



Today's discussion is from the
Weather / Fire Behavior Category.



EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR (part 2)

Mild, moderate and EXTREME fire behavior has always been present in cases of shelter deployment. It is critical for firefighters to maintain situational awareness of live and dead fuel moisture conditions as well as predicted and current weather conditions. As fire behavior changes, it is critical to respond correctly to the changing situation.

- Discuss how the following factors can contribute or lead to extreme fire behavior:
 - Frost Kill: Has there been a late or unusually extensive freeze? Is the loading of frost-killed fuels high?
 - Drought Conditions: Live Fuel Moistures Index, KBDI, Soil Moisture Index, low humidity, high temperatures
 - Slope: Increases fire spread uphill, preheats fuels by convection, may channel winds
 - Sea Breeze/Foehn: Wind direction may vary throughout the day, humidity changes may occur; strong wind velocities may drive fire behavior to extremes.
- To aid situational awareness, track NFDRS live and dead fuel moisture outputs.
- Take hourly weather observations and track the hourly changes. By tracking fuel moisture and weather observations and using Fire Severity Related to Fuel Moisture Chart, firefighters can be alerted to those conditions that can lead to situations where there is a high potential for extreme fire behavior.

References:

[Fireline Handbook](#)

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

[ONLINE](#) | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

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