

The Southern Area Morning Brief and Morning Report will be emailed and posted on Tuesdays and Fridays. The schedule will continue until Initial Attack or Large Fire Activity increases.

SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

Friday, February 15, 2013

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PREPAREDNESS LEVELS	COMPACT STATUS	
Southern Area 1	South Central	Closed
National 1	Southeastern	Closed
	Mid-Atlantic	Closed

Southern Area Activity/Impacts

Current Situation:			
Initial Attack (I.A.) Activity:	Light	Ongoing Uncontained Large* Fires and Active Acreage:	2 fires for 1,467 acres reported
I.A. Fires and acreage: <small>Feb 12 – Feb 14, 2013</small>	14 fires for 19 acres		
New on Federal Protected Lands in: <small>Feb 12 – Feb 14, 2013</small>	0 fires for 0 acres	New Fires on State Protected Lands in:	14 fires for 19 acres
			AR, GA, NC, SC
Prescribed Fire Activity:	State or Federal lands – 38 Prescribe Fires for 114 acres in SC		

Significant Activity

New Large Incidents/Critical Updates: None

Large/Significant Activity: Feb 12 – Feb 14, 2013

(Blue = newly reported fires & changes)

Incident Name	Incident Number	Start Date	Size	Acres + or -	% Ctn. /MMA	IMT Assigned	Structure Loss
Forty Niner (C)	AR-OUF-013103	01/29/13	50		100	ICT3	
Check Station Road	FL-FLS-2013-10-0076	02/11/13	459		90	ICT4	
Clear-Cut	FL-FPR-201301	02/12/13	1,008		80		
WFU Fire #	GA-GAS-130915	02/05/13	102		100	ICT4	

= No updated information was submitted; * = No change in status

Definitions:

Full Suppression/Perimeter Control: Strategy developed to control a fire and prevent it from exceeding a defined perimeter.

(p) Point or Zone Protection/Limited Perimeter Control: Variety of suppression actions taken to protect a specific point or area.

(c) Monitor/Confine/Contain: Management actions conforming to a monitoring strategy that periodically checks the fire to ensure it continues to meet objectives, and where no further action is taken.

• For specific information on fire activity (new wildland and prescribed fires by agency/unit, year-to-date totals, and large incident specifics), please refer to the Southern Area [Summary](#) or [Detailed](#) Situation Reports.

* Large incidents are defined as fires which are 100+ acres in timber or 300+ acres in grass/brush, or incidents with a Type 1 or 2 IMT assigned.

Incidents with structures damaged or destroyed are also included, regardless of size.

For more information on when to submit an ICS-209, refer to:

<http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/ICS-209%20When%20to%20Report%20Wildland%20Fire%20Incidents.pdf>

For information on the Texas wildfires, please use following link: http://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/Home/tx_sitrep.pdf

Remarks by reporting office

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Cognos Report from ROSS for all Deepwater Horizon Incidents

Deepwater Horizon US Coast Guard Support: GA-R08-100007 and MS Canyon 252 Oil Spill: LA-DLR-201001

Updated: **February 15, 2013**

<u>Bureau/Agency</u>	<u>Personnel</u>
USFWS	15
USFS	1

For more information on the NPS, DOI and national oil spill responses, please see the following:

- FWS Oil Spill Response - <http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/index.html>
- NPS Oil Spill Response - <http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/oil-spill-response.htm>
- DOI Oil Spill Response - <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/index.cfm>
- National Oil Spill Response- <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>

RESOURCES

The number of resource currently committed is obtained from the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). There may be slight Discrepancies in the total number of resources reported. The Overhead column only reflects overhead positions, not the total number of personnel assigned.

SACC MORNING REPORT - RESOURCES CURRENTLY ON ASSIGNMENT IN AREA

Southern Area and Out of Area Resources Currently Assigned In the Geographic Area

Total Requests	Aircraft	Crew	Equipment	Overhead	Summary
Bureau of Indian Affairs				2	2
Florida Division of Forestry				2	2
Mississippi Forestry Commission				1	1
National Park Service				2	2
Other				1	1
Texas Forest Service			4	6	10
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service			13	21	34
U.S. Forest Service	5	2	15	146	168
Summary	5	2	32	181	220

SACC MORNING REPORT - RESOURCES CURRENTLY ASSIGNED OUT OF AREA

Southern Area Resources Currently Assigned Out of the Geographic Area

No Out of Area Assignments

TEAM & TYPE 1 CREW INFORMATION		
<u>Area Command Team:</u>	Loach	(Through 1000 MST 02/27/2013)
<u>Incident Management Teams - National Rotation:</u>	Rocky Basin	(Through 1000 MST 02/22/2013)
<u>Interagency Buying Team - National Rotation:</u>	Southern	(Through 1000 MST 02/29/2013)

