

**Rio Puerco Field Office
Fire Danger Operating and Preparedness Plan
2007**



Prepared By: _____

Date: _____

Introduction: This plan provides a method to calculate the Albuquerque Field Office (ABD) preparedness and dispatch levels and also provides guidelines as to which actions to take when specific preparedness are reached. Other factors including coordination with cooperators, other interagency partners, resource commitment, drought, fuel load and large or multiple fire activity must be considered in the decision making process in the final determination of the daily preparedness and dispatch levels.

The fire danger operating plan primarily concentrates on two of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) many indices as described below:

Burning Index (BI) is used in determining the Dispatch and Preparedness level. The BI is an estimate of the potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to flame length at the head of the fire. The BI is scaled that BI/10 indicated predicted flame length in feet. BI is greatly affected by wind so it can fluctuate greatly from day to day.

Energy Release Component (ERC) is used for the Firefighter Pocket Card (Appendix 3). ERC shows seasonal trends as the fuels dry and can be used as a drought indicator. Wind is not factored into ERC so it has a low variability and does not dramatically change from day to day. ERC is a good characterization of the fire season at any point in time.

Roles and Responsibilities: The ABD Fire Management Officer (FMO) or acting will be responsible for final determination of daily preparedness and dispatch levels. The plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed by the FMO.

The ABD Logistics Coordinator is responsible for annual and daily maintenance of all ABD station catalogs in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS).

The Remote Automatic Weather Station Depot located at the National Interagency Fire Center annually maintains the Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) located on ABD.

NFDRS Outputs and Indices: The ABD Logistics Coordinator located at the Albuquerque Zone Dispatch Center will ensure that fire weather observations from the two ABD Remote Automatic Weather Station are entered into WIMS daily by 1430. The next days forecasted indices will be retrieved by 1500 and used in the determination of the preparedness and dispatch level for the next day. Indices will be sent via e-mail to the fire staff at ABD.

Preparedness and dispatch levels will be based on a weighted average of 50% each from the Malpais Lava Flow 293301 National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) weather stations and Cuba 290705 for fuel model 7C2P2. (Appendix 1 contains station catalogs)

Fire Danger Area: For the purpose of this plan the entire Albuquerque Field Office is the Fire Danger Area.

Firefighter Pocket Cards: Pocket Cards will be distributed to all local and incoming firefighting resources, The ABD pocket card has been posted on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group web site.

Preparedness and Dispatch Level Matrix

STAFFING CLASS PREPAREDNESS LEVEL)	BURNING INDEX	FIRE DANGER	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
PL -1	0 – 10 (FIL -1)	<p>LOW</p> <p>Initiating fires low intensity with low resistance to control; fine fuels drying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Normal tour of duty 0800 – 1630 •One engine dispatched initial attack response ▪Phone & radio monitored by ABZ until 1630 (or longer if initial attack is extended)
PL-2	11 – 21 (FIL-2)	<p>MODERATE</p> <p>Initiating fires moderate intensity with low-moderate resistance to control; heavy fuels drying</p>	<p>All above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Daily Roster/staffing reports to ABZ started
PL-3	22 – 42 (FIL-3)	<p>HIGH</p> <p>Initiating fires of moderate to moderate-high intensity with potential for spotting w/winds & passive crowning possible; all fuel classes available at high end BI</p>	<p>All Above Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consider increased patrols following dry lightning storms; •Predicted LAL between 4 – 6, bump up to LEVEL IV
PL-4	43 – 50 (FIL-4)	<p>VERY HIGH</p> <p>Fires present moderate to high intensity and high resistance to control; escapes are common at high end BI; all fuels classes available for rapid combustion; air temps high, humidities low with high winds possible; spotting & intermittent crowning likely</p>	<p>All Above Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Briefings for Agency Administrators as needed; •Advise ABZ if extended staffing hours required; •Consider fire restrictions; fire safety messages distributed •Consider canceling planned prescribed-fires and postponing project work
PL-5	51 + (FIL-5+)	<p>EXTREME</p> <p>High to extreme intensities with crowning, short-long range spotting common; project fires likely under high wind conditions</p>	<p>All Above Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consider: ordered-standby/cancel, annual leave, etc. •Consider daily Briefings for AA and press releases issued regularly •Review AA Briefing package

The Preparedness and Dispatch Level Matrix is based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Weather Stations El Malpais Lava Flow 290705 and Cuba 290705 data 1990 – 2003. Analysis used NFDRS Fuel Model C, Slope class 1 (0-25%), perennial herbs and climate class of 1 (semi-arid).

