

National Fire Weather Report



2003

By

Larry Van Bussum

National Program Leader –

Fire Weather Operations

National Weather Service Boise, ID

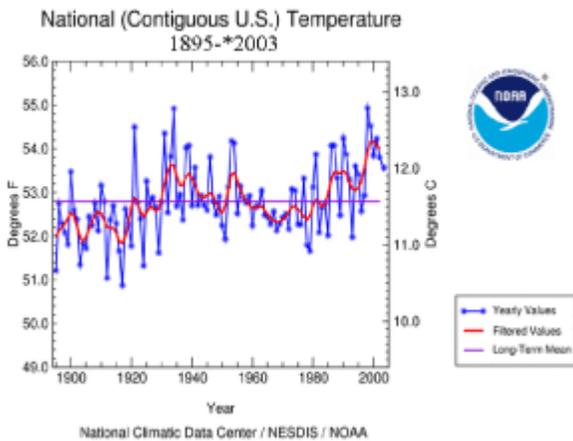
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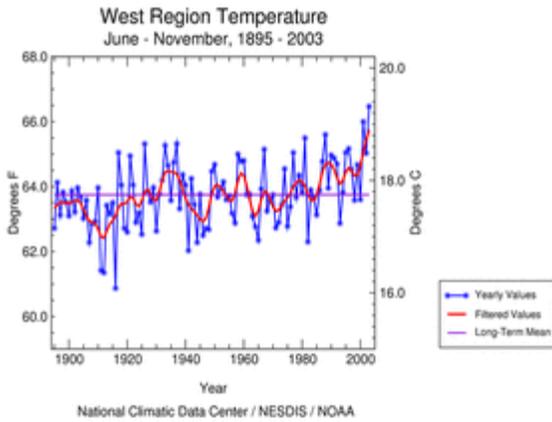
2003 will likely rank as one of the top 20 warmest years on record for the U.S. with temperatures near 53.6°F (12.0°C). Cool temperatures in the East and warmth in the western half of the country were part of a persistent pattern in 2003.

The last four 5-year periods (1999-2003, 1998-2002, 1997-2001, 1996-2000), have been the warmest 5-year periods in the last 109 years of national records, and the last 6 (1998-2003), 7 (1997-2003), 8 (1996-2003), 9 (1995-2003) and 10-year (1994-2003) periods have been the warmest on record for the U.S., illustrating the anomalous warmth of the last decade.

The [2002-2003 winter season \(Dec-Feb\)](#) was 32nd warmest on record for the U.S., with [warmth in the Northwest](#) and West and cool conditions [stretching from the South to the Northeast](#). [Spring \(March-May\)](#) was warmer than normal nationally with much of the country warmer than average in each of the spring months, except for consistently cool conditions in the [Northeast](#). However, [summer \(June-August\)](#) was [14th warmest](#) in 109 years of national records. The [western half of the country](#) contributed most to that warmth, while the [Central and Southeast regions were cooler than average](#) over the summer. The 2003 [fall season](#) (September-November) was 20th warmest on record, with some states in the West having a [record warm October](#). In November the persistent warmth in the West and cool in the Northeast was replaced with [cooler temperatures to the West and some warmth in the East](#).



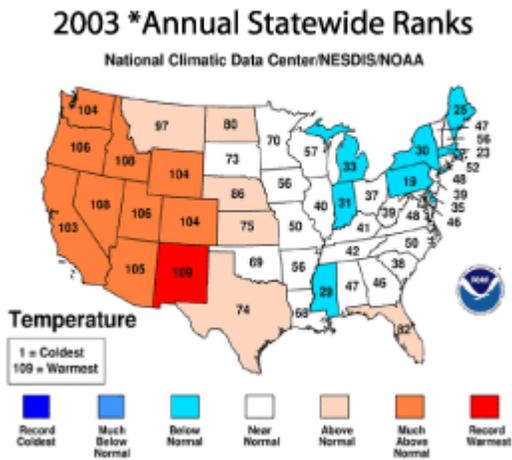
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Record warm temperatures were seen in the West for several multi-month periods during the last year. The graph above shows June-November average temperature for the West.

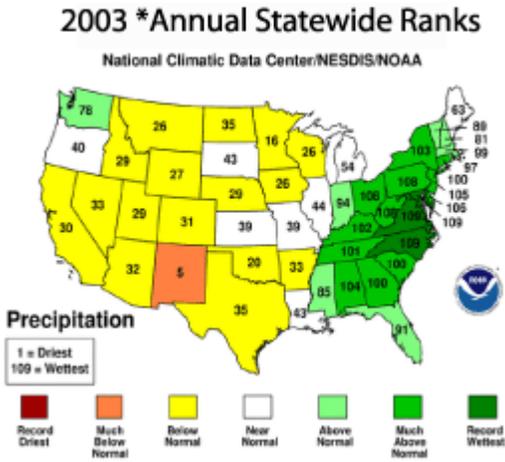
2003 is on pace to be the warmest* on record for [New Mexico](#) and the second warmest* for [Nevada](#) and [Idaho](#). Seven other states will likely be much warmer than normal during 2003*. Cooler statewide annual temperatures were generally confined to the Northeast.



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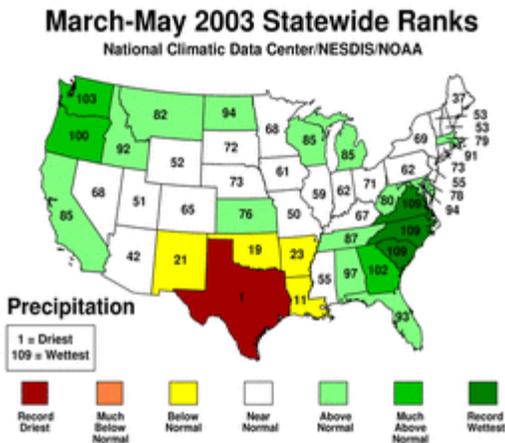
Precipitation in the United States in 2003 was characterized by persistent dryness in the West and above average wetness in the East. Virginia had its [wettest January-November](#) on record during 2003, already exceeding the previous *annual* record by the end of November. [North Carolina](#) and [Maryland](#) are also likely to exceed the annual record for precipitation by the end of December 2003. Twelve states will likely be much wetter than normal with the [Southeast](#)

[region](#) as a whole having its second wettest year on record. [New Mexico](#) had its 5th driest January-November. More details on U.S. drought for 2003 can be found on the [annual drought summary](#) page.

