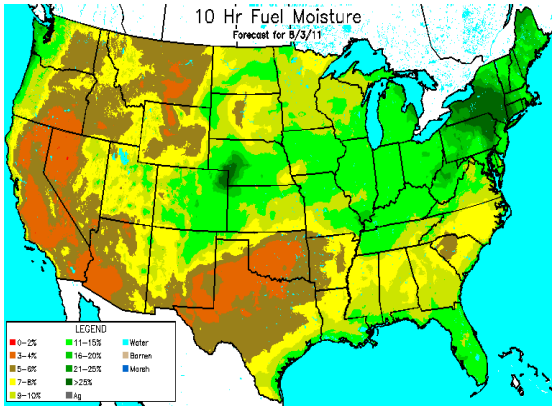
Fuels Conditions:

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

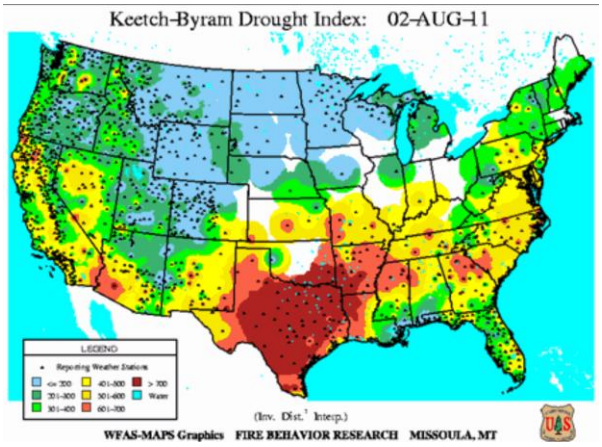


The live and dead fuels in Oklahoma and Texas remain extremely dry (lower single digits). Due to prolonged drought, in central Texas, Juniper stands are stressed to the point of mortality. The ERC's and KDBI's throughout most of Texas and Oklahoma are at all-time maximums.

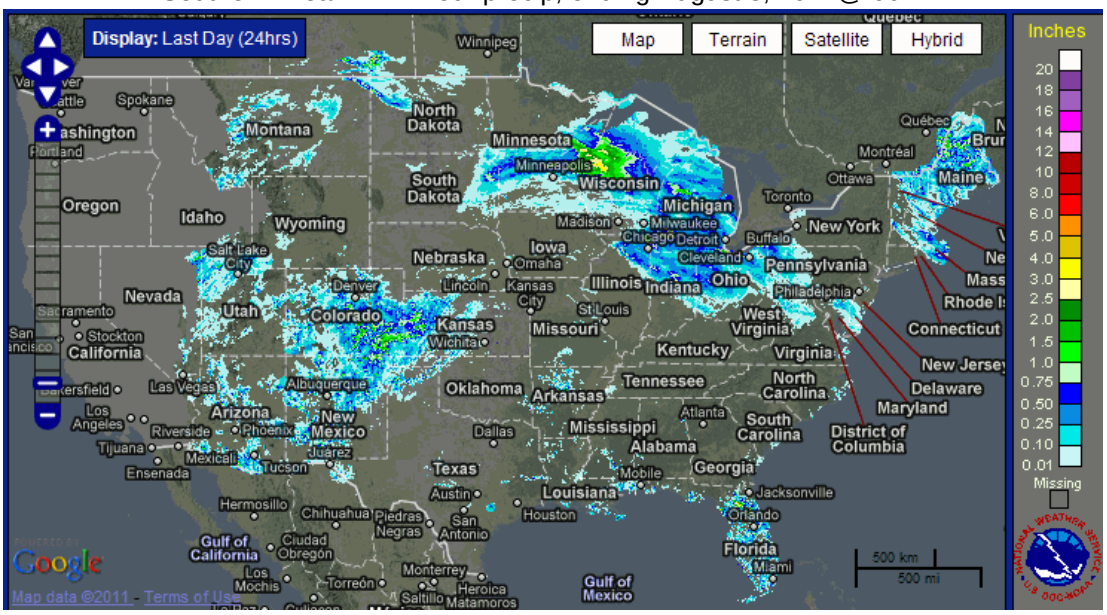
WFAS—10 Hour Forecast Fuel Moisture



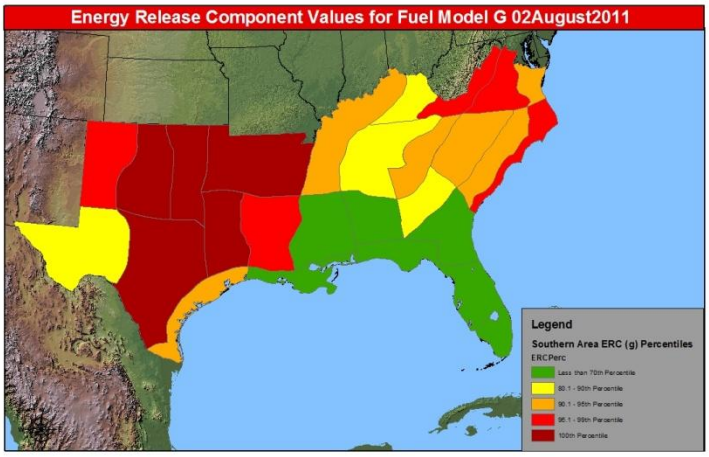
WFAS — KDBI



Southern Area 2 – 24 hour precip, ending August 3, 2011@ 06:47



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending Aug 2, 2011



Fire Behavior Outlook

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

Texas and Oklahoma Plains

Very High probability of large fire growth. Fires can be fuel and or terrain driven in the absence of wind. One hour fuel moistures are predicted to be less than 2%, ten hour fuel moisture less than 4%. Live fuels are also extremely dry or fully cured. Winds are forecast to be less than 10 mph over the area with the exception of the Trans Pecos which may see winds up to 15 mph. This area continues to set new high ERC and KBDI values.

