

Vermont Fire Danger Report

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Observations

Sta	WX	Tmp	RH	Dir	WS	TMx	TmMn	RHMx	RHMn	Dur	Amt
NUL	2	85	48	238	3	85	56	100	48	1	0.01
ESS	1	85	46	274	3	86	58	96	45	0	0
ELM	2	80	56	12	2	83	55	99	51	0	0
DAN	2	84	44	274	6	86	50	99	44	0	0
WOOD	0	76	51	211	3	78	51	96	51	0	0

NFDR Index

Sta	WS	WDY	HRB	1H	10hr	100H	1000H	IC	SC	EC	BI	SL	R	KBDI
NUL	3	192	150	8	11	21	24	9	2	13	14	2	L	212
ESS	3	157	110	7	9	18	20	11	2	25	19	2	M	455
ELM	2	189	186	10	12	20	24	5	1	13	11	2	L	177
DAN	6	178	134	8	10	20	23	11	3	18	18	3	M	339
WOOD	3	200	214	7	10	21	26	9	1	11	11	1	L	205

Fire danger for Vermont today is **MODERATE** west of the Green Mountains and **LOW** for the rest of the state. Due to the continued dry and warm forecast, fire danger tomorrow will likely be **MODERATE** statewide.

Prior to recent rain, most of Vermont was below normal for precipitation. August was drier than normal as were much of the first 10 days in September (see total rainfall at Vermont RAWs, September 1-10 below). Ground fuels, as indicated by KBDI values were meeting or exceeding the maximum ever received for the station at both Essex and Danby. Woodford values were above normal as well (see page 2 for chart of departure from normal precipitation and KBDI graphs).

	Total Rainfall Sept 1-10, 2015	Total Rainfall Sept 11-14, 2015
NUL	0.58	1.59"
ESS	.34"	0.88"
ELM	1.06" (*)	1.37"
DAN	.19"	2.04"
WOOD	.22"	3.30"

A widespread rain from September 11 to 14 brought departures to near normal in much of the state (see rainfall amounts for this period, left). Both surface and ground fuels were substantially dampened and diminished fire danger. However, the Champlain Valley received the least amount rain (note Essex rain total) and the warm, dry weather pattern currently in place has allowed fuels to dry out once again.

* Scattered shower at Elmore dumped .76" in one hour on Sept. 9

KBDI values did drop at all the RAWs but at Essex and Danby they continue to be much drier than normal and have begun another upward trend (see KBDI graphs, page 2&3). Despite over 3" of rain in southern Bennington county, a deep burning ground fire continued to burn on GMNF land in the town of Readsboro.

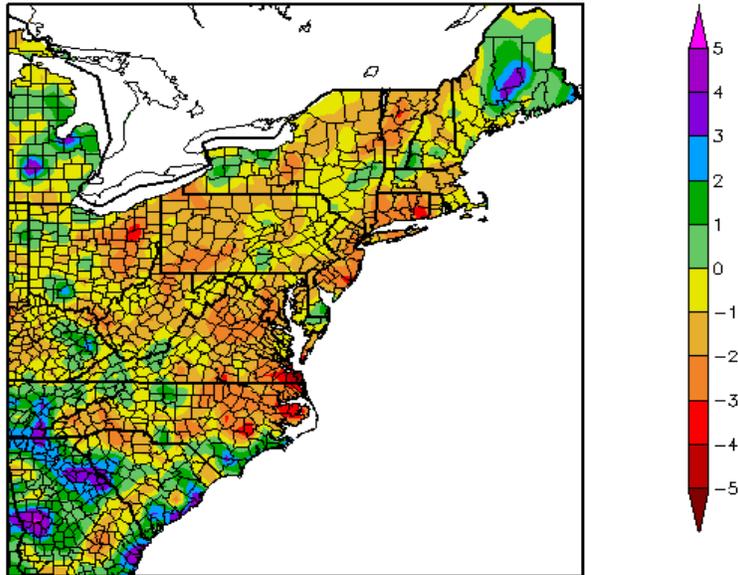
With KBDI values below normal and the first killing frosts of the season and leaf drop just around the corner, the potential exists for a period of high fire danger this fall. Areas at greatest risk will be the Champlain valley and the southern 4 counties (Rutland, Windsor, Bennington and Windham) of Vermont. Be cautious with campfires and brush fires in these fire prone areas.



[Six Minutes for Safety: An interagency safety initiative that address high-risk situations that historically get firefighters in trouble.](#)

Below normal precipitation for most of Vermont for the month of August.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/1/2015 – 8/31/2015