SOUTHERN AREA – IMT ROTATION		For Rotation Dates, please click HERE
Wilder (T1) Red		Available
Wilkins (T1) Blue		Unavailable
Dueitt (T2)		Unavailable
SOUTHERN AREA - TYPE 1 CREWS		
Asheville Hotshots (Asheville, NC)		Committed - LA
Augusta Hotshots (Augusta Springs, VA)		Unavailable – Crew availability Feb. 25, 2013
Cherokee Hotshots (Unicoi, TN)		Committed – FL
Jackson Hotshots (Jackson, MS)		Unavailable – Crew Availability May 27, 2013

[Click for today's Southern Area Summary Situation Report](#)



[Click for today's Southern Area Detailed Situation Report](#)

Daily Fire/All Hazards Weather Summary and Outlook

Red Flag Warnings: None.

Fire Weather Watches: None.

Weather Summary and Outlook: There are several frontal boundaries that will influence the weather across Southern Region through early next week. The south most one will move into the Straits of Florida today. A second front was situated from central Kentucky to northern Louisiana. This boundary will usher in much colder conditions today and Saturday as it moves southward. The third frontal boundary extended from northwestern Ohio to central Missouri early Friday morning. This third front will reinforce the cold air moving southward.

Today, showers will continue across the southern third of Florida and rainfall amounts may approach 0.50-0.75 inch by daybreak Saturday. During the 24 hours ending around daybreak Friday, southern Florida has received 1.0 to as much as 2.5 inches of rain near Lake Okeechobee. This is the first significant rain to fall in southern Florida more than 60 days. In fact, some areas along the southeast coast of Florida have not seen significant rain in 110 days.

The second frontal boundary moving across Southern Area today may squeeze out some light rain or some snow flurries, but the precipitation amounts will generally be light. Late night and early morning snow flurries are possible throughout the Appalachian Mountains and as far south as Georgia and Alabama as the cold air flows steadily southward today and Saturday. This boundary will continue to push southward across Florida over the weekend. In its wake, low RH values can be expected and Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches will likely be posted on Saturday and Sunday in Florida. Light snow will be possible in the Appalachian Mountains on Saturday with some light rain

On Sunday, high pressure will build southward into the Gulf Coastal region and cold air will continue to pour into the eastern half of Southern Region. In the meantime, a vigorous area of low pressure will be moving up the coast toward New England. Northerly winds between these systems will keep temperatures in the 30s across most of Virginia and eastern Kentucky. Overnight lows will drop into the 20s as far south as Jacksonville both Saturday night and Sunday night.

Puerto Rico and Vieques will generally be in a lower rain period for the next few days so there will be some expected drying, especially in the southwestern portion of Puerto Rico. Rain activity expected to increase again around February 17-18.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO NFDRS MODEL MANAGERS: As we move towards Spring and as local weather conditions warrant, be sure to re-initialize the NFDRS processor for your RAWs stations by freezing the model and performing a recalculation of NFDRS parameters and outputs. The model will freeze on its own with the first minimum temperature of 25 degrees or the fifth consecutive day that a minimum temperature falls between 26 and 32 degrees.

Next Significant Precipitation Period(s): On Monday (Feb. 18), a new area of low pressure will begin to develop in the Texas Panhandle region. This will begin to produce rain in central and eastern portions of both Texas and Oklahoma Monday afternoon. This event will move eastward across the remainder of Southern Region on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

It will be followed by yet another event that begins in Texas and Oklahoma on Wednesday (Feb. 20) and continues to progress eastward on Thursday and Friday. There is some potential for a third event during the February 23-25 time frame.

Significant Atlantic/Caribbean Tropical Activity Summary: “Official” Season Ended Nov 30th.

February Outlook:

February is expected to feature additional large scale systems taking a more southerly route. This will help to reduce the rainfall deficits in eastern South Carolina, southeast Georgia, and Florida. It will also help to mitigate the fire potential that has been building in some of the driest areas of the Southern Region.

The potential for fog formation will continue to be problematic for prescribed burning, especially along and near the Gulf Coast. However, given the recent rains, surface moisture is abundant. Cold air moving across a warm moist ground is an ideal mechanism for fog formation. These conditions can occur anywhere and locally dense fog is a travel hazard to be aware of. Prescribed burners should take the potential for fog formation into consideration, especially in regard to the post burn periods, and ask for special guidance regarding fog when submitting spot forecast request. The potential for dense fog will be present at least into late March.

