

Look Up, Down and Around

Fire Environment Factors	Indicators
<u>Fuel Characteristics</u> (assess)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Continuous fine fuels” • Heavy loading of dead and down • Ladder fuels • Tight crown spacing • Special Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firebrand sources - Numerous snags - Preheated canopy - Frost and/or bug kill - Unusual fine fuels - High dead to live fuel ratio
<u>Fuel Moisture</u> (feel and measure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Low RH (<25%)” • Low 10 hr FMC (<6%) • Drought conditions • Seasonal stage of drying
<u>Fuel Temperature</u> (feel and measure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “High temperatures (>85F)” • High % of fuels w/direct sunlight • Aspect fuel temperature increasing
<u>Terrain</u> (scout)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Steep slopes (>50%)” • Chutes and chimneys • Box canyons • Saddles • Narrow canyons
<u>Wind</u> (observe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Surface winds > 10 mph” • “Shifting winds” • Lenticular clouds • High, fast moving clouds • Approaching cold front • Cumulonimbus cloud development • Sudden calm
<u>Stability</u> (observe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good visibility • Gusty winds and dust • Cumulus clouds • Castellatus clouds in the a.m. • Smoke rises straight up • Inversion beginning to lift • Thermal belt
<u>Fire Behavior</u> (watch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Well developed smoke column” • “Trees torching” • “Frequent spot fires” • Leaning smoke column • Sheared smoke column • Changing smoke column • Smoldering fires picking up • Small fire whirls beginning