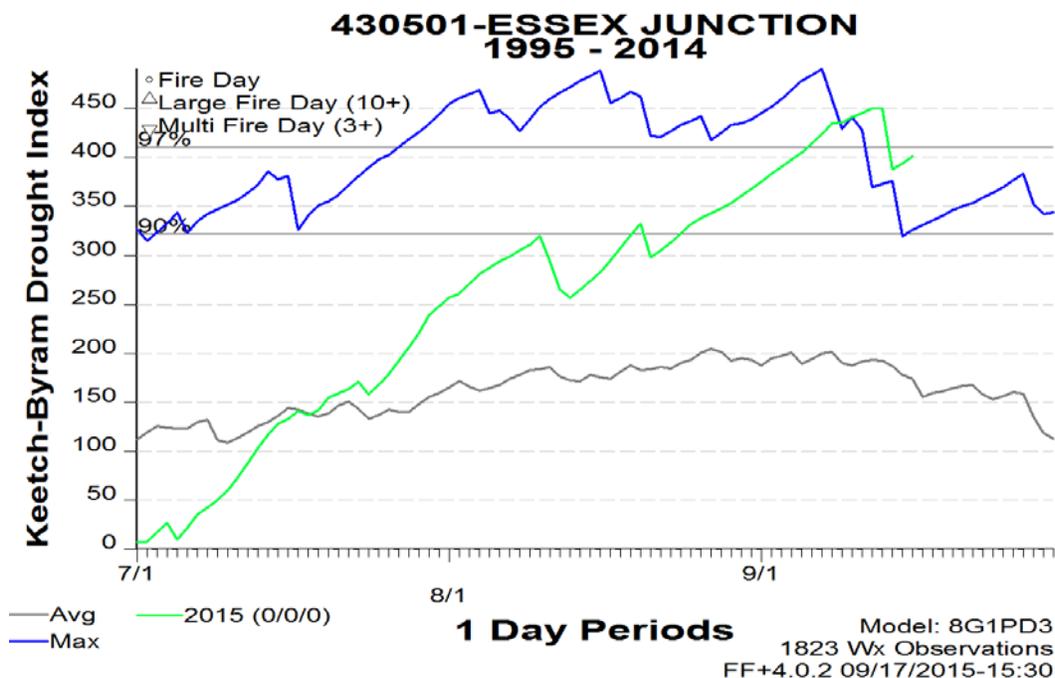
Generated 9/11/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

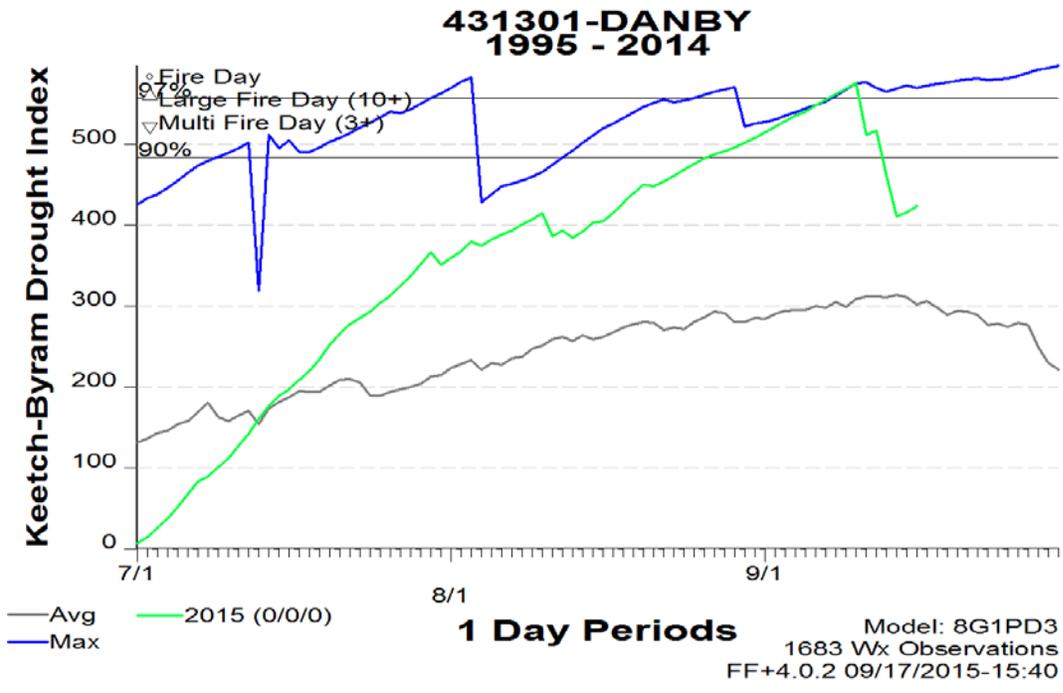
Source: [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)

The first week in September saw widely scattered showers leaving many areas continuing drier than normal.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values from July 1 to Sept 30, 1995 to 2014 at the Essex, Vermont RAWS. Values for 2015 are in green, note after rain 9/11/15 to 9/14/15, values dropped but are now starting back up with current dry weather pattern. The grey line is average; the blue line is the all time maximum for the period; 90th percentile - values only reach 323 at the Essex RAWS 10% of the time; 97th percentile - values only reach 410 3% of the time.



Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values from July 1 to Sept 30, 1995 to 2014 at the Danby (Swezey), Vermont RAWS. Values for 2015 are in green, note after rain 9/11/15 to 9/14/15, values dropped but are now starting back up with current dry weather pattern. The grey line is average; the blue line is the all time maximum for the period; 90th percentile - values only reach 483 at the Danby RAWS 10% of the time; 97th percentile - values only reach 560 3% of the time.



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