Extended Seasonal Weather Outlook and Fire Risk Assessment (Last Updated February 15, 2013):

The waters of the central equatorial Pacific are slightly warmer than normal, but do contain numerous cold anomalies from time to time, especially in the eastern Pacific. These conditions give the ENSO state a weak warm bias. This signal, coupled with other oceanic, atmospheric, and solar patterns all suggest colder than average temperatures, but large temperature swings can be expected due to the weak signals present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The stratospheric warming that occurred in mid-January is an indication that cold air will be able to spill southward from Canada into the Southeastern United States.

Frontal passages will be fairly frequent during February. Each one has the potential to usher in the cold Canadian or Arctic air to the Southeast, and that will include an ongoing risk for snow. The large-scale oceanic signals also suggest that the weather systems affecting the Southeast will be high amplitude in nature. This generally leads to stronger areas of low pressure, accompanied by either rain or mountain snows along with higher wind speeds as the fronts approach and move through. The current winter is expected to be significantly colder than the winter we experienced in 2011-2012. Temperatures will approach or establish new record lows. Snow risks will be higher than average across the South.

A significant portion of the conterminous United States is currently covered with snow. The implications of this include:

- 1) Cold air moving over a snow cover remains cold. Once the cold air begins to move over warmer ground without snow, the air will begin to modify and warm. A large area of snow covered ground allows colder temperatures to make their way southward into places like the Rio Grande Valley and Florida which normally would not see temperatures approaching the freezing point.
- 2) A large snow cover provides a natural contrast of cold air to the north and warm air to the south. This contrast of temperatures will create a storm track along this temperature gradient.
- 3) A large snow cover also provides a natural clash of warm and cold air. This can, with strong storm systems, help to spawn severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. The threat for severe weather will be pushed southward as snow coverage increases from north to south. The Gulf Coast is particularly vulnerable to tornadoes and severe thunderstorms with damaging winds in December, January, and February. The threat can continue into March as well.

2013 and beyond: There are a myriad of atmospheric and oceanic oscillations that occur on an inter-seasonal and multi-decadal scale that have been shown to influence the drought frequency across the United States. Some of the primary oscillations and their anomalies being watched occur in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. The current cycles and intensities of these features continue to suggest that the Southern Area will remain in a higher drought frequency pattern for another ten or so year (the Pacific cycle being a primary factor) as well as evolving lower solar activity. A implication of the current and expected state is that the drier trending La Nina cycles will be more common, stronger, and longer lasting than the intermittent warm water el Nino ENSO counterpart.

Two significant and unknown factors that are not included in the majority of the climate models are oceanic temperature and solar activity cycles. The current and next solar cycles are both showing trends for significant reductions in solar activity which includes solar flares, Coronal Mass Ejections, and lower solar wind speeds. The influence of the sun can produce a higher amplitude wave pattern for the United States. In addition, should the sun enter another Dalton type minimum that was present in the early 1800s, the next 20 years would result in a pattern of persistently cooler temperatures which, at least in historical terms, produce a drier precipitation pattern and may accentuate the drought potential simply from tropical ocean temperature cycles. Currently the Pacific is cold and the Atlantic is warm.

Day Weather Forecasts for Uncontained 209 Reported Fire Activity:

Clear_Cut		Collier County, FL		NWS: MFL
DAY	Area Weather	High Temp	Min RH	Wind
1	CLOUDY 50% Chance of TSTMS	77	65%	N 8 mph
2	MCLDY 20% Chance of SHOWERS	78	38%	NW 18 mph

Check Station Road Fire		Volusia County, FL		NWS: MLB
DAY	Area Weather	High Temp	Min RH	Wind
1	MCLDY 30% Chance of SHOWERS	71	38%	N 5 mph
2	PCLDY 20% Chance of SHOWERS	69	36%	W 13 G27 mph

Key Measures of Fire Danger/Fire Weather Conditions (Clink on Links):

[Days Since Significant Rain](#)
[Southern Area ERC Percentile Map](#)

[ERC Anomaly Charts](#)
[Southern Area Fire Weather Information Web Page](#)

KBDI:

[Southern Area Weekly](#)
[Southern Area Daily Map](#)
[Florida \(DOF Product\)](#)
[Louisiana](#)
[Oklahoma](#)

[Southern Area Bar Chart](#)
[Daily Anomaly](#)
[Georgia \(DOF Product\)](#)
[North Carolina](#)
[Texas](#)

FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOKS and ASSESSMENTS:

[SA 7 Day Significant Fire Potential](#)
[Current Month Seasonal \(Next Three Months\)](#)