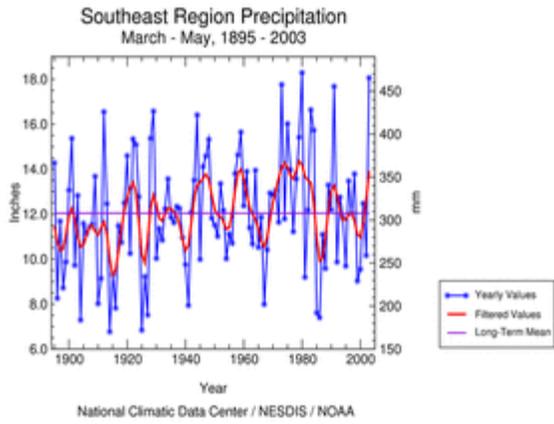


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Virginia, North and South Carolina had their wettest spring on record (see map below left). It was also the driest spring on record for Texas. It was second wettest spring and summer for the Southeast (see image below right) and the five month period from May-September included [six states with record wetness](#).



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The above climate summary is from the National Climatic Data Center's 2003 U.S. Climate summary and can be found in its entirety at:
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2003/ann/us-summary.html>

2003 Significant Fire Weather Events

- June 18 – June 25: Dry lightning followed by gusty winds.
Significant Fire: Aspen Fire near Tucson, AZ.
250 – 300 structures burned in and around the town of Summerhaven, AZ.
- July 15 – July 23. Dry lightning occurred on the northern fringe of monsoon moisture moving north through OR, NV, UT, CO, MT and WY.
Significant Fires: Clark Fire, OR; Fawn Peak Complex, WA; Hot Creek Fire, ID; Cramer Fire, ID; Missouri Breaks Complex, MT.
- August 9 – August 10: Lightning holdovers then gusty winds in Montana and Idaho.
Significant Fires: Wedge Canyon, Robert, Black Mountain 2, Mineral Prim, Fish Creek.
Record fires in Montana and Missoula areas.
- October 21 – October 29: Numerous arson fires blown out by Santa Ana Winds in the San Diego/Los Angeles area. Over 3400 homes were burned and almost 750,000 acres were burned. The fires resulted in 22 deaths and 181 injuries and the damages are estimated between \$2 billion and \$12 billion dollars.

IMET/ATMU Dispatches 2003

| <i>ATMU</i> | <i>IMET/NWS Office</i> | <i>Incident, Location, State</i> | <i>Dispatch</i> | <i>Return</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Nagle (T)* Midland, TX | Shuttle Columbia Incident Lufkin-Palestine, TX | 2/27/03 | 3/9/03 | 11 |
| -- | Bird El Paso, TX | | 3/8/03 | 3/16/03 | 9 |
| -- | Murdoch Midland, TX | | 3/22/03 | 3/30/03 | 9 |
| -- | Bird El Paso, TX | | 3/29/03 | 4/11/03 | 14 |
| -- | Davis Tampa, FL | | 4/1/03 | 4/12/03 | 12 |
| -- | Pelton Jackson, KY | | 4/12/03 | 4/19/03 | 8 |
| -- | Nagle (T) Midland, TX | | 4/15/03 | 4/19/03 | 5 |
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | | 4/19/03 | 4/30/03 | 12 |
| WA-01 | Prange Seattle, WA | TOPOFF Disaster Exercise Seattle, WA | 5/12/03 | 5/12/03 | 1 |
| WA-01 | Haner (T) Seattle, WA | | 5/12/03 | 5/13/03 | 2 |
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | A-Bar Fire near Sierra Vista, AZ | 5/13/03 | 5/15/03 | 3 |
| -- | Stubblefield Flagstaff, AZ | Red Rock near Patagonia, AZ | 5/17/03 | 5/18/03 | 2 |

- Note: Shuttle Columbia Incident involved aviation and general weather briefings, and as a result trainees or fire wx focal points were allowed to be dispatched solo. Also taking place in this incident were Bill Adams (SHV), Joe Harris (DFW) and Paul Witsaman (SRHQ). WCM Peter Felsch also worked with Missoula Area Command in August and September with the fires in that area.

| <i>ATMU</i> | <i>IMET/NWS Office</i> | <i>Incident, Location, State</i> | <i>Dispatch</i> | <i>Return</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Stavish Medford, OR | Lakeview RX Burns near Lakeview, OR | 5/18/03 | 5/20/03 | 3 |
| -- | Bunnag Medford, OR | | 5/21/03 | 5/24/03 | 3 |
| -- | Pelatti Spokane, WA | Methow RX Burns near Winthrop, WA | 5/19/03 | 5/23/03 | 5 |
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | Cimarron Fire near Sonoita, AZ | 5/29/03 | 5/30/03 | 2 |
| -- | Fathauer Fairbanks, AK | Tok River Fire Near Tok, AK | 5/31/03 | 6/4/03 | 5 |
| -- | Maier Juneau, AK | | 6/3/03 | 6/10/03 | 8 |
| -- | Stubblefield Flagstaff, AZ | Thomas Fire near Alpine, AZ | 6/7/03 | 6/10/03 | 4 |
| -- | Moore Pueblo, CO | | 6/9/03 | 6/18/03 | 10 |
| -- | Hohmann (T) Reno, NV | | 6/9/03 | 6/17/03 | 9 |
| -- | Stubblefield Flagstaff, AZ | Cherry Fire near Cherry, AZ | 6/18/03 | 6/20/03 | 3 |
| -- | Murdoch Midland, TX | Aspen Fire near Summerhaven, AZ | 6/19/03 | 7/1/03 | 13 |
| -- | Lipson Riverton, WY | | 7/1/03 | 7/13/03 | 13 |
| -- | Hilgendorf (T) Oxnard, CA | | 7/5/03 | 7/13/03 | 9 |
| -- | Berkovitz Phoenix, AZ | Helen 2 Fire near Tucson, AZ | 6/20/03 | 6/30/03 | 11 |