Trans Pecos, Hill Country, Western Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas

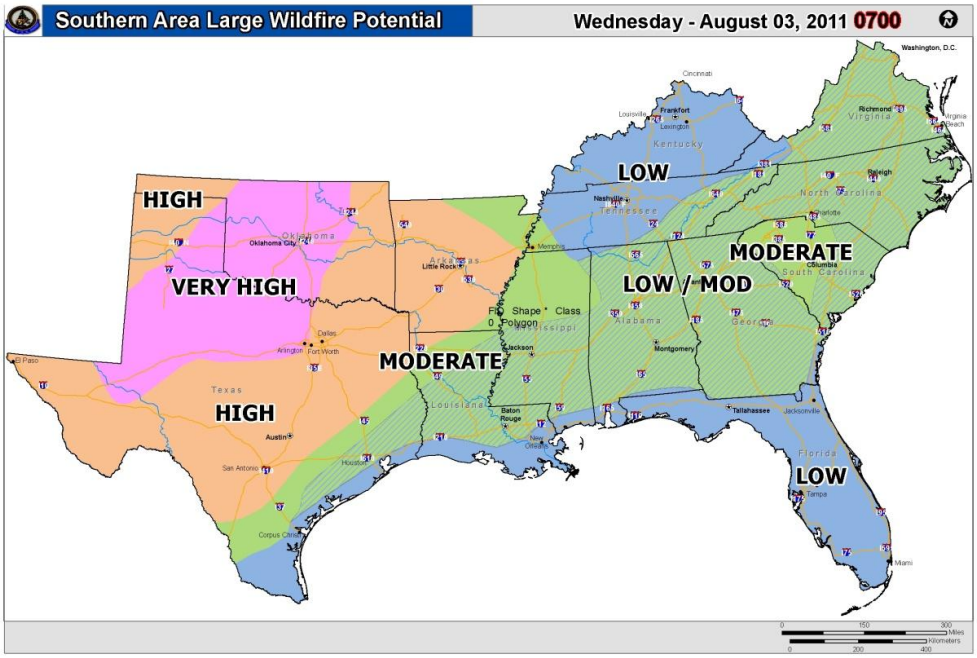
High probability of large fire growth. Like the very high probability areas, the majority of this area has not received precipitation for several weeks so live fuels are cured or extremely dry. Fine dead fuels in this area have been trending 1-3% higher than in the Very High area. Expect any new start to grow rapidly. Transition to shrub and timber types is likely. Winds are expected to remain below 10 mph.

Southeast Texas and Central Geographic Area States

Moderate and Low/Moderate fire behavior can be expected today with any new start. The high pressure system has kept precipitation to a minimum in this area over the last few days. The fine fuels have dried to the point to allow for moderate rates of spread. Northern LA, AL and western SC have been upgraded to Moderate to reflect 97th percentile ERCs. Expect resistance to control to be higher in these areas through the burn period today. The precipitation forecast for Thursday and Friday will likely revert much of this area back to Low Potential.

Gulf Coast, Florida, Kentucky and Western Tennessee

Low fire behavior expected. These areas have received enough precipitation over the last week to moderate ERC and KDBI values. RH is typically reaches 90-100%. Ignitions may become established but should not spread rapidly.



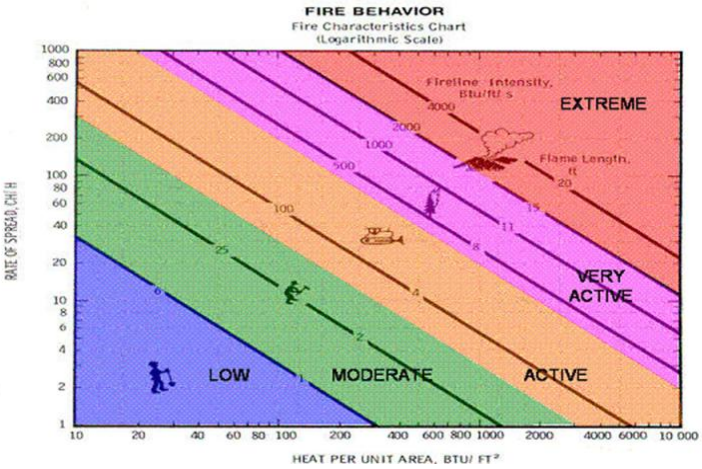
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources applicable to the geographic area scale and is not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather 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 prespetive 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 continue to persist over Oklahoma,Texas and Arkansas keeping Large Fire Potential High to Very High. Expect an increase in thunderstorm activity today in Kentucky, West Virgina, and North Carolina as the front that moved north of the high cycles south. Alabama, Georgia, and Florida will receive a moderate amount of precept on Thursday and Friday. The frontal movement into the geographic area from the north is expected to bring widespread precipitation that will moderate current fire behavior indicies. Expect the eastern half of the area to return to Low potential by the weekend.

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