



MNICS CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Below are links to the DNR Fire Danger Indices Maps. Be sure to check daily for updates.

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Jack Pine Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_jackpine.html

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Grass Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_grass.html

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Mature Conifer Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_mature_conifer.html

Link to MN DNR Wildfire Information Center:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/wildfirereports_tools.html

Large Incidents that have a Team assigned will be updated at: <http://mnics.org/wpress/>

DATE: May 4, 2021

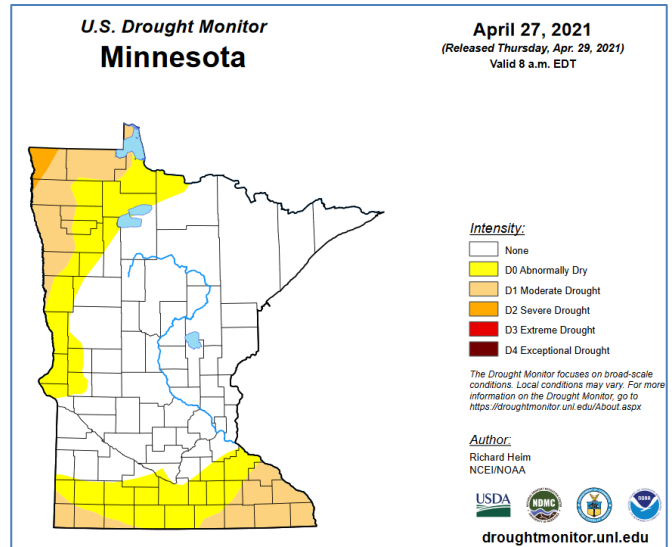
Attending: Northwest Region: Arthur Braun
Northeast Region: Jon Handrick, Paul Olson, Lonnie Lilly
Central Region: Wade Mapes, Allissa Reynolds
SW Area: Taylor Schenk
St. Paul DNR: Casey McCoy, Larry Himanga, Jon Drimel
BIA: Cory Berg
USFS: Adam Cook, Brian Wise, Mike Rice, Chase Marshall, Rob Heavirland, Brian Jenkins, Tracy Fifarek
US-FWS: Seth Grimm, Russ Langford
NPS: Kurt Fogelberg reported prior to call
HSEM: Roy Holmes
CCM: Matt Roegge
MN Wildlife: Donovan Pietruszewski
MN State Parks: Cindy Lueth
MN State Patrol: Craig Benz
National Weather Service: Jeff Chapman, Sioux Falls SD
MIFC: Anna Hines, Bill Glesener, Diane Nygaard, Dan Olds, Leanne Langeberg, Mike Mackey, Tom Staydohar, Darren Neuman, Kevin Carlisle, Rob Johnson, Matt Woodwick, Travis Verdegan

Incident Update (Kelly Sande, trainee): The Goods Fire is a BIA incident that was turned over to the MNICS Type 3 IMT B on May 2. The fire has been mapped at 5,570 acres and is 20% contained. It is located in the middle of a marshy, swampy timber area and has difficult access. An IR flight showed pockets of peat in the SW corner, which is the first priority. The second priority is the eastern boundary.

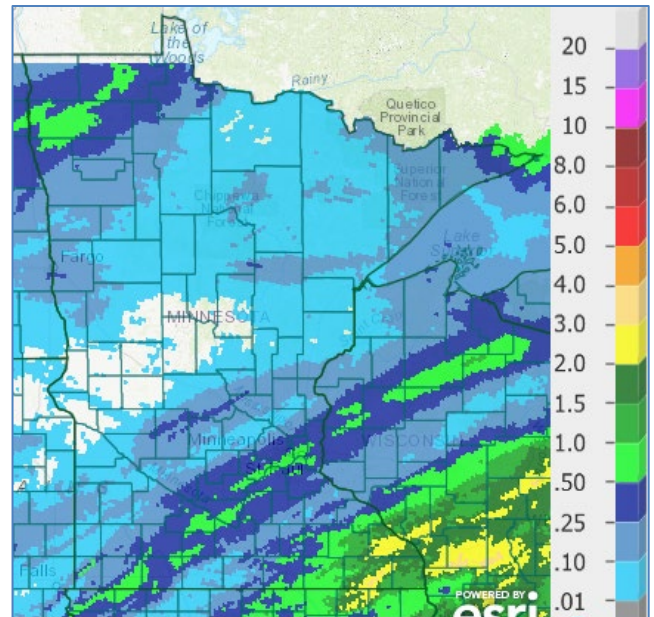
Weather Forecast (Jeff Chapman): A cool surface ridge will continue to move in today, led by breezy conditions. The western half of MN will have breezy winds gusting to 20-25 mph. High pressure will build in from the Dakotas today.