| <i>ATMU</i> | <i>IMET/NWS Office</i> | <i>Incident, Location, State</i> | <i>Dispatch</i> | <i>Return</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | Picture Fire near Tonto Basin, AZ | 6/20/03 | 6/26/03 | 7 |
| -- | Milne Reno, NV | Ash Fire near Sierra Vista, AZ | 6/23/03 | 6/23/03 | 1 |
| -- | Milne Reno, NV | Jenny Fire near Truth or Consequences, NM | 6/24/03 | 7/3/03 | 10 |
| -- | Pelatti Spokane, WA | Davis Fire near La Pine, OR | 6/30/03 | 7/7/03 | 8 |
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | Srn Area Large Fire Support Albuquerque, NM | 7/6/03 | 7/18/03 | 13 |
| -- | Wallmann Elko, NV | | 7/18/03 | 7/25/03 | 8 |
| WA-01 | Prange Seattle, WA | Fawn Peak/Sweet Grass Fire Near Winthrop, WA | 7/5/03 | 7/19/03 | 15 |
| -- | Tonkin (T) Eureka, CA | | 7/5/03 | 7/14/03 | 10 |
| -- | Ruthford (T) Juneau, AK | Fawn Peak Complex near Winthrop, WA | 7/12/03 | 7/18/03 | 7 |
| ID-06 | Pelatti Spokane, WA | | 7/17/03 | 7/30/03 | 14 |
| -- | Tobin Pendleton, OR | | 7/22/03 | 8/4/03 | 14 |
| -- | Ramey (T) Grand Junction, CO | | 7/25/03 | 8/4/03 | 11 |
| -- | Solomon Pendleton, OR | | 8/3/03 | 8/15/03 | 13 |
| -- | Haner (T) Seattle, WA | | 8/5/03 | 8/13/03 | 9 |

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|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | Encebado Fire near Taos, NM | 7/5/03 | 7/18/03 | 14 |
| -- | Goudsward (T) Little Rock, AR | | 7/9/03 | 7/18/03 | 10 |
| -- | Pelatti Spokane, WA | Link Fire near Sisters, OR | 7/7/03 | 7/10/03 | 4 |
| -- | Tobin Pendleton, OR | | 7/9/03 | 7/15/03 | 7 |
| -- | Brenchley Salt Lake City, UT | Bulldog Fire near Ticaboo, UT | 7/10/03 | 7/20/03 | 11 |
| -- | Redman Boise, ID | Farmington Fire near Farmington, UT | 7/12/03 | 7/17/03 | 6 |
| -- | Wright Missoula, MT | Bear Creek Fire near Vallecito, CO | 7/13/03 | 7/17/03 | 5 |
| -- | Messick Pocatello, ID | Tobias Fire near Salmon, ID | 7/15/03 | 7/23/03 | 9 |
| -- | Stubblefield Flagstaff, AZ | Kinishba Fire near Whitewater, AZ | 7/15/03 | 7/22/03 | 8 |
| -- | Baker Riverton, WY | East Table Fire near Alpine, WY | 7/15/03 | 7/19/03 | 5 |
| -- | Saltenberger Portland, OR | Clark Fire near Lowell, OR | 7/15/03 | 7/26/03 | 12 |
| -- | Weishaar Portland, OR | | 7/25/03 | 8/4/03 | 11 |
| NM-01 | Moore Pueblo, CO | Molina Complex near Cundiyo, NM | 7/16/03 | 7/24/03 | 9 |
| -- | Balfour San Diego, CA | Coyote Fire near Julian, CA | 7/16/03 | 7/23/03 | 8 |

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|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Wright Missoula, MT | Spruce Complex near Glenwood, NM | 7/17/03 | 7/22/03 | 6 |
| -- | Krohn Boulder, CO | Balcony House Complex Mesa Verde NP, CO | 7/18/03 | 7/25/03 | 8 |
| MT-01 | Nester Missoula, MT | Hidden Lake Fire near Polaris, MT | 7/21/03 | 8/2/03 | 13 |
| -- | Ruthford (T) Juneau, AK | | 7/25/03 | 7/31/03 | 7 |
| -- | Newmerzhycky Sacramento, CA | Del Puerto Fire near Patterson, CA | 7/21/03 | 7/25/03 | 5 |
| -- | Redman Boise, ID | Crystal Creek Fire near Stanley, ID | 7/22/03 | 7/28/03 | 7 |
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | Missouri Breaks Complex near Jordan, MT | 7/23/03 | 7/26/03 | 4 |
| -- | Meier Great Falls, MT | Wedge Canyon Fire near Eureka, MT | 7/23/03 | 8/5/03 | 14 |
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | | 8/4/03 | 8/17/03 | 14 |
| -- | Stroozas (T) Glasgow, MT | | 8/6/03 | 8/14/03 | 9 |
| MT-02 | Richmond Fairbanks, AK | | 8/15/03 | 8/25/03 | 11 |
| MT-02 | Goudsward (T) Little Rock, AR | | 8/22/03 | 8/25/03 | 4 |
| MT-02 | Goudsward Little Rock, AR | | 8/25/03 | 9/5/03 | 15 |
| MT-02 | Nester Missoula, MT | | 9/4/03 | 9/13/03 | 10 |

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|-------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| ID-05 | Stavish Medford, OR | Hot Creek Fire near Atlanta, ID | 7/24/03 | 8/6/03 | 14 |
| -- | Hoenisch (T) Elko, NV | | 7/28/03 | 8/6/03 | 10 |
| -- | Harrison Las Vegas, NV | | 8/5/03 | 8/9/03 | 5 |
| -- | Smith Sacramento, CA | Cramer Fire near Shoup, ID | 7/24/03 | 8/1/03 | 9 |
| MT-03 | Lipson Riverton, WY | Black Frog Complex near Gibbonsville, ID | 7/24/03 | 8/6/03 | 14 |
| -- | Prange Seattle, WA | Cramer Investigation near Shoup, ID | 7/24/03 | 8/6/03 | 14 |
| MT-02 | Wright Missoula, MT | Robert Fire near Columbia Falls, MT | 7/25/03 | 8/6/03 | 13 |
| -- | Hohmann (T) Reno, NV | | 7/28/03 | 8/7/03 | 11 |
| -- | Bean Hanford, CA | | 8/5/03 | 8/18/03 | 14 |
| -- | Meffert Paducah, KY | | 8/14/03 | 8/27/03 | 14 |
| -- | Hooper (T) Paducah, KY | | 8/21/03 | 9/1/03 | 12 |
| -- | Tobin Pendleton, OR | | 8/26/03 | 9/8/03 | 14 |
| -- | Stroozas (T) Glasgow, MT | | 9/2/03 | 9/8/03 | 7 |
| -- | Pelatti Spokane, WA | | 9/6/03 | 9/14/03 | 9 |

