



SITUATION REPORT No. 1 WILDFIRES 2007

The Florida State Emergency Response Team
May 8, 2007

Operational Period: May 8, 2007 1400hrs – May 9, 2007 1400hrs

CURRENT SITUATION:

Wildland fire activity statewide is increasing today 43,000 acres are burning. The demands for resources are escalating. Currently 54 of 67 Florida Counties have active wildfires.

Three (3) Fire Management Assistance Declarations have been approved for Florida covering the following ten (10) Counties -

- o Suwannee Fire Complex (Baker, Bradford, Hamilton, Suwannee, Union, and Columbia)
- o Deland Fire Complex (Volusia, Flagler, Lake)
- o Polk (53 Big Pines)

There are currently 2 Special Needs shelters open, one in Baker County and the other in Bradford County both with one patient each. Six (6) law enforcement officers have been deployed to Bradford County. A Facility in Alachua County is beginning monitored by Haz-Mat due to Clarion and its close proximity to fire.



WEATHER:

A strong non-tropical low pressure center situated about 220 miles to the east of Jacksonville continues moving slowly westward this afternoon. This system is combining with a high pressure center situated over the Mid-Atlantic States to produce a strong pressure gradient throughout Florida. This gradient is creating gusty winds up to 30 mph across most of the state this afternoon, with wind directions varying from westerly across south Florida, northwesterly in central Florida, and northerly in north Florida. These winds are continuing to funnel extremely dry air southward into Florida. Additionally, winds are resulting in high dispersion indices that are promoting extremely dangerous conditions that are favorable for the rapid spread of wildfires.

Forecasts indicate that the low pressure center will weaken as it approaches the Georgia coast on Wednesday afternoon. This weakening trend will gradually diminish winds that will be shifting to a more westerly direction throughout the peninsula. Winds in the panhandle will become northwesterly on Wednesday while gradually diminishing. The coastal storm will bring higher humidity values and scattered showers to northeast Florida and the immediate east central coastal counties on Wednesday. However, rainfall totals in these regions are forecast to remain at a quarter inch or less. Temperatures statewide will warm well into the 80s on Wednesday and Thursday as winds subside. Increased humidity values are forecast to remain in the forecast throughout the weekend. Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms will be featured in most forecasts from Thursday through Sunday, mainly along afternoon sea breeze boundaries. Lightning strike frequency will also increase as sea breezes become the focus for isolated to scattered thunderstorm development into the weekend.

COUNTY ACTIONS:

County Emergency Management Status					
County	EOC Status	LSE Declared	County Offices closed	Schools closed	Comments
Alachua	P	Y			2010 acres burning;
Baker	P	Y			500 acres burning;
Bay					
Bradford		Y			
Brevard	M				50 acres burning
Broward					
Calhoun	M				
Charlotte	M				
Citrus	M				
Clay	P	Y			
Collier	P				13000 acres burning; 1 home, 2 mobile homes lost
Columbia	M				
DeSoto	M				
Dixie	M				
Duval	M				
Escambia	M				
Flagler	P				6500 acres burning
Gilcrest	M	Y			
Glades	M				
Gulf	M				
Hardee					
Hendry					
Hernando					
Highlands	M				
Hillsborough					
Holmes	M				
Indian River					
Lake					
Lafayette	M				
Lee	M	Y			5 acres burning
Levy					
Manatee					
Marion	M				
Miami-Dade					
Martin					
Monroe					
Nassau	P				
Okeechobee					
Orange					
Osceola					
Palm Beach					
Pasco					
Pinellas					
Polk	M				
Sarasota	M				24 homes at risk in Fox Creek

Seminole					
St. Lucie					
Suwannee	M	Y			
Sumter					
Union	M	Y			
Volusia					
Walton	P	Y			800-1200 acres burned; 13 homes damaged; five homes destroyed
Washington	M				1600 acres burning
Seminole Tribe					

STATE ACTIONS:

- State Emergency Operations Center is at a Level 1 Activation

Fire Management Assistance Grant

- Suwannee Complex: Baker, Bradford, Hamilton, Suwannee, Union & Columbia
- DeLand Complex: Lake, Flagler & Volusia
- Polk County
- Walton County- Black Creek, South Walton and others- Resubmitted for reconsideration
- Deland Complex- Request for expansion of complex
- Lee/Collier Complex- Request for Assistance

Executive Orders:

Governor Crist has executed the following Executive Order(s):

EXECUTIVE ORDERS		
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER	DATE SIGNED	PURPOSE
07-86	05/03/07	State of Emergency for Wildfires

FEDERAL ACTIONS:

- Considering the State actions on the Fire Management Assistance Grants

Florida Division of Emergency Management Contact Information
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