An Interagency Incident Support Website

SACC Southern Area Coordination Center

Mobilizing Incident Resources ...throughout the Southeastern U.S.

# SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

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|---|---|
| **FORECAST VALID FOR: August 31, 2011** | **DATE/TIME ISSUED: August 31/0930** |
| **NEXT UPDATE: September 1, 2011** | **SIGNED: *Robb Beery*** |

*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 Red Flag Warnings today for Western end of the Red River Valley in Texas and Central Oklahoma.

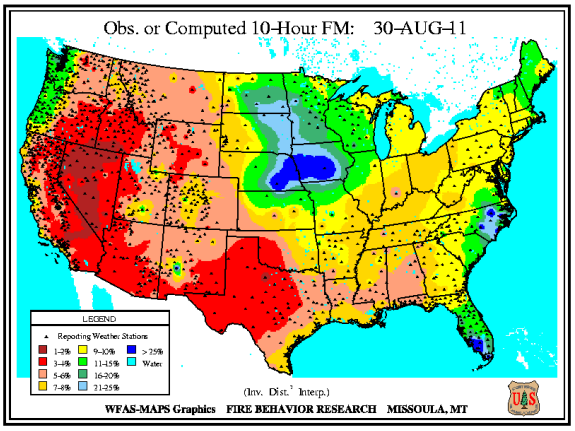
For complete Warning information for Oklahoma and Texas: OK/TX NWS Fire Weather Watch

- 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:

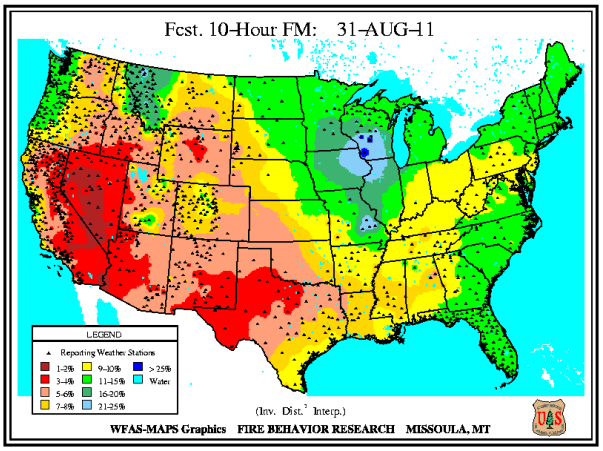
**State of the Fuels will be updated weekly or as the conditions warrant.**

Observed 10 Hr FM Tuesday August 30, 2011

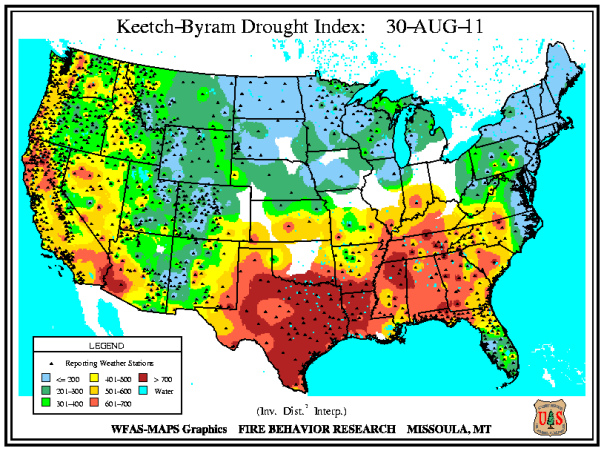



The 10 hour fuel moistures decrease in an increasingly larger area. With lower fuel moistures in the 100 and 1000 hours it is taking longer to control the fires and extinguish the residual heat in the larger fuels. This poses a increased difficulty in control and containment due to extended mop-up.

