

— Average — 13-yr max - - - 2023

ENERGY RELEASE COMPONENT

Fuel Model Y	Average Seasonal Value	Average Highest Value	Highest Observed Value
January	11.5	14.3	21.1
February	12.7	17.0	22.8
March	17.4	21.4	26.6
April	20.1	24.1	29.8
May	23.7	26.5	33.5
June	21.0	24.9	32.5
July	19.3	23.3	31.7
August	18.6	23.3	29.3
September	18.0	26.2	32.9
October	18.7	23.8	32.0
November	14.5	19.8	26.6
December	9.8	12.8	19.5

FDRA 1: Northwest Florida FUEL MODEL 16Y

NWS Forecasting Offices

Tallahassee FL and Mobile AL

RAWS

080802 – Naval Live Oaks 082201 – Sanborn
080802 – Bloxham 082202 – St. Marks NWR (EAST)
082001 – Wilma 082203 – St. Marks NWR (WEST)
082002 – Sumatra

All stations meet NWCG Weather
Station standards

FIRE DANGER POCKET CARD

January - December



Graph Interpretation: Energy Release Component (ERC)

MAXIMUM: Highest **ERC** by day 2012-2024.

AVERAGE: Shows peak fire season.

2023: Representative fire season **ERC**.

97th PERCENTILE: Only 3% of the days from 2012-2024 had an **ERC** above 28.

67th PERCENTILE: Represents **ERC** of 21 where large/multiple fire occurrences increase.

Energy Release Component (ERC) is a number related to the available energy (BTU) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. The **ERC** is considered a composite fuel moisture index as it reflects the contribution of all live and dead fuels to potential fire intensity. As live fuels cure and dead fuels dry, the **ERC** will increase and can be described as a build-up index. Each daily calculation considers the past 7 days in calculating the new number. Daily variations of the **ERC** are relatively small as wind is not part of the calculation.

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

Fire danger gives general conditions across the entire FDRA. Watch for localized conditions and variations across the landscape--Fuel, Weather, Topography. Listen to weather forecasts--especially WIND.

Local Thresholds-- WATCH OUT!

Combinations of any of these factors can increase fire behavior: **20' windspeed** over 15 mph; **Temperature** over 90°; **RH** < 30%; **KBDI** > 550. Large fires become more frequent when **ERC** exceeds 24 and **BI** exceeds 18.

Past Experience / Local Knowledge:

- Expect extreme fire behavior in areas with high fuel loads, esp. from tropical storms.
- Green fuels with volatile oils & waxes can burn even under high fuel moisture content.
- Afternoon sea breezes usually lead to thunderstorms and sometimes lightning.
- Some fuels available to burn ~1hr post rainfall.
- During dry conditions, swamps may not hold water and should NOT be considered as safety zones.
- Problematic fire behavior is likely if $ERC > 24$, $BI > 18$, and Dispersion Index > 75.

Notable Fires:

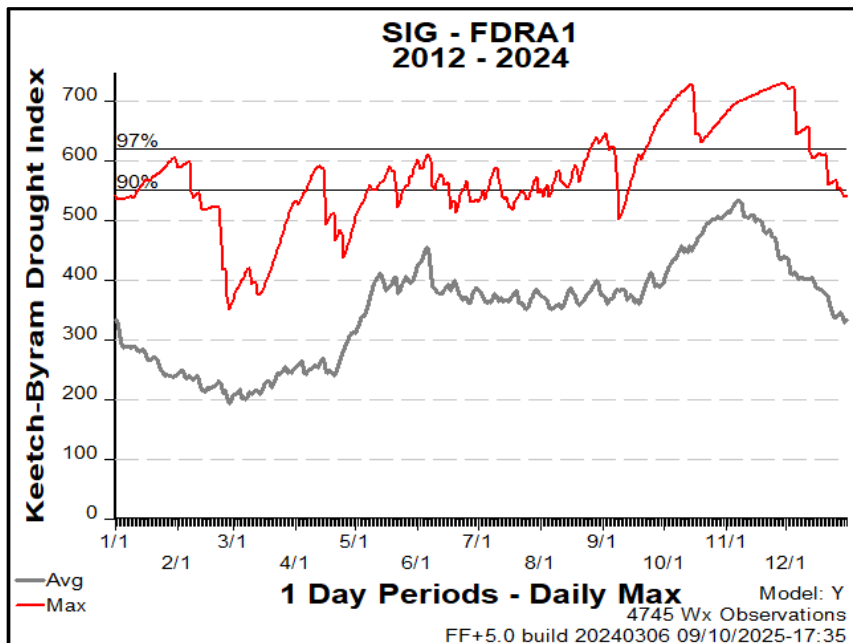
• Bertha Swamp Rd	03/4/22	Bay & Gulf Cos.,	33,131 ac	ERC = 18.5
• VILAS	03/26/20	Liberty Co.,	7,498 ac	ERC = 20.2
• HIGH HILL	07/05/20	Wakulla Co.,	538 ac	ERC = 29.3
• 360G / BROWN HOUSE / DIAMOND	05/28/19	Leon Co.,	872 ac	ERC = 28.1

Approved 09/30/2025

This card is based on

13 years of data





Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) - A rating assessing the risk of fire by representing the net effect of evapotranspiration and precipitation in producing cumulative moisture deficiency in deep duff and upper soil layers. **KBDI over 550 is a critical threshold value** indicating swamp fuels may be available to burn where past fires have been infrequent and fuel loading is high.

Ignition Component (IC) - the probability a firebrand will cause an "actionable" fire and requires suppression action. **IC** is more than just a probability of a fire starting. The fire has to have the potential to spread. IC can be an aid in assessing spotting potential. **An IC value of 21 is a critical threshold value.** Values at this level are critical especially during March, April & May as firebrands initiate spot fires.

Burning Index (BI) - relates to the contribution of fire's behavior in containing the fire. The difficulty of containment is directly proportional to the fireline intensity. **BI** is derived from the combination of the SC & ERC. **BI** can be a cross reference to fireline intensity & flame length. It assists in assessing spotting & crown fire potential as well as suppression resource needs & tactical considerations. Doubling the burning index indicates that twice the effort will be required to contain a fire, providing all other parameters are held constant. **A BI value of 18 is a critical threshold value.** Values at this level see a sharp increase in large fire growth and multiple fire days during March, April & May.

