



**2025 South Central and Southeastern Compacts' Joint Meeting  
Biloxi, Mississippi  
June 4, 2025**

**Southern States Compact Report  
June 2024 – May 2025**

## **Overview**

Overall, the south experienced normal fire occurrence in the past twelve months. For 2024, the region reported 85% of the ten-year average in number of fires with the largest being the Smokehouse Creek Fire in Texas at 1,054,158 acres. Hurricane Helene in the Fall impacted the southern Appalachians and greatly contributed to the fire issues this Spring.

For CY 2024:

- Nationally NICC reported 64,987 wildfires which is 104% of the ten-year average and 8,924,884 acres burned in wildfires which 127% of the ten-year average.
- The Southern Area's wildfire totals were 45% of the nation's total and accounted for 22% of the total acres.
- The Southern Area accounted for 31 percent of the significant (209 reported) fires in the nation.
- State and private jurisdiction fires accounted for 78 percent of the total fires in the nation and 45 percent of the acres burned in 2024.
- 41% of the human caused fire in the nation occurred in the Southern Area.

## **June 2024 -May 2025 Compact Dispatches**

### **Southeastern Compact - March 4 – April 11, 2025**

South Carolina activated the Southeastern Compact due to extreme drought and fire conditions on the Covington Road Fire. A 29 person CIMT was deployed.

South Carolina also used 2 compact dozers later in the month on the Table Rock Fire.

North Carolina deployed 5 engines and 3 overhead personnel using the compact the last week in March on the Black Cove Fire

### **South Central Compact – March 12 – April 4, 2025**

Oklahoma activated the South Central Compact due to extreme drought and wildfire occurrences. Resources deployed: 8 dozers, 5 engines, 26 personnel.

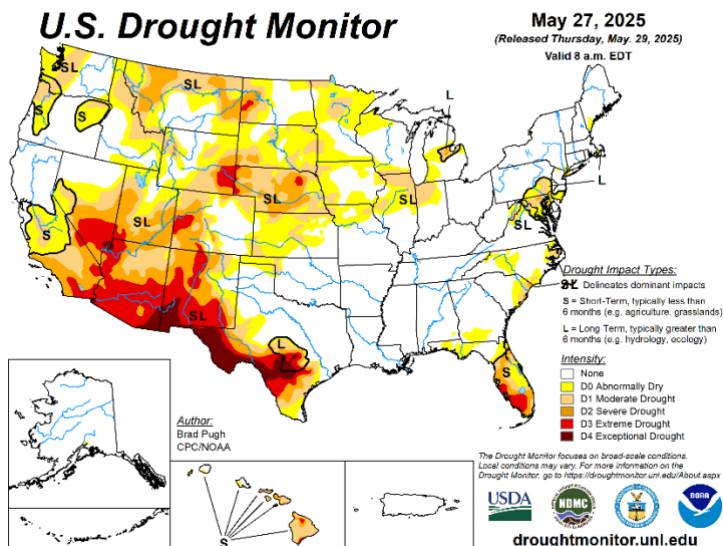
In summary, the Compacts assisted the southern states in meeting their needs and objectives. Total resources moved were 20 pieces of equipment and 70 personnel.

## **Fire Potential Forecast**

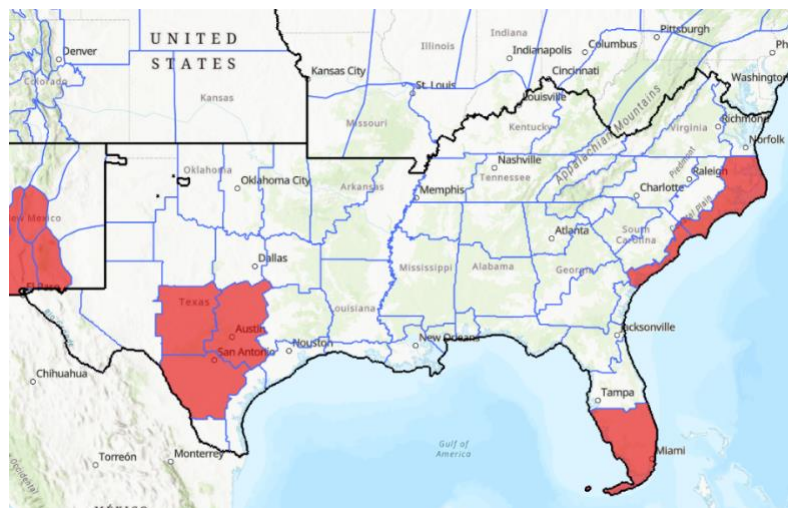
Welcome rainfall in May helped to ease water woes for most of the coastal Southeast heading into early summer. Long-term anomalies remain significant for the coastal Carolinas, where deficits are on the order of 8-15" since October 1st. Rainfall was more variable across Florida, with the last drought monitor update on May 27th depicting widespread severe to extreme drought in southern and western areas of the peninsula. The wet pattern that began earlier in spring over the Plains and Mississippi Valley continued, but scattered areas across Oklahoma

and Texas were drier than average. More importantly, the multi-year drought over central and southern Texas is expected to be impactful this summer. Concerns are highest where extreme to exceptional drought is combined with impacts to fuels from killing freezes in 2021, ice storms and a pervasive infestation of Oak Wilt.

A dry pattern will set in during early June from central Florida northwards to the Carolinas. Southwestern and western parts of the peninsula may be most likely to observe significant fire events until daily rain chances or a tropical system fill up waterways in the region.



### Significant Wildland Fire Potential for the Southeast - June 2025



The coastal Carolinas did observe drought relief in May but are looking to dry back out for at least the start of June. Most long-range models depict drier than average conditions along the immediate coast in North Carolina and South Carolina, which could be problematic in the region's deep and still dry organic soils. Above normal significant fire potential is

maintained into June for the coastal Carolinas and South Florida due to the ongoing impacts from drought.

Although wetter conditions have chipped away at some of the drought in central Texas and may continue to do so into early June, abundant dead fuels and a growing signal for abnormal heat later in the month warrant a maintenance of above normal significant fire potential in and around the Hill Country. Assuming flash droughts occur as expected across Oklahoma and Texas, abundant grasses from a very wet spring farther north will most certainly cure and contribute to fires spreading into the more volatile fuels. Above normal significant fire potential is forecast to expand considerably across both states by July and August.



In the Appalachians, any drought late in the summer in areas impacted by Helene could result in an early start to the fall fire season where catastrophic tree damage occurred. Confidence is too low in this scenario for now. Normal significant fire potential is forecast throughout the Southern Area for September.

An active hurricane season and impacts to the U.S. coastline are a near certainty with near-record warm water adjacent to the coast, but where these systems track is unclear this far out. Analog guidance suggests the East Coast may be more at risk than in 2024