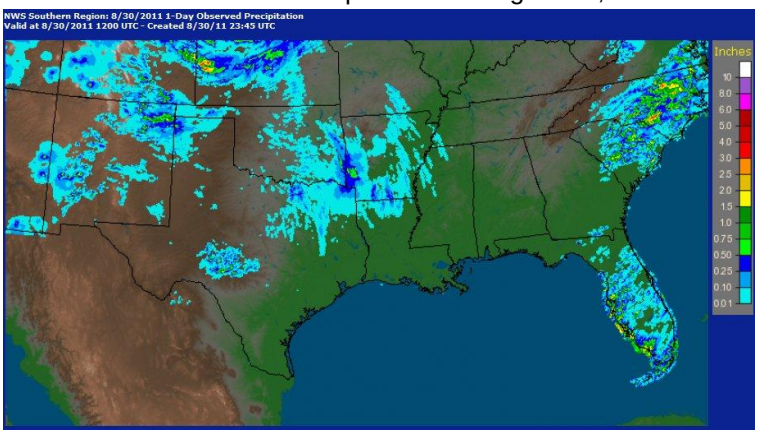
WFAS—10 Hour Forecast Fuel Moisture



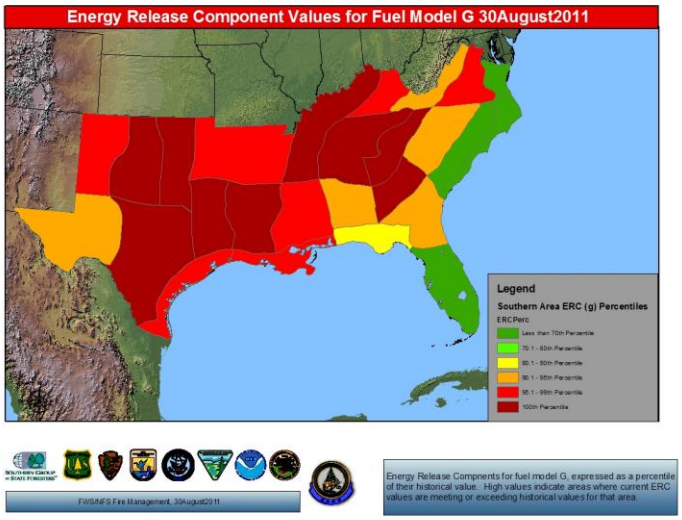

WFAS — KDBI




Southern Area – Precipitation for August 30, 2011




Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending Aug 30, 2011



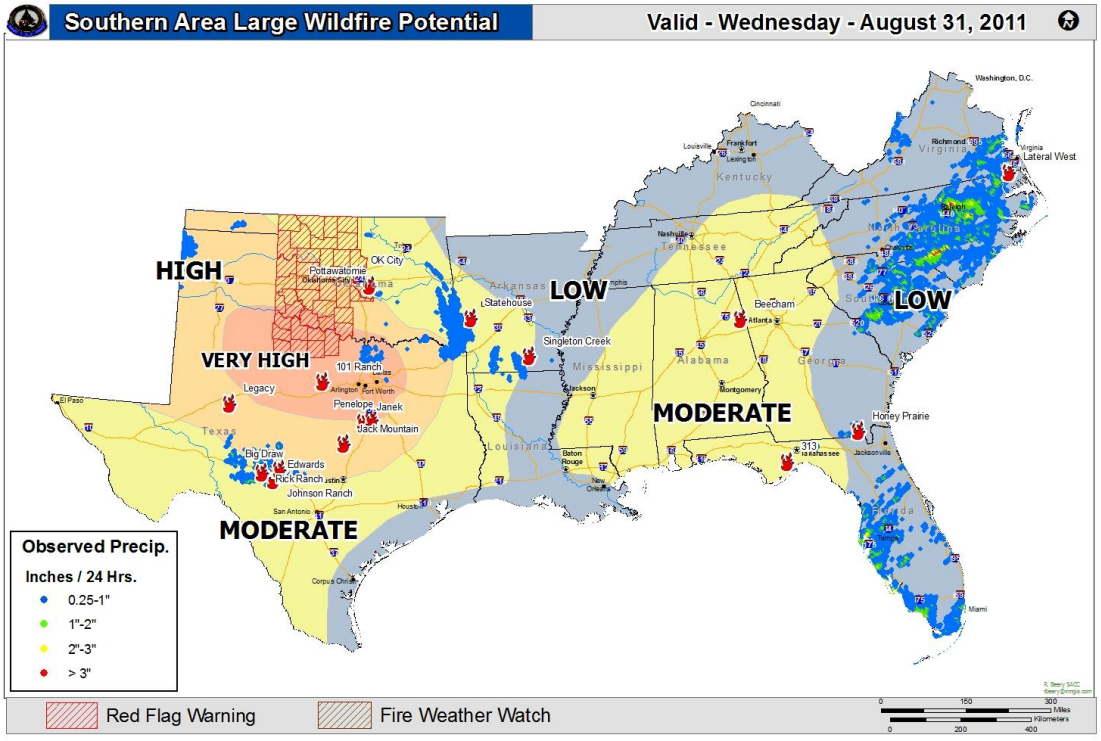
## Fire Behavior Outlook

**Central Texas**
**Very High** probability of large fire growth. RH values remain critical. Fine fuel moistures continue to be extremely dry. With the Low RH recovery you could see fires become more active earlier in the day. Drought stress on live fuels increases the fuel load and allows rapid escalation to extreme behavior.

**Western Texas, North Central Texas, Texas Panhandle, East Texas and Western Oklahoma**
**High** probability of large fire growth. High temperatures combined with low relative humidity and low fine fuel moisture will allow any new starts to have the potential to become a large fire. Low fuel moistures in the larger fuels could increase the intensity of any fires in areas with large ground fuels. Juniper and Oaks are experiencing die back due to drought stress, greatly increasing dead duel load and fire intensity in the crowns.

