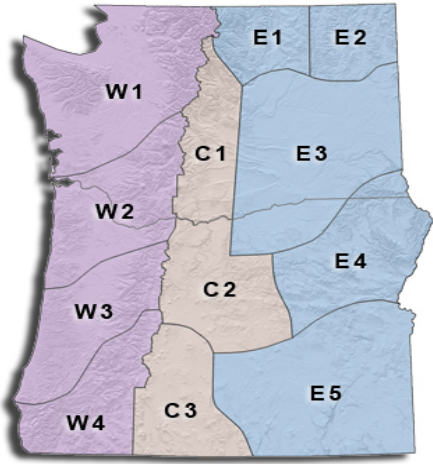


# Pacific Northwest 7 Day Significant Fire Potential



Monday, September 15, 2008



## Legend:

### Fuel Dryness

- Moist Fuels - Little or no risk of large fires.
- Dry Fuels - Low risk of large fires in absence of "High Risk" event.
- Very Dry Fuels - Low / Moderate risk of large fires in absence of "High Risk" event.

### "High Risk" Events

- ⚡ Abundant Lightning (ignition Trigger)
- w Windy conditions (burn environment)
- u Unstable air mass (burn environment)
- R Heavy Recreation (ignition trigger)

### "High Risk" Days

- At least a 20% chance of a "Large Fire" due to an "Ignition Trigger" in combination with appropriately dry fuels
- At least a 20% chance of a new "Large Fire" or significant growth on existing large fires due to a critical "Burn Environment" (dry fuels and weather).

For 10-day ERC and F100 Projections click →  
About this Product click →

More info regarding our Large Fire Potential Assessment procedures and techniques can be found at the following sites:

- Developing a Fuel Dryness Level →
- Ignition Triggers →
- NWCC Fire Danger Operating Plan →

Predictive Service

Areas	yd	td	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
W1			U					
W2		U	U					
W3		U	U					
W4		U	⚡					
C1			U					
C2			U	⚡				
C3			⚡					
E1				U				
E2								
E3								
E4				⚡				
E5								

**Weather Synopsis:** The big ridge aloft over the Pacific Northwest continues to be the dominating weather feature bringing hot, dry and unstable conditions through midweek. An upper level low off of the northern California coast will bring just enough mid level moisture to make isolated dry lightning a threat to the Pacific Northwest Tue and Wed as a shortwave trough brushes the area. Some moderation is expected towards the end of the week as an upper low moves inland through Oregon/Northern California. While this system has the potential to bring rain showers with it also will need to be watched closely for thunder potential in eastern Oregon on Friday. A general cooling trend will occur over the weekend.

**Large Fire Potential:** The very hot and dry ridge aloft has brought fuels to the 'yellow' or 'brown' level in all PSA yesterday. Fuels will continue to dry through the middle of the week. Haines 6 conditions along the west side of the ridge aloft and a surface thermal trough combined with the increasingly dry fuels will create a critical burn environment due to instability in W2, W3 and W4 today. The focus of this strong instability and continued low RHs and poor nighttime recoveries will build north into western Washington and east into the Cascades on Tue broaden the area affected by the thermal trough and Haines 6 conditions. By Wed the thermal trough will shift east of the Cascades, remaining strongest in E1.

Isolated dry lightning will move into SW and south central Oregon Tue afternoon and evening and then spread further north and east on Wed. Available mid level moisture will be the limiting factor keeping the number of storms low...however with the critically dry fuels it will not take all that many strikes to be problematic. It currently looks like there will be just enough strikes in W4 and C3 Tue and C2 and E4 on Wed to increase the probability of new large fires into the high risk category. Isolated lightning will also be possible in E5 as well as further north in Washington on Wed however in both of those areas the lightning should be sparse enough to stay below the high risk category.

Julia Ruthford

### Preparedness Level:

Northwest: 3  
National: 2

- <http://nwccweb.us/content/products/fw/guidance/nldr.pdf#zoom=140>
- <http://nwccweb.us/content/products/fw/guidance/DLProduct.pdf#zoom=100>

- [http://www.nwccweb.us/content/products/fw/publications/Assessing\\_Daily\\_Fire\\_Severity1.pdf](http://www.nwccweb.us/content/products/fw/publications/Assessing_Daily_Fire_Severity1.pdf)
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