

SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: August 6, 2011	DATE/TIME ISSUED: August 6/0800 Hrs
NEXT UPDATE: August 7, 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:

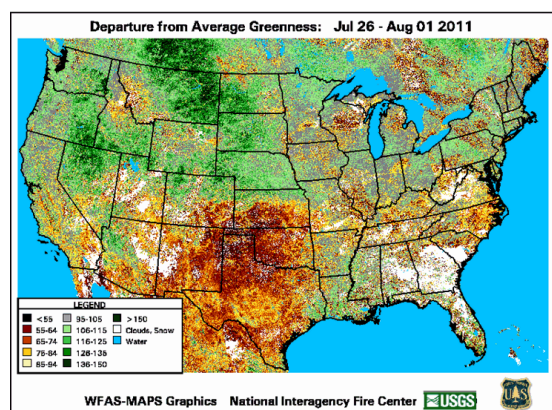
*****Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories**

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/>

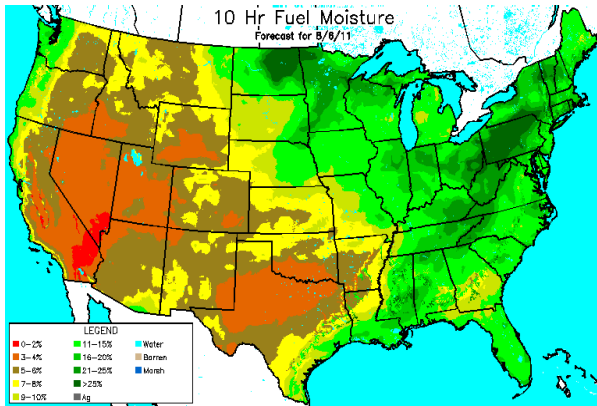
Fuels Conditions:

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

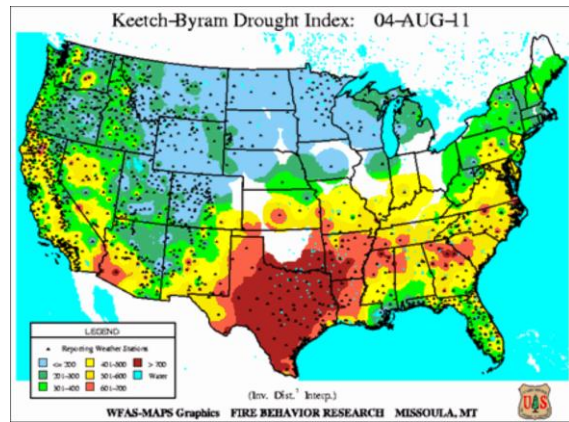


The live and dead fuels in Oklahoma and Texas remain extremely dry (lower single digits). Due to prolonged drought, in central Texas, Juniper stands are stressed to the point of mortality and oak stands have dropped their leaves. Fires are spreading and growing in the absence of wind. Spotting from convection is also common. The ERC's and KDBI's throughout most of Texas and Oklahoma are at all-time maximums.

