

FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST NUMBER: 052	TYPE OF FIRE: Initial Attack
FIRE NAME: MNICS Statewide Forecast	OPERATIONAL PERIOD: 7/17/2018 – 7/23/2018
DATE ISSUED: 7/17/2018	TIME ISSUED: 8:20 AM
UNIT: MN-MNCC	SIGNED: <i>William J. Glesener</i>
	Typed/printed: William J. Glesener, LTAN

INPUTS

WEATHER SUMMARY:

NORTHWEST: Light and variable winds and dry conditions prevail through the day today, though a few locations may have daytime gusts 10-15 mph). Lowest humidities remain in the 40s, rising as the week progresses. Rain chances start late Wednesday over southeastern ND and then increase across the region Wednesday night thru Thursday, possibly lingering into Friday. Significant rainfall may occur over parts of the area, with the best chances across far southeast North Dakota and west central Minnesota. Thunderstorms will be possible, but severe weather is not expected.

NORTHEAST: High pressure will provide dry conditions into Wednesday. Winds today will be lighter than yesterday and generally be out of the northwest for most areas. As the high moves southeast of the area, winds will turn to the south to southwest on Wednesday. A low pressure system will bring rain back into the Northland Thursday into Friday with rainfall amounts of 0.5 inch to around 1.5 inches over much of the area with highest amounts over southern portions of the Northland. A few locales could see higher totals.

CENTRAL & SOUTH: Today will be similar to Monday, without the breezy winds we saw north of I-94 though. Wednesday will be dry again, but southerly winds will allow humidities to start increasing. Soaking rains are still expected Wednesday night though Thursday, with scattered showers for Friday. Still looks likely that most of the planning area will see 1 to 2 inches of rain for the end of the week. Next weekend looks dry, though with slightly below normal temperatures.

Haines Index: 3-5 (Very low to Moderate)

LAL: 1 (No T-Storms) then 3 (scattered T-storms) late in the week.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Temperature (°F)	75-85	80-85	75-80	75-80	75-85	80-85	75-80
Min. Relative Humidity (%)	45-55	40-50 (N) 55-66 (S)	60-75	55-70	45-60	50-60	55-60
Wind Dir/Speed (kts) (g = Gusts)	Lt. & Var G 8	S 5-10g12	E 5-10g12 (N) W 10-15g20 (S)	N 5-15	N 5-10	S 3-8	SW 8-12
Precipitation (in & % chance)	None	0.12 (SW)	¼ - 1 ½	<5%	<5%	30% (W)	25-30% (N)

OUTPUTS

FIRE BEHAVIOR

GENERAL:

The area of most concern is the NW corner of the state and a narrow band from around Leach Lake to the tip of the Arrowhead. Generally, timely rains are keeping the surface relatively moist, however, on dry/droughty soils, water stress is starting to appear in areas that get missed. Portions of the Northland, mainly in the NW, could see surface fires of 2-5 foot flames moving at less than 10 feet per minute on those dry soils. Humidities in the 40's or higher will keep probability of ignition relatively low with slightly higher fine dead fuel moistures.

Long term five day averages for the energy release component (ERC-q) and buildup index (BUI) are moderate to very high. Generally, the 1000-hr fuels are wet to saturated over most of the state except in the area mentioned above where very dry to exceptionally dry 1000-hr fuels are present. The duff moisture code is high to very high in the NW ¼ of the state.

Fine Dead Fuel Moisture: 8% / 11% (Unshaded / Shaded) **Prob. of Ignition:** 40% / 30% (Unshaded / Shaded)

Outlook: The Climate Prediction Center is indicating below normal temps with near normal chances for precipitation for the next two weeks. Other models are indicating that northern MN could be moving into a drying period 4 weeks out after a wet early summer. This could correspond well with relatively neutral ENSO values moving toward an El Nino winter (think 2012, 2006, 1996...)

AIR OPERATIONS:

Sunset times are: Ely at 9:00 PM; Princeton at 8:58 PM; Hibbing at 9:02 PM; Brainerd at 9:03 PM; Bemidji at 9:10 PM; Warroad at 9:18 PM.

SAFETY

Active Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories

Central Arizona

Issued: 7/6/2018 – Expires: 7/19/2018

Utah – High Elevations

Issued: 7/4/2018 – Expires: 7/18/2018

Eastern Great Lakes

Issued: 7/11/2018 – Expires: 7/25/2018