



## San Benito-Monterey Unit Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) Summary June 21, 2012



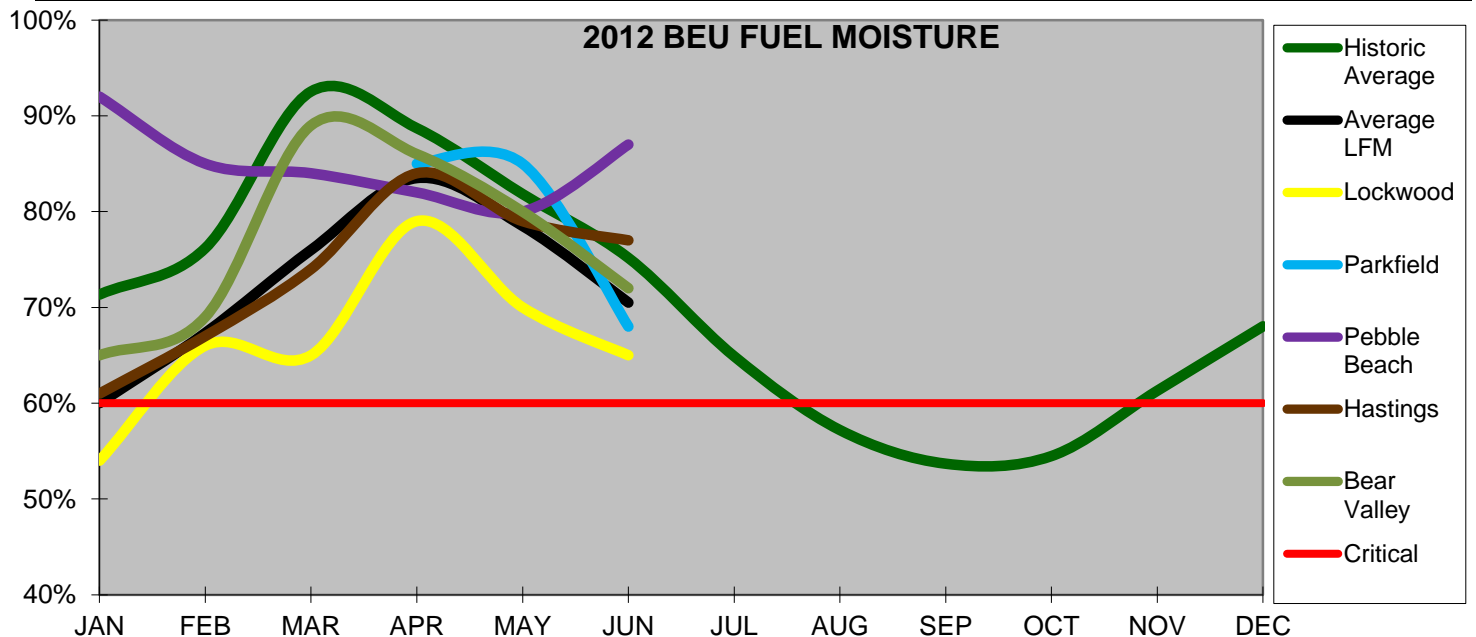
Location	Elevation	1-hour	10-hour	Species	Fuel Moisture			
Data available online at the <a href="#">National Fuel Moisture Database (click for link)</a>					Current	Previous	Change	2011
Battalion 1 Hastings	1,800	7%	8%	Chamise Old	77%	79%	- 2	84%
				Chamise New	109%	127%	- 18	135%
				<i>Ceanothus</i> Old	97%	102%	- 5	121%
				<i>Ceanothus</i> New	115%	127%	- 12	156%
Battalion 2 Pebble Beach	350	9%	10%	Manzanita Old	87%	80%	+ 7	79%
				Manzanita New	199%	--	--	159%
Battalion 4 Lockwood Stn.	2,800	4%	5%	Chamise Old	68%	65%	+ 3	N/A
				Chamise New	98%	102%	- 4	N/A
				Manzanita Old	75%	83%	- 8	N/A
				Manzanita New	153%	169%	- 16	N/A
Battalion 4 Parkfield Stn.	2,200	3%	4%	Chamise Old	68%	88%	- 20	N/A
				Chamise New	78%	215%	- 137	N/A
				<i>Ceanothus</i> Old	81%	115%	- 34	N/A
				<i>Ceanothus</i> New	85%	139%	- 54	N/A
Battalion 6 Bear Valley Stn.	1,400	4%	5%	Chamise Old	72%	73%	- 1	75%
				Chamise New	85%	108%	- 23	107%