The US Drought Monitor Map of Minnesota shows NW and southern MN as Abnormally Dry to an area in NW MN with a severe drought.

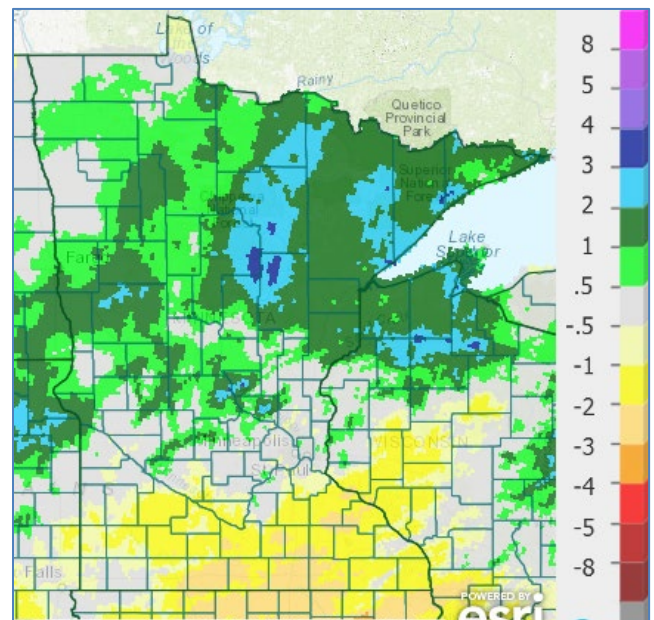
Expect dry conditions to increase in areas with no precipitation.



The past 7 days precipitation map shows the most precipitation was received over the SE corner of MN, and parts of the Metro 1.5-2.5 inches.



The 30 day departure from normal map shows below normal precip was received over southern MN while portions of northern MN received above normal precipitation.



Today, high temps will be in the 50s statewide. Minimum RHs will be in the 20s and 30s with breezy winds 15-30 mph mainly over western and southern MN.

Tonight into Wednesday, west central MN will receive some mixed precip.

Wednesday, high temps will be in the 50s with minimum RHs in the 20s and 30s. Winds will be 5-15 mph, stronger in the Red River Valley area. Light precip is forecast for southern MN Wednesday night into Thursday.

Thursday a system will move through MN. High temps will be in the 50s and 60s. Minimum RHs will be in the 30s with northerly winds up to 25 mph in NW MN.

Friday, a ridge builds in strongly with N/NE winds, keeping dry air in place. High temps will be in the 50s and 60s with minimum RHs in the 20s and 30s. Winds will be less than 10 mph.

Saturday, high temps will be in the 50s to 60 degrees. Minimum RHs will generally be in the 30s with RHs in the 40s and 50s in southern MN. Easterly winds will be mild with winds up to 15 mph over western MN. Western and southern MN have chances for light rain; .25 inch at the most.

Sunday, high temps will be in the 50s with minimum RHs in the 40s. Northerly winds will be strongest in southern MN, up to 20 mph in SW MN.

Monday will be cool and dry with light northerly winds under high pressure. Temps will be in the 50s with minimum RHs in the 40s.

Tuesday, light precip is forecast for southern MN.

The 8-14 day forecast (May 11-17) calls for below normal temps and above normal precip.

Fire Management Information (Travis Verdegan):

[FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST \(mnics.org\)](https://mnics.org)

[Preparedness-Level-Tool.pdf \(mnics.org\)](https://mnics.org)

Overview

Much needed precip came to the NW and SE corners of the state and more will be needed to reset the trends that have started in those areas.

We appear to be looking at a week of building conditions in our timber fuel types of north central and northeastern MN. Consistently dry days with moderate temperatures will be the dominant pattern over the period with Tuesday and Thursday standing out for some higher winds. Precip in the next 7 days favors the south-western part of the state and those amounts look to be on the light side.

NFDRS

BI (X) 5 day average values look to drop off slowly through coming week with some precip possible towards the end of the week. As is they still remain at an elevated level and at this point the two things that will bring them down significantly heavy precip and green up are not showing up in the near term.

Forecasted ERC (Y) are showing a sustained high level indicating the buildup we're expecting in the timber fuel models.