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|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Lester Marquette, MI | Trapper Creek Complex near Kalispell, MT | 7/28/03 | 8/5/03 | 12 |
| -- | Birch WRHQ, SLC, UT | | 8/3/03 | 8/10/03 | 8 |
| -- | Evenson Burlington, VT | Kelsay Complex near Roseburg, OR | 7/29/03 | 8/5/03 | 11 |
| -- | Goudsward (T) Little Rock, AR | | 8/1/03 | 8/5/03 | 5 |
| -- | Milne Reno, NV | Slims Fire near Grangeville, ID | 7/31/03 | 8/13/03 | 14 |
| -- | Chamberlain Grand Junction, CO | | 8/13/03 | 8/25/03 | 13 |
| -- | Edmonston Jackson, MS | | 8/24/03 | 9/2/03 | 10 |
| -- | Henry (T) Jackson, MS | | 8/24/03 | 9/3/03 | 11 |
| -- | Redman Boise, ID | | 9/2/03 | 9/4/03 | 3 |
| -- | Messick Pocatello, ID | North Fork Lick Fire near McCall, ID | 8/3/03 | 8/8/03 | 6 |
| MT-03 | Pelatti Spokane, WA | Beaver Lake Fire near Missoula, MT | 8/11/03 | 8/25/03 | 15 |
| MT-03 | Hohmann Reno, NV | | 8/23/03 | 9/3/03 | 12 |
| MT-01 | Brenchley Salt Lake City, UT | | 9/1/03 | 9/11/03 | 11 |
| -- | Meier Great Falls, MT | Boles Meadow Fire near Seeley Lake, MT | 8/11/03 | 8/24/03 | 14 |

| <i>ATMU</i> | <i>IMET/NWS Office</i> | <i>Incident, Location, State</i> | <i>Dispatch</i> | <i>Return</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Survick Pocatello, ID | Flaconberry Fire near Stanley, ID | 8/12/03 | 8/18/03 | 7 |
| -- | Nester Missoula, MT | Cherry Creek Fire near Thompson Falls, MT | 8/12/03 | 8/21/03 | 10 |
| -- | Ramey (T) Grand Junction, CO | | 8/16/03 | 8/21/03 | 6 |
| -- | Ramey Grand Junction | | 8/21/03 | 8/28/03 | 8 |
| -- | Wright Missoula, MT | Black Mountain #2 near Missoula, MT | 8/12/03 | 8/25/03 | 14 |
| -- | Whitmore Missoula, MT | | 8/25/03 | 8/27/03 | 3 |
| -- | Wright Missoula, MT | | 8/27/03 | 9/2/03 | 7 |
| -- | Redman Boise, ID | North Fork Lick Fire near McCall, ID | 8/12/03 | 8/25/03 | 14 |
| -- | Stavish Medford, OR | Hall Fire near Council, ID | 8/12/03 | 8/15/03 | 4 |
| -- | Saltenberger Portland, OR | Black Canyon Fire near Northport, WA | 8/12/03 | 8/22/03 | 11 |
| -- | Brenchley Salt Lake City, UT | Crazy Horse Fire near St. Ignatius, MT | 8/13/03 | 8/27/03 | 15 |
| -- | Milne Reno, NV | | 8/26/03 | 9/4/03 | 10 |
| -- | Hilgendorf Oxnard, CA | Gold 1 Fire near Corvallis, MT | 8/13/03 | 8/26/03 | 14 |
| -- | Hilgendorf Oxnard, CA | | 8/30/03 | 9/8/03 | 10 |

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|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Lipson Riverton, WY | Little Horn 2 Fire near Dayton, MT | 8/13/03 | 8/22/03 | 10 |
| -- | Wachter Albuquerque, NM | Rough Draw Fire near Livingston, MT | 8/14/03 | 8/27/03 | 14 |
| -- | Walbrun (T) Monterey, CA | | 8/17/03 | 8/27/03 | 11 |
| -- | Baker Riverton, WY | Winthington Fire near Salmon, ID | 8/14/03 | 8/18/03 | 5 |
| -- | Survick Pocatello, ID | | 8/18/03 | 8/24/03 | 7 |
| ID-01 | Balfour San Diego, CA | Canyon Creek Fire near Lowman, ID | 8/14/03 | 8/23/03 | 10 |
| -- | Maier Juneau, AK | East Fire Yellowstone NP, WY | 8/14/03 | 8/27/03 | 14 |
| -- | Tonkin Eureka, CA | Cooney Ridge Fire near Florence, MT | 8/15/03 | 8/29/03 | 15 |
| -- | Survick Pocatello, ID | | 8/30/03 | 9/11/03 | 13 |
| -- | Fleegel (T) Charleston, WV | | 9/2/03 | 9/11/03 | 10 |
| -- | Fleegel Charleston, WV | | 9/11/03 | 9/13/03 | 3 |
| -- | Pelton Jackson, KY | Fish Creek Fire near Missoula, MT | 8/15/03 | 8/29/03 | 15 |
| -- | Meier Great Falls, MT | | 8/28/03 | 9/4/03 | 8 |
| -- | Baker Riverton, WY | | 9/4/03 | 9/13/03 | 10 |

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|-------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Weishaar Portland, OR | Dirty Ike Fire near Clinton, MT | 8/15/03 | 8/19/03 | 5 |
| -- | Stavish Medford, OR | Mineral Prim Fire near Missoula, MT | 8/15/03 | 8/25/03 | 11 |
| -- | Davis Tampa, FL | | 8/24/03 | 9/2/03 | 10 |
| ID-05 | Carter Spokane, WA | | 9/1/03 | 9/13/03 | 13 |
| -- | Griffith (T) Cheyenne, WY | | 9/4/03 | 9/13/03 | 10 |
| -- | Paulson Minneapolis, MN | Pine Ridge Complex near Pine Ridge, SD | 8/16/03 | 8/18/03 | 3 |
| -- | Prange Seattle, WA | Cathedral Peak Fire near Nye, MT | 8/17/03 | 8/29/03 | 12 |
| -- | Franks (T) Wilmington, OH | | 8/23/03 | 9/1/03 | 10 |
| -- | Evenson Burlington, VT | | 8/27/03 | 9/4/03 | 9 |
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | | 9/3/03 | 9/9/03 | 7 |
| -- | Wilkinson (T) Charleston, SC | | 9/6/03 | 9/4/03 | 4 |
| -- | Messick Pocatello, ID | Craig II Fire near Lame Deer, MT | 8/18/03 | 8/25/03 | 8 |
| -- | Weishaar Portland, OR | Strawberry Complex near Clinton, MT | 8/19/03 | 8/24/03 | 6 |
| -- | Berkovitz Phoenix, AZ | Lincoln Complex near Lincoln, MT | 8/19/03 | 8/28/03 | 10 |

