Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

Fire danger gives general conditions across the entire FDRA. Watch for localized conditions and variations across the landscape—Fuel, Weather, Topography. Listen to weather forecasts—especially RH and wind.

Local Weather and Fuel Thresholds That Shout WATCHOUT:

Combinations of any of these 4 factors can greatly increase fire behavior. Wind speed over 10 MPH, RH less than 30%, Temperature over 60°, FFM less than 10%.

Local Watch Outs

- When wind and topography are in alignment – Rapid uphill fire spread
- Post passage of a dry cold front – Gusty winds and low Relative Humidity
- 1000-hour FMC below 18% - Greatly contributes to fire behavior, intense mop-up

Memorable Fires


Updated – 10/2021

This card is based on 15 years of data
**Ignition Component (IC)** – the probability a firebrand will cause an “actionable” fire and requires suppression action. IC is more than just a probability of a fire starting. The fire must have the potential to spread. IC can be an aid in assessing spotting potential. An **IC value of greater than 10 (88th Percentile) is a critical threshold value.** Expect short range spotting to occur above this value.

**Energy Release Component (ERC)** – is a number related to the available energy (BTU) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. The ERC reflects the contribution of all live and dead fuels to potential fire intensity. As live fuels cure and dead fuels dry, the ERC will increase. Each daily calculation considers the past 7 days in calculating the new number. Daily variations of the ERC are relatively small as wind is not part of the calculation. An **ERC value of 37 (80th Percentile) is a critical threshold value.** At this value, large (>5 ac.) and multiple (>5) fire begin to occur within the FDRA.

**Spread Component (SC)** - A rating of the forward rate of spread of a head fire. It integrates the effect of wind, slope, fuel bed and fuel particle properties. The daily variations are caused by the changes in the wind and moisture contents of the live fuels and the dead fuel moisture time lag classes of 1, 10, and 100 hour. The **higher the SC, the less likely that direct attack at the head of the fire will succeed.**