Appendix 1 Weather Station Catalogs

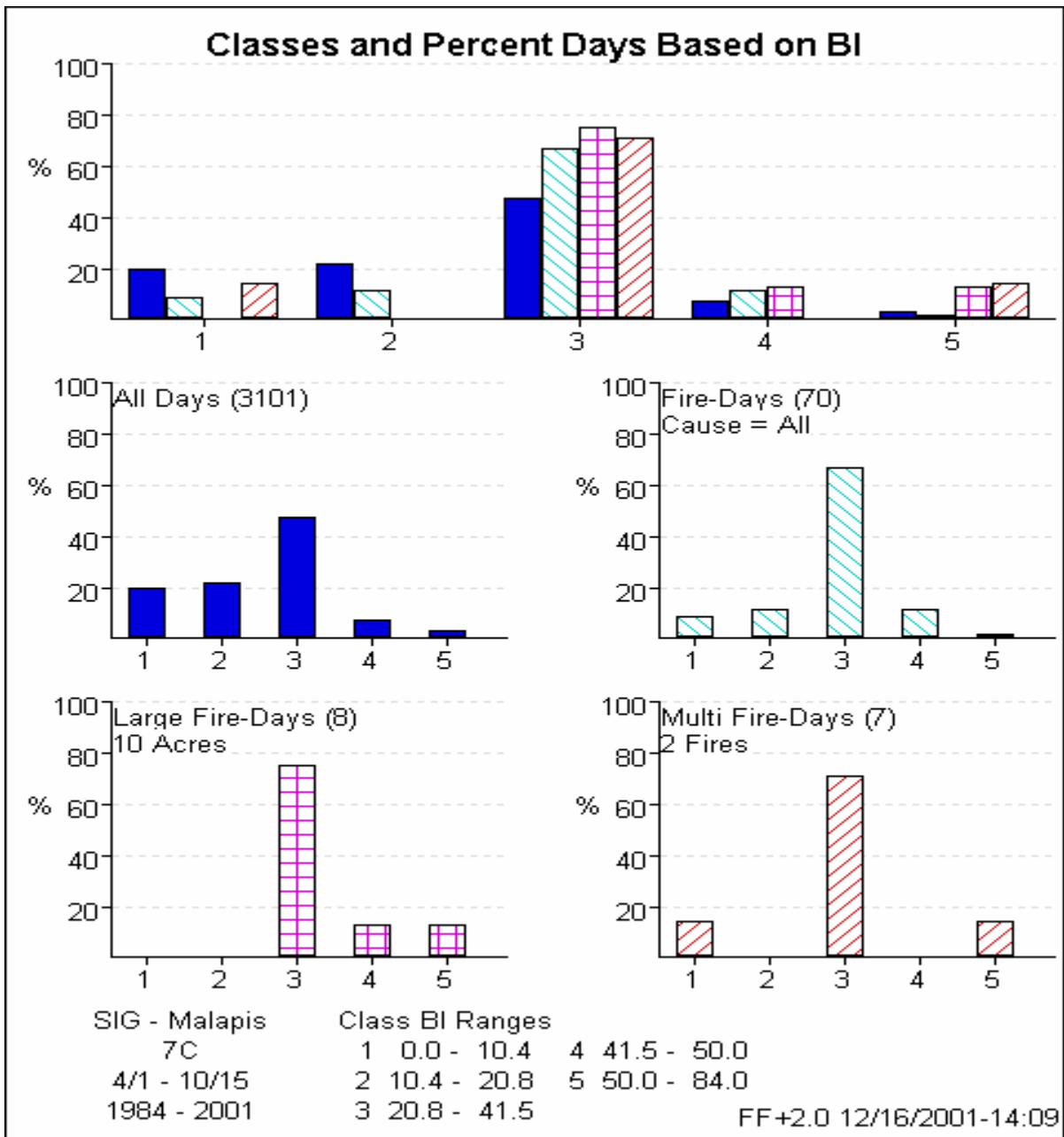
Cuba 290705

Edit Station Information			
Station ID:	290705	Name:	Cuba
Station Type:	4 - RAWS (SAT NFDRS)		
NFDRS Fuel Model:	C - Pine-Grass Savanna	Use 88 NFDRS Fuel Model:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observing Agency:	2 - Bureau of Land Management	Agency Unit:	
Latitude (Deg):	35	Elevation (ft):	7200
Longitude (Deg):	107	Average Precip: (in):	12.00
State:	NM	Aspect:	0 - Flat/Nor
County:	043 Sandoval	Slope Position:	L - Lower
USFS Region:		Slope Class:	1 : 0 - 25%
		Climate Class:	2 - Subhumid
Green Up Date:	07/10	Herbs are Annuals:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earliest Freeze Date:	10/01	FM 1 = FM 10 (88 Only):	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Deciduous Shrubs (88 Only):	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0
		Yes	
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0

Malpais Lava Flow 293301

Edit Station Information			
Station ID:	293301	Name:	Malpais Lava Flow
Station Type:	4 - RAWS (SAT NFDRS)		
NFDRS Fuel Model:	C - Pine-Grass Savanna	Use 88 NFDRS Fuel Model:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observing Agency:	2 - Bureau of Land Management	Agency Unit:	ABD
Latitude (Deg):	34	Elevation (ft):	7460
Longitude (Deg):	108	Average Precip: (in):	12.00
State:	NM	Aspect:	0 - Flat/Nor
County:	006 Cibola	Slope Position:	L - Lower
USFS Region:	3	Slope Class:	1 : 0 - 25%
		Climate Class:	2 - Subhumid
Green Up Date:	07/10	Herbs are Annuals:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Earliest Freeze Date:	10/1	FM 1 = FM 10 (88 Only):	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Deciduous Shrubs (88 Only):	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0
		Yes	
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0
		Start FM 1000:	15.00
		Start KBDI:	0

Appendix 2 Decision Points



Appendix 3 Pocket Card