The recent hot & dry conditions have increased the drop in fuel moisture, except in some of the late new growth manzanita. Manzanita remains just above critical Lockwood, while it has reached critical in Pebble Beach. Live fuel moisture, while above critical in chamise, is low enough to carry some fire. While the new growth numbers remain high, there is little new growth to slow the spread of fire. The weather forecast calls for warm and dry conditions overall. Sites are slightly below last year's values.

LFM is calculated by the formula (Live Sample Weight-Dry Sample Weight)/Dry Sample Weight

60% = critical LFM for chamise  
100% = critical LFM for conifers

80% = critical LFM for manzanita  
100% = critical LFM for sagebrush



BEU live fuel moisture has continued to drop, especially with the recent hot & dry weather. Initial attack has picked up in the unit, and fire will start to carry in some of the brush stands, especially in the South and North Divisions. For weather, the Monterey Bay Area has a forecast of warm and dry conditions to increase after the passage of the current system. The [monthly outlook](#) from Predictive Services calls for normal fire probability, with an increase in fuel receptivity by the end of the month; the southern areas of the unit (Battalions 3, 4, and 6) have grass that is receptive to burning, while the remainder of the unit has small pockets of green grass remaining. The weather outlook has a possibility of a low pressure gradient keeping temperatures lower for the beginning of the month, with a ridge approaching the state toward the end; this will result in a warming trend. The [seasonal outlook](#) through September from Predictive Services continues to call for high confidence in above average large fire potential for the central coast interior, as well as the high country, foothill and interior valley areas. There is little chance for any precipitation, especially any significant wetting that would alter fuel moisture and fire danger. Current soil moisture only extends for the first few inches, meaning that live fuels will have low moisture stress and a rapid decrease in live fuel moisture. Drought conditions remain at D1, or moderate drought, for the unit, with a chance for increasing and worsening drought. This season should see high rates of consumption, including large diameter heavy fuels.

All of BEU's collection sites and data can be viewed on the [National Fuel Moisture Database](#). The sites have been updated through the mid-June 2012 collection. For reference, here is the information for BEU:

Battalion 1	Hastings (6/14/12)	chamise	109% new	77% old
		<i>Ceanothus</i>	115% new	97% old
Battalion 2	Pebble Beach (6/15/12)	manzanita	199% new	87% old
Battalion 4	Lockwood (6/15/12)	chamise	98% new	68% old
		manzanita	153% new	75% old
	Parkfield (6/16/12)	chamise	78% new	68% old
		<i>Ceanothus</i>	85% new	81% old
Battalion 6	Bear Valley (6/17/12)	chamise	85% new	72% old

Here is the most recent information from our neighbor units:

LPF Monterey District			
Nacimiento (6/15/12)	chamise	115% new	80% old
Ponderosa (6/15/12)	chamise	118% new	78% old
FKU			
Coalinga (6/12/12)	chamise	74% new	68% old
SCU			
Los Gatos (6/1/12)	chamise	113% new	77% old
Mt Diablo (6/2/12)	chamise	125% new	80% old
SLU			
Parkhill (6/13/12)	chamise	103% new	69% old
	sagebrush	125%	
Irish Hills (6/13/12)	chamise	120% new	77% old
	sagebrush	148%	
Lopez Lake (6/13/12)	chamise	103% new	85% old
	sagebrush	163%	
CZU			
35 & 92 (6/14/12)	coyote brush	207%	
Saratoga Summit (6/14/12)	chamise	147% new	93% old
Corralitos (6/14/12)	manzanita	152% new	92% old
Pulgas (6/14/12)	coyote brush	180%	
MMU			
Mount Ophir (5/8/12)	chamise	173% new	86% old
	manzanita	145% new	88% old
TCU			
Sonora (6/12/12)	chamise	147% new	80% old
	manzanita	145% new	96% old