

NIFC News

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

<http://www.nifc.gov>



For Release: September 1, 2012

Contact: Don Smurthwaite, NIFC, 208-387-5458

September Outlook Predicts Lingering Western Wildfire Season

Above-normal September wildfire potential is predicted for an area stretching from central and northern California all the way through the Northern Rockies and into the Upper Midwest, according to the National Interagency Fire Center's (NIFC) Predictive Services unit.

The Southeast is the only part of the country forecast to experience below-normal activity, while the remainder of the nation will have normal wildfire potential. Portions of the Hawaiian Islands will be at continued to risk from wildfire through the month.

Continued dry conditions are the primary cause for the lingering wildfire season in much of the West, said Ed Delgado, NIFC's Predictive Services manager.

"The high risk for fire will continue at least into mid-September for the Northwest and Northern Rockies mostly because of the dryness of the last few months," he said.

An abundance of dry fuels also factors in to the forecast, says Jeremy Sullens, a wildland fire analyst at NIFC.

"As we move into the fall, there's still a heavy load of dry fuels, and although overall weather conditions will improve, fires can and will burn during the day, given the situation," he said.

The improvement will come from shorter days, cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity and a decrease in thunderstorms. But the chances of a "season-ending" weather event are low, according to Delgado.

"September is usually when fire season winds down, when we have two or three storms that produce rain or snow at higher elevations. It's usually a series of smaller systems that brings the season to an end, not one large event," he said.

NIFC's wildland fire potential outlook is published on the first day of each month. The complete update can be found at: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook September 1 to September 30, 2012

