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FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 06/10/2004

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Fire Behavior Alert for Southwest

The attached Wildland Fire Behavior Alert was issued yesterday for the Southwest United States. Please insure it receives wide distribution within your Agency.

Wildland Fire Behavior Alert

Attention all wildland suppression and prescribed fire resources operating within the Southwest Area. Currently the NFDRS Energy Release Component (ERC) for the Southwest Area has exceeded the 97th percentile for the time period March 1 – September 31, 1975 – 2003. The current ERC for Fuel Model G is reading 89.

During the 2002 fire season, the ERC for this time of year reached an all time high of 96. 2002 was the worst fire season on record in terms of conditions and fire activity for the Southwest Area. We are quickly approaching this all time high for this season. It is anticipated that the Southwest Area will exceed the 2002 season conditions within the next two weeks with the forecasted weather continuing to be hot and dry for the next 10 days.

No significant precipitation has been recorded west of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico and across all of Arizona in the last 60 days. The potential for large fires to occur is great. Fire Behavior will be significant in these areas under moderate wind conditions.

Bobby J. Shindelar
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June 9, 2004