



August 2024

Environmental Message

Wildfire Update

As the southeast United States is currently being inundated with rainfall from the slow moving Tropical Storm Debby, the opposite is currently impacting the western half of the United States. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there have been 29,363 fires causing 4,718,357 acres to be impacted by wildfire. The number of wildfires is lower than the 10 year average (35,872), but the number of acres impacted is about 25% higher (10 year 3,893,615) in comparison. The Center indicates that this number is likely to be underreported and this time. Once the numbers are reconciled the acreage may be significantly higher than currently reported.

In addition to reporting the number and the acres impacted the Center reports on upcoming risk as well. They report that in addition to the current advisories in Oregon, Washington, Nevada Idaho, Utah, and California, new advisories have been issued in parts of Colorado and Eastern Wyoming.

The Center attributes that to breezy and dry southwest sustained winds of 12-25 mph with gusts 25-35 mph amid relative humidity of 5-20% and above normal temperatures will develop across these regions, with little chance of rainfall. They recommend that residents, travelers, or workers on their way to any of these states should be advised and familiarize themselves with the elevated risks.

The department of interior offers tips to help prevent wildfires such as:

- Checking weather conditions
- Keep vehicles off dry grass
- Regularly maintain your equipment and vehicle
- Practice vehicle safety – maintain a fire kit
- Check tires, bearings, axles, and trailers
- Keep sparks away from dry vegetation

Those who work in these wildfire prone areas have additional equipment and training to manage wildfire risk and should follow all company requirements when working in those wildfire prone areas.

Additional information may be found at:

- National Interagency Fire Center <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn>
- National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook:
https://www.nifc.gov/nicc-files/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf