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|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| ID-06 | Richmond Fairbanks, AK | | 8/28/03 | 9/10/03 | 14 |
| -- | Walbrun (T) Monterey, CA | | 9/3/03 | 9/10/03 | 8 |
| -- | Carter Spokane, WA | Togo Mountain Fire near Danville, WA | 8/20/03 | 8/28/03 | 9 |
| -- | Solomon Pendleton, OR | B&B Complex near Sisters, OR | 8/21/03 | 8/28/03 | 8 |
| -- | Hoenisch (T) Elko, NV | | 8/24/03 | 9/6/03 | 14 |
| -- | Bunnag Medford, OR | | 8/27/03 | 9/10/03 | 15 |
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | Winslow Fire near Lakeview, MT | 8/22/03 | 8/30/03 | 9 |
| -- | Smith Sacramento, CA | Blackfoot Lake Complex near Kalispell, MT | 8/27/03 | 9/9/03 | 14 |
| -- | Chamberlain Grand Junction, CO | | 9/7/03 | 9/18/03 | 12 |
| -- | Balfour San Diego, CA | Rathbone Fire near West Yellowstone, MT | 8/30/03 | 9/9/03 | 11 |
| -- | Newmerzhycky Sacramento, CA | Grindstone Complex near Willows, CA | 9/4/03 | 9/16/03 | 13 |
| -- | Tonkin Eureka, CA | | 9/15/03 | 9/22/03 | 8 |
| CA-03 | Paulson Minneapolis, MN | Smokehouse Complex near Potter Valley, CA | 9/5/03 | 9/12/03 | 8 |
| CA-01 | Solomon Pendleton, OR | Needle Fire near Winthrop, WA | 9/5/03 | 9/19/03 | 15 |

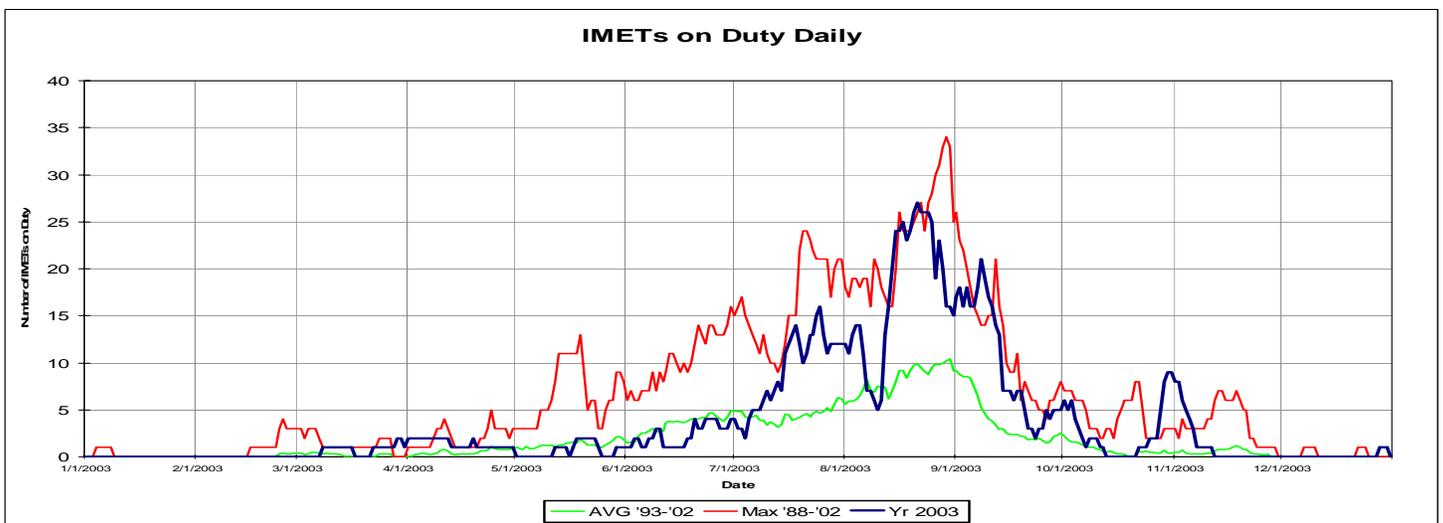
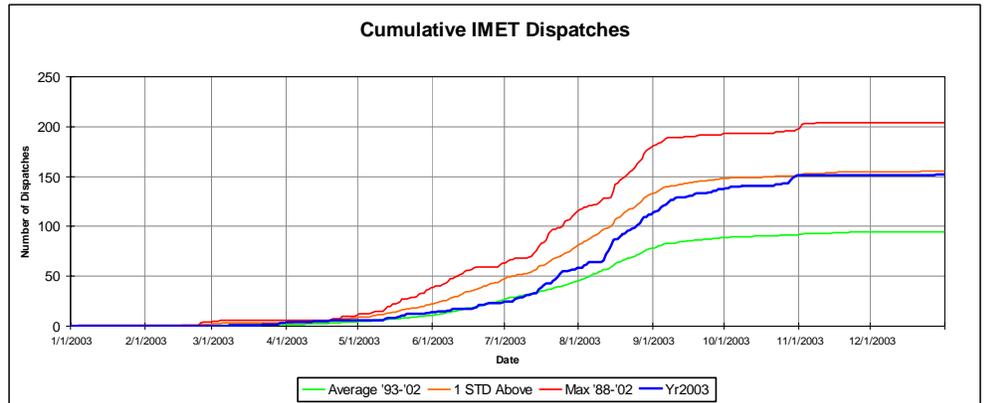
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|-------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| CA-01 | Lipson Riverton, WY | | 9/19/03 | 10/2/03 | 14 |
| WA-01 | Prange Seattle, WA | B&B West near Sisters, OR | 9/7/03 | 9/20/03 | 14 |
| -- | Krohn Boulder, CO | B&B East near Sisters, OR | 9/8/03 | 9/19/03 | 12 |
| -- | Moore Pueblo, CO | Maple Fire near Chelan, WA | 9/8/03 | 9/15/03 | 8 |
| -- | Wilkinson (T) Charleston, SC | Maple Fire near Chelan, WA | 9/10/03 | 9/15/03 | 6 |
| -- | Wright Missoula, MT | Myrtle Creek Fire near Bonners Ferry, ID | 9/8/03 | 9/13/03 | 6 |
| -- | Tonkin Eureka, CA | Covelo Complex near Covelo, CA | 9/10/03 | 9/13/03 | 4 |
| -- | Stavish Medford, OR | Loma Fire near Weaverville, CA | 9/16/03 | 9/20/03 | 5 |
| -- | Bean Hanford, CA | Humboldt Lightning Series near Garberville, CA | 9/19/03 | 9/26/03 | 8 |
| -- | Dean Eureka, CA | Canoe/Honeydew Fire near Garberville, CA | 9/26/03 | 10/3/03 | 8 |
| -- | Brenchley Salt Lake City, UT | Cascade Fire near Salt Lake City, UT | 9/24/03 | 10/1/03 | 8 |
| -- | Hilgendorf Oxnard, CA | Kibbie Fire Yosemite NP, CA | 9/26/03 | 10/4/03 | 9 |
| -- | Balfour San Diego, CA | Poplar Fire Grand Canyon NP, AZ | 9/28/03 | 10/3/03 | 6 |
| -- | Smith Sacramento, CA | Spanish Fire near Laytonville, CA | 10/1/03 | 10/5/03 | 5 |

| <i>ATMU</i> | <i>IMET/NWS Office</i> | <i>Incident, Location, State</i> | <i>Dispatch</i> | <i>Return</i> | <i>Days</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| -- | Borsum Billings, MT | South Fork Sun Burn RX near Great Falls, MT | 10/3/03 | 10/6/03 | 4 |
| -- | Stavish Medford, OR | Isabel Fire near Conconully, WA | 10/3/03 | 10/10/03 | 8 |
| -- | Paulson Minneapolis, MN | Gunflint RX Burn near Grand Maris, MN | 10/8/03 | 10/12/03 | 5 |
| -- | Balfour San Diego, CA | Grand Prix Fire near Mira Loma, CA | 10/22/03 | 11/4/03 | 14 |
| -- | Bean Hanford, CA | Piru Fire near Santa Clarita, CA | 10/25/03 | 11/2/03 | 9 |
| -- | Wallmann Reno, NV | Padua Fire near Claremont, CA | 10/28/03 | 10/30/03 | 3 |
| -- | Hilgendorf Oxnard, CA | Old Fire near San Bernardino, CA | 10/28/03 | 11/6/03 | 10 |
| -- | Bunnag Medford, OR | | 10/30/03 | 11/11/03 | 13 |
| -- | Wallmann Reno, NV | | 10/31/03 | 11/3/03 | 4 |
| -- | Harrison Las Vegas, NV | Cedar Fire near Ramona, CA | 10/29/03 | 11/6/03 | 9 |
| -- | Dean Eureka, CA | Whitmore Fire near Redding, CA | 10/28/03 | 10/31/03 | 4 |
| -- | Stubblefield Flagstaff, AZ | Paradise Fire near Escondido, CA | 10/29/03 | 11/5/03 | 8 |
| -- | Bird El Paso, TX | Ski Run Fire near Ruidoso, NM | 10/29/03 | 11/2/03 | 5 |
| -- | Balfour San Diego, CA | Waterman Incident near San Bernardino, CA | 12/28/03 | 12/30/03 | 3 |

IMET Incident Response Summary

| <i>YEAR</i> | <i>FIRES</i> | <i>ACRES</i> | <i>IMET DISPATCHES</i> | <i>IMET DAYS</i> | <i>IMET HOURS</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>1987</i> | 71,300 | 2,447,296 | 87 | 587 | 8,218 |
| <i>1988</i> | 72,750 | 5,009,290 | 123 | 912 | 12,768 |
| <i>1989</i> | 48,949 | 1,827,310 | 58 | 344 | 4,816 |
| <i>1990</i> | 66,481 | 4,621,621 | 42 | 264 | 3,696 |
| <i>1991</i> | 75,754 | 2,953,578 | 29 | 171 | 2,394 |
| <i>1992</i> | 87,394 | 2,069,926 | 42 | 261 | 3,654 |
| <i>1993</i> | 58,810 | 1,797,547 | 15 | 89 | 1,246 |
| <i>1994</i> | 79,107 | 4,073,579 | 117 | 954 | 13,356 |
| <i>1995</i> | 82,234 | 1,840,546 | 27 | 201 | 2,814 |
| <i>1996</i> | 96,363 | 6,065,998 | 106 | 781 | 10,934 |
| <i>1997</i> | 66,196 | 2,856,959 | 15 | 94 | 1,316 |
| <i>1998</i> | 81,043 | 2,329,704 | 94 | 951 | 13,314 |
| <i>1999</i> | 83,885 | 5,289,190 | 81 | 553 | 7,742 |
| <i>2000</i> | 92,250 | 7,393,493 | 204 | 1,565 | 21,910 |
| <i>2001</i> | 84,079 | 3,570,911 | 112 | 924 | 12,936 |
| <i>2002</i> | 73,457 | 7,184,712 | 174 | 1490 | 20,860 |
| <i>2003</i> | 63,629 | 3,960,842 | 152 | 1406 | 19684 |
| '87 - '03 Average | 75,511 | 3,840,735 | 86 | 677 | 9,471 |
| '94 - '03 Average | 80,224 | 4,456,593 | 108 | 892 | 12,487 |

There were 152 IMET dispatches in 2003, making this the 3rd busiest season since records were kept in 1987. The record year for IMET dispatches was 2000 with 204 and the 10 year average number of annual dispatches is 108. Number of IMET days worked: 1,406 Number of IMET hours worked: 19,684 (9.43 person-years)



There are three time frames that are tracked in regards to IMET dispatches. Two of them are controllable by the NWS, and the third is controlled by the land management agencies. The first time frame is from when the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) calls the NWS Staff Meteorologist to NIFC (SMN) and requests an IMET to when the SMN calls back NICC with the name and contact information of an IMET (this is controllable by the NWS). The second time frame is from when NICC receives the information about the IMET to when the overhead order is faxed to that IMET's office (this is not controllable by the NWS, it is totally dependent on how quickly the order gets through the wildland fire agencies' dispatch system). An IMET cannot leave for a fire until he/she receives that overhead order. The third time frame is from when the IMET receives the fax of the overhead order to when that IMET arrives on scene (this is controllable by the NWS).

We are meeting or exceeding wildland fire agencies' requirement in both distance and time. The agencies want the closest resource (within reason) and they want them onsite in 24 hours or less.

Average Distance From IMET Office to Fire: 458.0 miles
 Median Distance From IMET Office to Fire: 308.5 miles

Overall Average Time For IMET Dispatch: 16.0 hours

Overall Median Time for IMET Dispatch: 9.0 hours

Average Time IMET Order Spent Going Through Fire Agency System (time frame two): 6.1 hours

Median Time IMET Order Spent Going Through Fire Agency System (time frame two): 3 hours

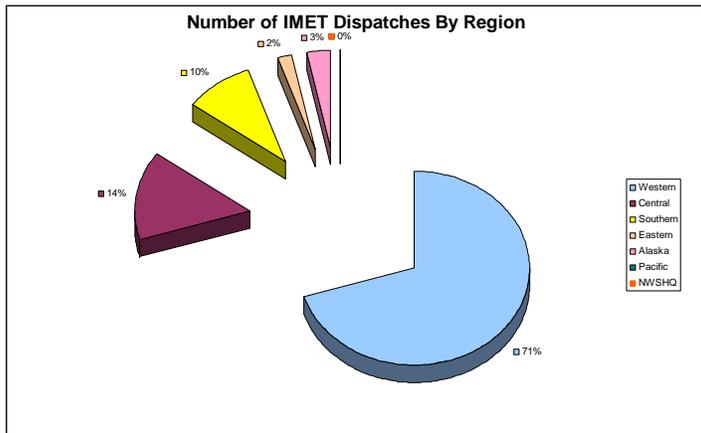
Net Average IMET Dispatch Time (NWS Controlled): 9.9 hours

Net Median IMET Dispatch Time (NWS Controlled): 6 hours

Average Number of Dispatches per IMET: 2.6 dispatches

Average Number of Days per Dispatch: 9.3 days

Number of Dispatch Requests Filled: 100%. Every request that was received by the SMN in Boise was filled. There were several instances where orders for IMETs never made it through the ordering system and the order was “killed” or marked “Unable to Fill (UTF)” after 48 hours without the SMN’s knowledge that the order even existed. Corrective measures were made to ensure that all orders make it up to the SMN so that he can fill the order.



The majority of dispatches are from the Western Region. Western Region also has the most IMETs.

IMET Coverage Within Region 2003

- Western: **78% (102 of 131)**
- Central: **67% (4 of 6)**
- Southern: **54% (7 of 13)**
- Eastern: **no fires**
- Alaska: **100% (2 of 2)**
- Pacific: **no fires**

IMET Coverage Outside of Region 2003

- Western: **14% (5)**
- Central: **49% (18)**
- Southern: **22% (8)**
- Eastern: **8% (3)**
- Alaska: **8% (3)**
- Pacific: **0% (0)**

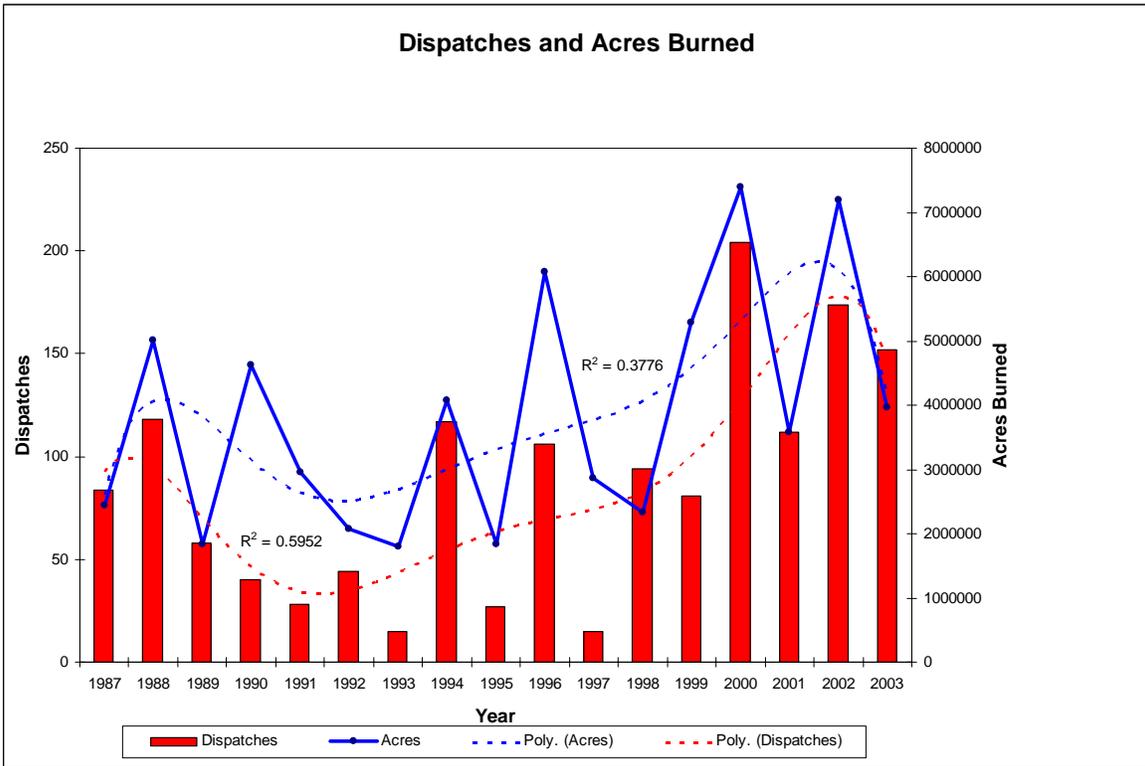
IMET Coverage 2003

| Region | # of IMETs | # of Dispatches | Dispatches per IMET | National Coverage | Avg IMET dispatches (Reg.)/Avg IMET dispatches (Nat.)* |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Western | 31 | 107 | 3.2 | 70% | 126% |
| Central | 11 | 22 | 2.0 | 15% | 78% |
| Southern | 6 | 15 | 2.5 | 10% | 97% |
| Eastern | 5 | 3 | 0.6 | 2% | 23% |
| Alaska | 3 | 5 | 1.7 | 3% | 65% |
| Pacific | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% |

