

FIRE ENVIRONMENT FORECAST

FORECAST NUMBER: 102

TYPE OF FIRE: Initial Attack

FIRE NAME: MNICS Statewide Forecast

OPERATIONAL PERIOD: 10/16-10/18

DATE ISSUED: 10/16

TIME ISSUED: 0800

UNIT: MN-MNCC

SIGNED: Travis Verdegan

Typed/printed: Travis Verdegan

INPUTS

WEATHER SUMMARY:

Since the last forecast was issued observed precip over performed previous forecasts bringing light to moderate amounts where little no precip was forecast.

Cloudy skies with scattered precip this morning are expected to begin clearing out of the state later today. Clear sunny skies are expected to set up throughout the weekend.

High temps look to increase from the 40s today to the 60s by the end of the weekend.

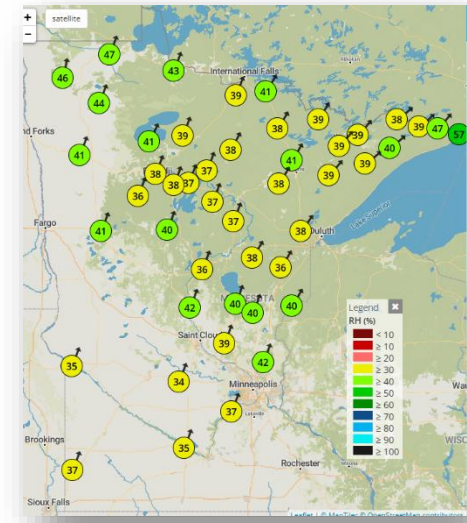
Strong northerly winds today look to switch to the south by tomorrow and remain breezy with speeds from 10 – 15 mph. Westerly flow looks to set up Sunday with speeds from 4 – 9 mph.

RH minimums are forecast to dip into the 30s and 40s.

Chances for light precip come back into the forecast by the middle of next week.

Hot-Dry-Windy Index –Near to Above Normal

Figure 1 - Forecasted 1600 RH 10/17/26



OUTPUTS

FIRE ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL:

Recent precip has kept recovery in dead fuels limited. At the same time, leaf drop and seasonal curing has increased the overall load of dead fuel to live fuel across the state.

The specific fire behavior below is most applicable to those locations that have seen the least amount of precip over the last few days, namely the western half of the state. Recovery is expected to continue through the weekend, and a new forecast is being planned for Monday.

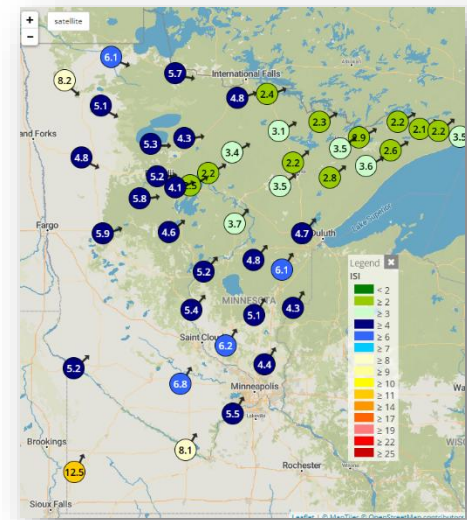
Fire activity is expected to increase and accelerate following behind trends in fuel bed recovery. Fires may challenge local IA resources for rapid rates of spread in fine flashy fuels. Although overall challenging fires are expected to be the exception not the norm that we saw last weekend.

In the fire environment forecasting world, observations are gold. Keep them coming as we continue to set expectations in a dynamic environment.

Fine Dead Fuel Moisture: 6% Unshaded – 9% Shaded

Prob. of Ignition: 55% Unshaded – 35% Shaded

Figure 2 - Forecasted Daily ISI 10/18/26



SPECIFIC FIRE BEHAVIOR:

MN FMC:85 BUI:25 WS: 11 Effective ISI:5.1	Flame Length	Rate of Spread (ft/min ≈ ch/hr)	Fire Type	60 Minute Spread Size (acres)
Grass (70% cured – 3 tons/acre)	6 – 7	15 – 17	Surface	4
Lowland Grass (80% cured – 5 tons/acre)	9 – 10	20 – 25	Surface	9
Young Jack Pine & Boreal Spruce (110% FMC)	4 – 5	12 – 14	Surface	5
Pine Pltn. & Mat. JP	1 – 2	< 5	Surface	< 1
Mixdwood (25% Fir) & Red & White Pine Timber	3 – 4	4 – 6	Surface	< 1
Hardwood/Aspen	2 – 3	< 5	Surface	< 1
Slash	13 – 14	13 – 15	Surface	6

OUTLOOK:

A dry stretch that may last into the middle of next week or longer will bring some build up to the moisture trends in dead fuels, while the addition of new dead fuels will load up the amount of fuel available to dry on the landscape. This all looks to occur while we undergo normal fluctuations in daily fire weather and burn windows become shorter by the day. Longer term outlooks show warmer and wetter patterns further complicating the predictability over the latter half of fall. Watch for daily spikes in fire weather to drive spikes in fire activity in a highly variable manner from day to day.

CPC 6 – 10 day and 8 - 14 day outlook have held a pattern of above average temps and precip for their periods.

The latest drought monitor shows no change over the previous release.

*Figure 3 - Weekly
Summary Forecast for
Northwestern MN Issued
by NWS Grand Forks*

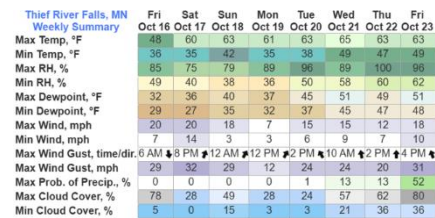


*Figure 4 – Weekly
Summary Forecast for
Northeastern MN Issued
by the NWS Duluth*

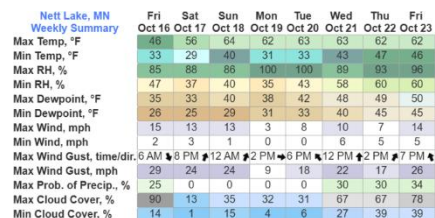
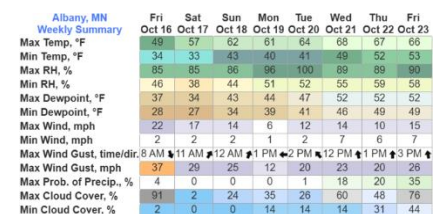


*Figure 5 – Weekly
Summary Forecast for
Southern MN Issued by
NWS Chanhassen*



References

1. Great Lakes Fire and Fuels. [Home - Great Lakes Fire & Fuels - MesoWest](#)
2. Fire Weather Dashboard [Fire Weather Dashboard](#)
3. Hot-Dry-Windy [HDWI - Main Page](#)
4. Gridded Precip Analysis [National Water Prediction Service - NOAA](#)
5. Climate Prediction Center [Climate Prediction Center](#)
6. Drought Monitor [Current Map](#) | [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)
7. Fire Reports [InFORM](#)

National Predictive Services Products

1. National Monthly Significant Fire Potential Outlook [Outlooks | National Interagency Coordination Center](#)
2. 7 Day Significant Potential Forecast [National 7-Day Significant Fire Potential](#)

Find the latest fire environment forecast here;



<https://mnics.org/wp-content/uploads/DailyReports/FireEnvironmentForecast.pdf>