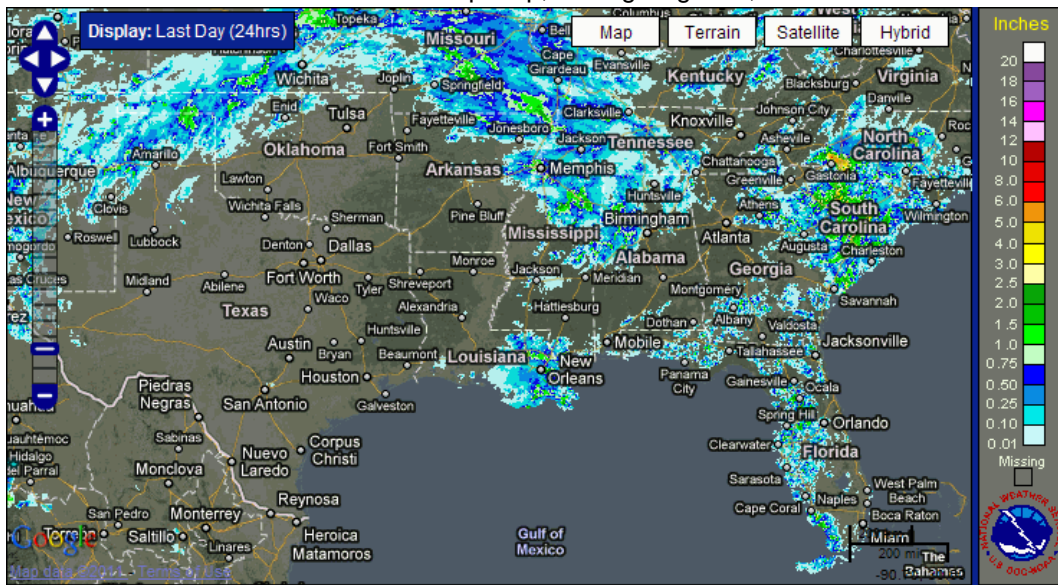
WFAS—10 Hour Forecast Fuel Moisture



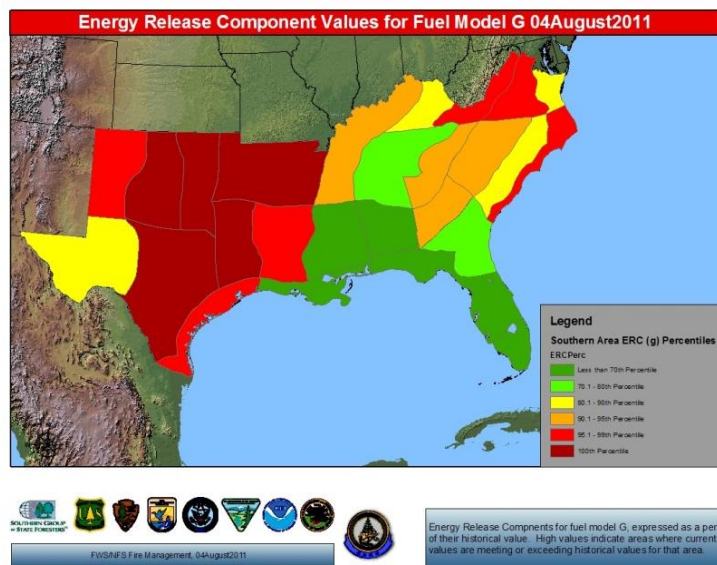
WFAS — KDBI



Southern Area 2 – 24 hour precip, ending August 6, 2011 @ 06:47



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending Aug 4, 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. Fine fuel moistures continue to be extremely dry with little rebound overnight. ERC and KBDI values are at all time highs. Some shrub and tree species are experiencing mortality and early leaf senescence due to the prolonged drought conditions. Spotting from convection is common. Wind velocity will gradually increase through the weekend. Gusts up to 30 mph can be expected by Monday, August 8.

Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Northern Louisiana

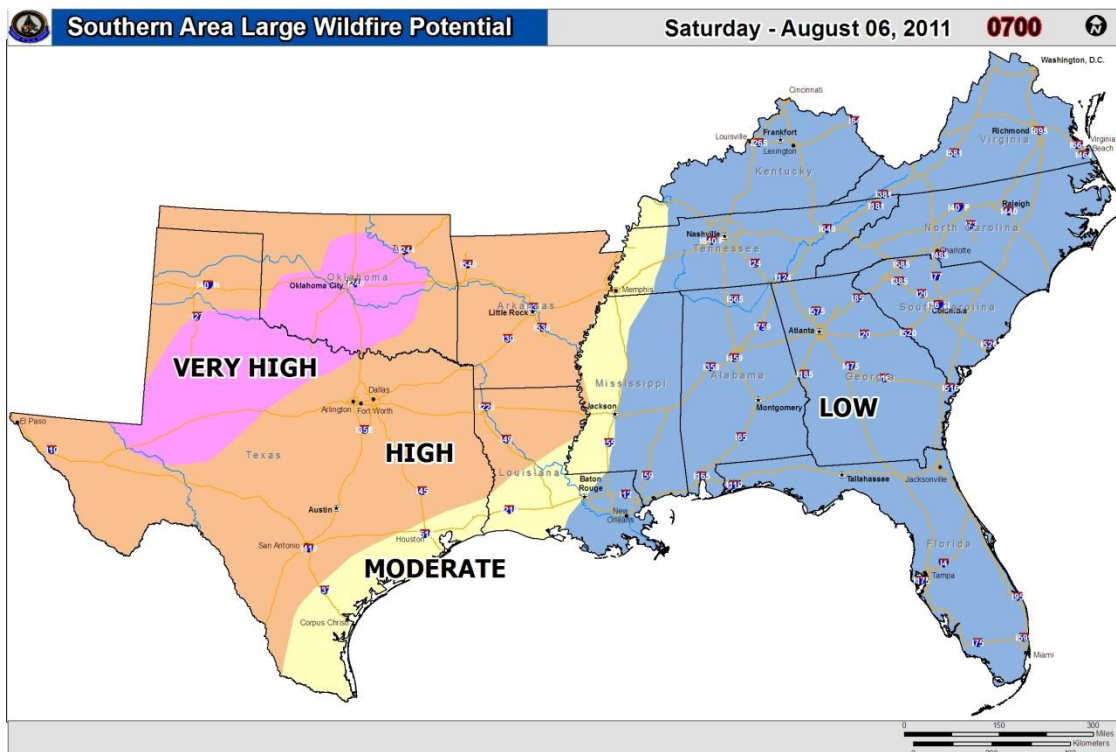
High probability of large fire growth. Like the very high probability areas, the majority of this area has not received precipitation for several weeks so live fuels are cured or extremely dry. Fine dead fuels in this area have been trending 1-3% higher than in the Very High area. Transition to shrub and timber types is likely. Expect any new start to grow rapidly with forecast winds in the 10-15 mph range.

Texas Coast, Southeast Alabama and Southern Georgia

Moderate fire behavior can be expected today with any new start. These areas are forecast to have low fine fuel moistures on Saturday and KBDI values continue to be high. Light rain is expected over much of this area throughout the weekend. This in combination with consistently good overnight RH recovery will shorten burn periods making significant spread unlikely.

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 KBDI values. Rain is expected over the area throughout the weekend. Ignitions may become established but should not spread rapidly.



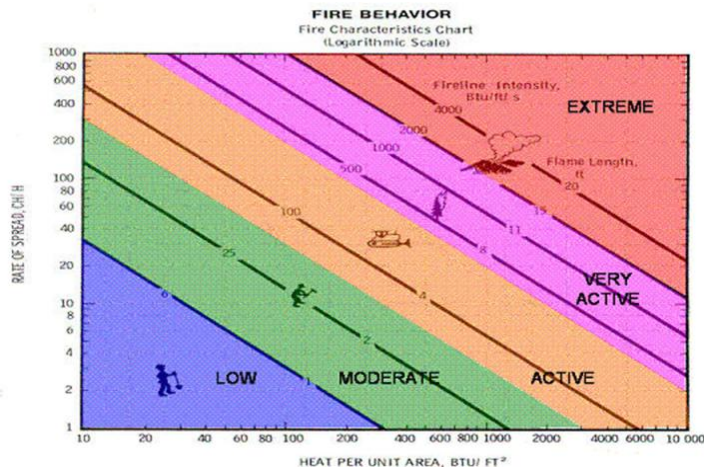
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources applicable to the geographic area scale and is not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather 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 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 continue to persist over Oklahoma, Texas and western Arkansas keeping Large Fire Potential High to Very High. Thunder cells developing in this area may bring some rain but it is unlikely that it will be enough to dampen fire behavior. Extreme winds maybe associated with cell activity. The frontal movement into the geographic area from the north is expected to bring widespread precipitation that will moderate current fire behavior indices across the eastern half of the geographic area by the weekend returning large fire potential to Low.

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>