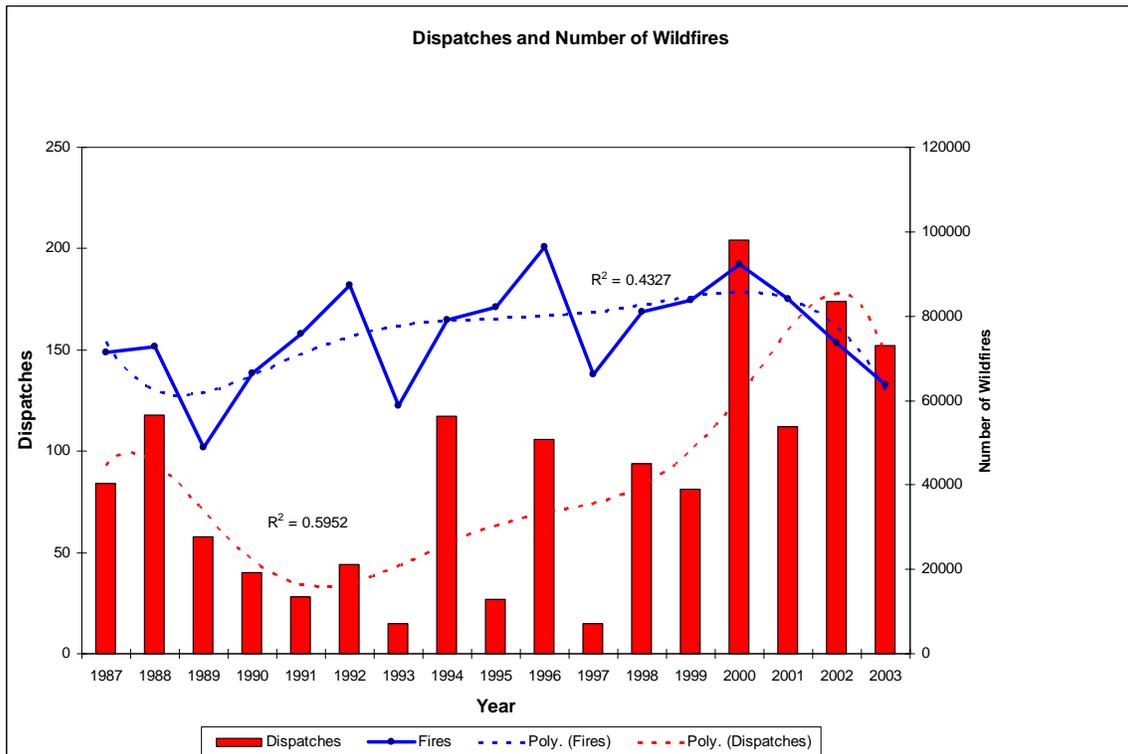
- Note: This column equals the regional average dispatches per IMET (column 4) divided by the national dispatches per IMET (2.6)

Annual Peak IMET Dispatch Times

- Western Region: **29 July – 8 September**
- Central Region: **15 Jun – 15 Jul, 15 Aug – 15 Sep**
- Southern Region: **9 May – 18 July**
- Eastern Region: **25 May – 4 Jul, 30 Oct – 29 Nov**
- Alaska Region: **26 May – 12 August**
- Pacific Region: **None**
- Nationally: **27 July – 8 September**



With more Type 2 teams ordering up IMETs, there are more IMET dispatches per acre burned or fire now than 10 years ago.

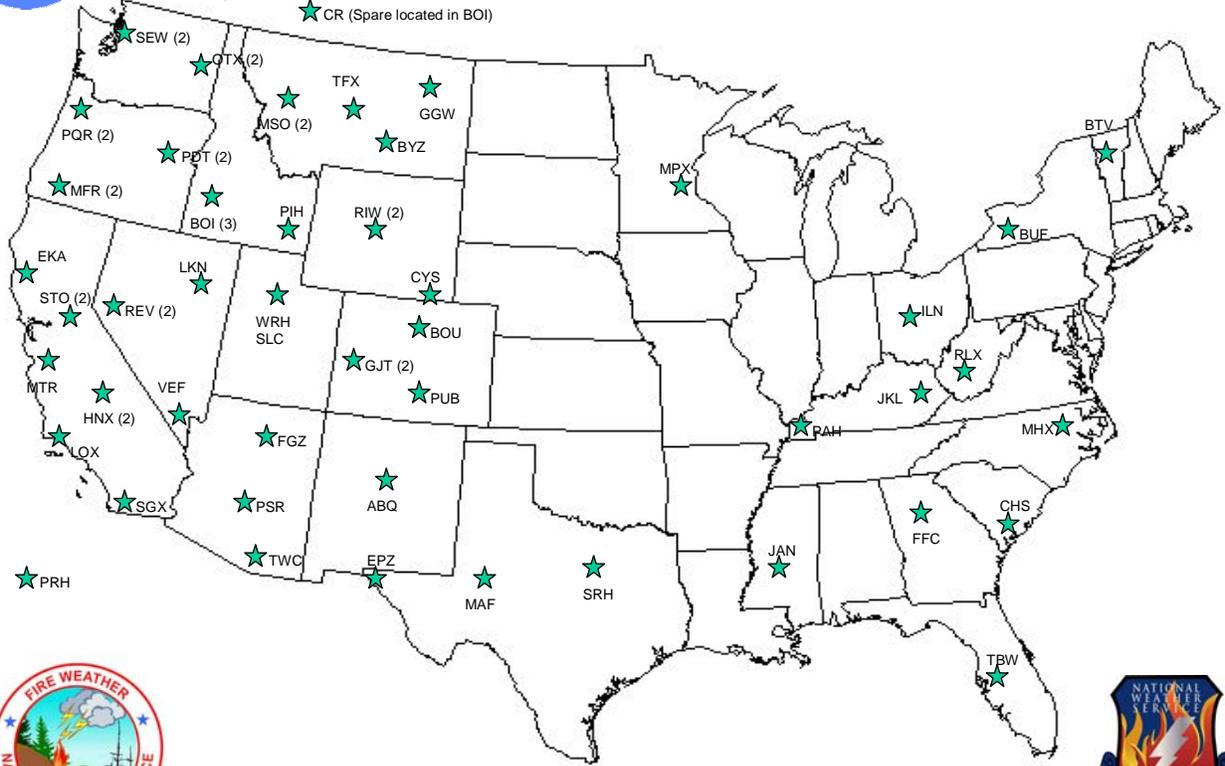




AMRS Locations 2003



- ★ AJK
- ★ AFC
- ★ AFG
- ★ SR (spare located in BOI)
- ★ CR (Spare located in BOI)





ATMU Locations 2003

