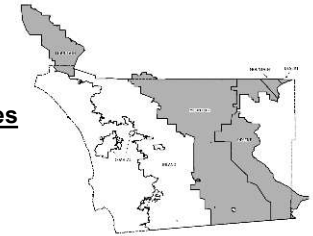
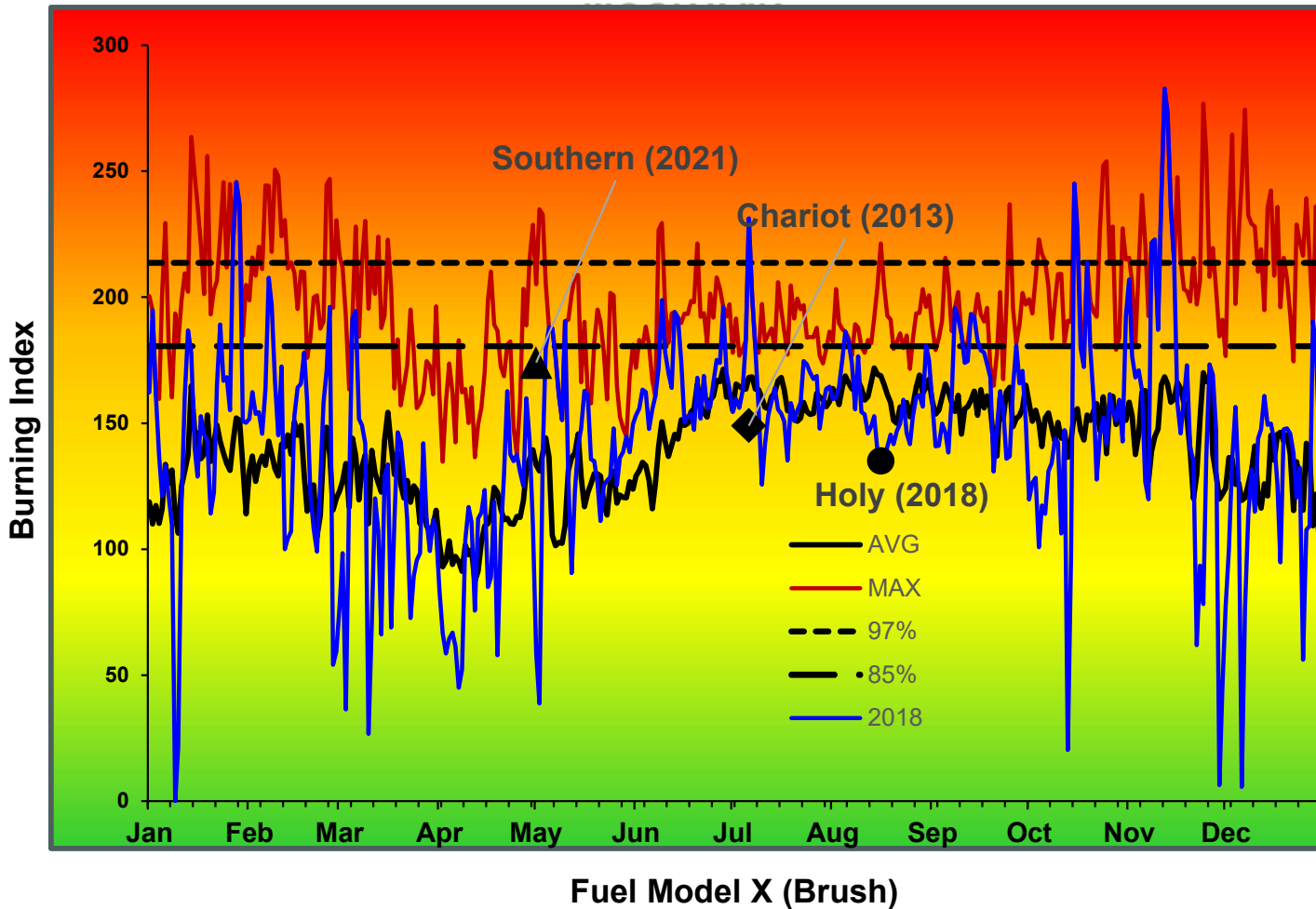


FIRE DANGER – MOUNTAIN/DESERT FDRA



Fire Danger Area

Mountain/Desert

NWS Forecast Zones

257
258
262

RAWS

El Cariso, Temescal 2, Corona 1, Descanso, Julian, Mt. Laguna, Pine Hills, Palomar

All stations meet NWCG Weather Station standards.

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.

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.

MAXIMUM: Highest **Burning Index** by day for 2013-2022.

AVERAGE: Shows mean daily **Burning Index** value through the same period.

2018: Most acres burned in period of record 2013-2022 (74 fires, 23,618 acres).

85th PERCENTILE: Represents a **Burning Index** level of 181 where fire day/large fire/multiple fire occurrences increase.

97th PERCENTILE: Only 3% of all days in the period of record 2013-2022 had a **Burning Index** exceeding this value.

Fires to Remember:

▲ **SOUTHERN:** 05/01/2021, 5,366 acres burned, BI 174

◆ **CHARIOT:** 07/06/2013, 7,055 acres burned, BI 149

● **HOLY:** 08/16/2018, 23,025 acres burned, BI 135

This card is based on 10 years of data.

Local Thresholds – Watch Out!

Combinations of any of these 4 factors can greatly increase fire behavior. **Wind speed** over 10 MPH, **RH** less than 21%, **Temperature** over 91°, **FM10** less than 8%.

Past and Local Experience

Most significant fires in this area have occurred fall to spring during Santa Ana wind events. Be cautious on the dying end of Santa Ana winds, as the sometimes-violent shift back to onshore winds has caused more firefighter fatalities in Southern California than any other factor.

Historic footprints of major wind-driven fires in the area (Laguna 1970, Cedar 2003, Witch 2007) now have 20-30+ years of vegetative regrowth. Development of Santa Ana wind conditions prior to fall/winter rains should shout WATCH OUT!

Updated April 2026 Responsible Agency: USFS/USFWS/CAL FIRE