**Western Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Western Georgia and Southern Appalachia**
**Moderate** probability of large fire growth. Dry air continues to push down to create low relative humidity and low fine fuel moisture allowing any new starts to have the potential to become a large fire. Fine fuel moistures continue to remain low. Unstable atmospheric conditions can contribute to large fire potential.

**Coastal Region of Texas, Eastern Louisiana, Northeast Oklahoma, and Eastern Coastal Areas**
**Low** fire behavior expected. These areas continue to receive some scattered precipitation and ERC remains within seasonal values. The good RH recovery over night and scattered precipitation will help increase the fine fuel moistures. Ignitions may become established but should not spread rapidly.



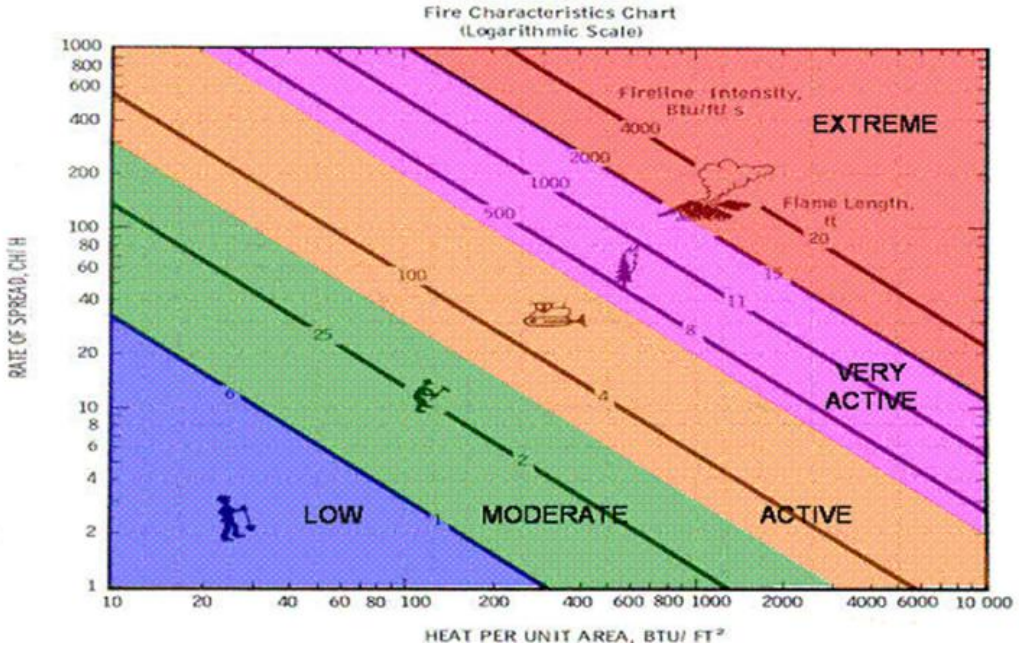

This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources applicable to the geographic area scale and is not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather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




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