

MONTHLY FIRE WEATHER / FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

1. REPORTING UNIT: Southern Area

2. DATE Compiled: July 25, 2005
For the month of: August 2005

3. POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

	Below Normal	Normal	Above Normal
This coming month	VA, NC, SC, GA, AL, FL.	Elsewhere	
This season Jun-Jul-Aug	Florida, East Coast, Gulf Coast.	elsewhere	AR, OK, E TX.

4. FIRE WEATHER OUTLOOK

August will continue to exhibit a mixed bag of fire risks across the area. Most of the area that lies east of the Mississippi River and south of I-40 will see below normal fire risks due to the increase in precipitation and the ongoing occurrence of hurricanes and other tropical weather systems impinging on this territory. Elsewhere, fire risks are expected to be normal.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

Drought condition continue in a swath from I-35 (Oklahoma City to San Antonio) eastward to I-55 (Jackson to Memphis). However, some of this has been mitigated by recent rains and just hasn't had time to appear on the latest PDI depiction maps available at press time (July 25). Abnormally dry areas are present on the blended drought depictions in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana. On the other hand, these panels also depict very moist conditions across much of the eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast region.

Experimental blended drought depictions are available at <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/sbfinal.gif> and <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/lbfinal.gif>
SPI maps can be found at: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/spi/spi.html>

Our Days Since Significant Rain now indicates that the south coast of Florida is approaching the high range of average ($\mu+1\sigma$). Otherwise, no areas of concern were indicated. This tiny strip of land hugs the immediate coast from about Miami over to Naples.

PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK:

Above normal rainfall is expected to extend from central and eastern Virginia southward to central Florida. Another area of above normal rainfall is expected in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Below normal rainfall will develop across eastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and southern Alabama.

TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK:

Above normal temperatures are expected to manifest themselves from the eastern border of Oklahoma eastward to Virginia and southward to include the I-20 corridor from Shreveport to Columbia.

5. FUELS

Fuel type	Stage of Fuel	
Grass	Annual: Curing near complete in the west. Still fully green in the east.	Perennial: Curing near complete in the west. Still fully green in the east.
Shrub	Deciduous: Full leaf out in all areas.	Evergreen – Fully green
Timber	Hardwoods: Fully green in all areas. Some leaf coloration possible in drought stressed areas.	Evergreen – Fully Green

The values given below are averages over extremely large and diverse areas. A special interest group (SIG) for the Eastern and Western portions of our region are utilized to determine the numerical values represented here. SIG-West contains about 25 stations. SIG-East contains about 100 stations. Averages and actual values are taken for one day periods that includes the previous month, the current month, and the next month. Only the maximum and minimum values for the entire region are represented here without any distinction given for where or when (or even *if*) they actually occurred. If you use these values, or find them useful, please call us or drop us an email. If you do use these values, it is important that you understand their limitations and derivation.

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE (sage, deciduous, conifer): Snapshot Values taken Jul 24, 2005

Woody: Normal = 137-157, Actual = 11-163%
 Herbaceous: Normal = 108-125, Actual = 85-118%

100-HOUR DEAD FUEL MOISTURE: Normal = 15-19% Actual = 14-16%

1000-HOUR DEAD FUEL MOISTURE: Normal = 18-21%, Actual = 15-21%

KEETCH-BYRUM DROUGHT INDEX: Normal = 300-465, Actual = 356-467

BURNING INDICES: Normal = 19-30, Actual = 22-40

ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT: Normal = 19-32, Actual = 24-42

6. AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE – See table below.

7. ACTUAL FIRE OCCURRENCE - See table below.

FIRES

Data Thru July, 24 2005	Human	Light	H & L	RX
ACTUALS: # FIRES 2005 MTD TOTAL	446	41	487	32
ACTUALS: # FIRES 2005 YTD TOTAL	14,120	139	14,259	1,996
AVERAGES: Cum Monthly 19 Yr Avg Human/Lightning and 6 Yr Avg Rx	22,888	1,752		1,204
2005 Cum YTD % of Average	62%	8%		166%

ACRES

Data Thru July, 24 2005	Human	Light	H & L	RX
ACTUALS: ACRES 2005 MTD TOTAL	11,206	5,196	16,402	16,954
ACTUALS: ACRES 2005 YTD TOTAL	179,704	21,527	201,231	1,207,596
AVERAGES: Cum Monthly 19 Yr Avg Human/Lightning and 6 Yr Avg Rx	405,956	277,176		699,932
2005 Cum YTD % of Average	44%	8%		173%

8. WRITTEN SUMMARY.

Fire occurrence will continue at low levels in the Southeastern US during the month of August. Given the warm temperatures that we expect to see develop in the Ohio Valley and Appalachian Mountain regions, this could be the forerunner of an active fall fire season. Recent rains in Texas have helped to alleviate the situation somewhat, although fires will still occur and in those pockets where fuel moisture values are low, some problem fire behavior may result. Florida will continue to see near daily rainfall, as weather systems moving westward out of the tropics provide ample moisture.

Resources requirements are expected to be minimal. Land-falling tropical storms may give rise to unique needs for resources in the affected areas.

Geographic Area Name	SOUTHERN AREA
Precipitation Outlook	Drier than normal conditions are expected in eastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and southern Alabama.
Temperature Outlook	A broad swath of above normal temperatures is expected from western Arkansas to Virginia and southward to include virtually all of the I-20 corridor from Shreveport to Columbia.
Fuels and Fire Danger Concerns	Although some grasses have recovered slightly from the recent rains in Texas, much of the area remains poised for grass fires with hot temperatures a near daily occurrence. Most acreages have remained below the (artificial) 300 acre threshold for reporting. Elevated fire danger concerns will be present for areas west of the Mississippi River with minimal concerns to the east.
Prescribed fire implications	Burning bans may be needed at times due to the dry conditions. Some campground closures may also be experienced where fuel moisture values are abnormally low.
Miscellaneous	July saw a dramatic increase in the tropical activity. Cindy and Dennis both made landfall on the US Coast, both near Mobile Bay. Bret, Emily and Gert all made landfall on the Mexican Coast during July. Emily came ashore far enough north to provide the Rio Grande Valley with some much needed rainfall. Franklin also developed, but mainly affected the Bahamas and Atlantic shipping lanes as of this writing.

9. FIRE POTENTIAL MAP FOR the Month of: **August 2005: (Southern Area Only)**