CFFDRS

FFMCs and ISIs are currently reflecting precip that does not appear to be coming fully to fruition across north central and northeast MN, but where the indices are not being impacted by forecasted precip they are holding at significant values and could be easily pushed into some very significant values if this week develops a pattern of lower than forecasted RHs.

BUIs around the state are mostly near or above 25 indicative of the ever increasing potential in the timber types and the over dry pattern we've been in for the last couple week

Northwest Region (Arthur Braun): 31 fires totaling 306 acres were reported since Friday. Resources are being moved around within the region as needed. An engine order was filled for Baudette. The MR shop and a CCM crew will be on call. No additional needs at this time.

Northeast Region (Jon Handrick): 13 fires totaling 5 acres were reported. Conditions are drying out. Resources will be moved within the region as needed. The MR shop and a CCM crew will be on call. No additional needs at this time.

Central Region (Wade Mapes): 18 fires totaling 48 acres were reported. Resources are being moved as needed. Will help others with resources when possible. No needs at this time.

SW Area (Taylor Schenk): Two fires on DNR land were reported. Prescribed burns are planned as conditions allow. No needs at this time.

USFS (Mike Rice): The Superior National Forest reported a 52 acre fire. Five Rx burns totaling 35 acres were accomplished. The Chippewa National Forest reported 5 fires totaling 5 acres. Three Rx burns totaling 68 acres were accomplished. Both forests plan prescribed burns today and through the week as conditions allow. Today, the West Zone is planning a 500 acre aerial and hand ignition burn near Ely. The Chippewa is planning a 130 acre burn at Cass Lake today. No needs at this time.

BIA (Cory Berg): The Goods Fire is a BIA incident. In addition to the Goods Fire, 31 fires totaling 68 acres were reported by White Earth, Mille Lacs, Red Lake and Fond du Lac. They have additional engines from Michigan and the NPS. Thank you to the partners for support on the Goods Fire.

US Fish and Wildlife (Seth Grimm): An 18 acre fire was reported. Eleven prescribed burns totaling 2,408 acres were accomplished and burns are planned as conditions allow. No needs at this time.

NPS (Kurt Fogelberg prior to call): Rain was received.

HSEM (Roy Holmes): Nothing new to report.

CCM (Matt Roegge): A 3-person crew from St. Paul and a 4-person crew from Grand Rapids are available and are on call.

Aircraft (Anna Hines): Since Friday, there were 56 aircraft requests on 13 fires; most were on Saturday.

[MN Aircraft Status Report | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

A Fire Boss from Michigan will be arriving to Ely today, weather permitting. A large air tanker is at Brainerd. A Type 1 helicopter, a Type 2 helicopter and a Type 3 helicopter are assigned to the Goods Fire.

Planning Levels: State: 3 / Eastern Area: 2 / National: 2

Additional Resources List Activation?

NW MR Shop is on call.

NE MR Shop is on call.

Two CCM Crews are on call.

Regulations, Restrictions, Priorities: Cook and Lake Counties began enforcing burning restrictions on Monday. The counties in the North Metro lifted burning restrictions on Monday. The northern 2/3 of MN are under DNR burning restrictions at this time.

MNCC Duty Officer:

At Statewide Planning Level 3, the Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center is staffing daily 0800-1630. A Duty Officer is available after hours. The Operations and Aviation Desks are staffing 0800-1900 daily.

All phone lines coming into MNCC are either being answered or forwarded on to phones for each respective function.

- 218-322-2738 (Center Manager – Mike Mackey) ~ staffing at MNCC. The phone is forwarded to Mike.
- 218-327-4582 (Aviation – Anna Hines (ACM)). The Aviation desk is staffing at MNCC and the phone is forwarded to the Aviation Duty Officer after hours.
- 218-327-4175 (Operations – Amanda Jones (ACM)) ~ Operations is staffing at MNCC and the phone is forwarded to the Operations Duty Officer after hours.
- 218-327-4558 (Logistics – Tasha Woodwick (ACM)) ~ is teleworking. The phone is forwarded to Tasha.
- 218-322-2745 (Intel – Diane Nygaard) ~ is teleworking. The phone is forwarded to Diane.
- 218-322-2739 (Information – Leanne Langeberg) ~ is teleworking. The phone is forwarded to Leanne.

MNICS IMT Team on Rotation: IMT C is on normal rotation.

The next MNICS conference call will be at 0900 on Friday, May 7, 2021

For more information see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/index.html>

Notes by: Diane Nygaard