

## **Analysis of the 2022 Western Nebraska Fire Season**

The 2022 fire weather season across western and north central Nebraska was the most active in a decade, highlighted by several high profile wildfires started in or near the forecast area, including three that resulted in Incident Management Team dispatches. Environmental factors supporting wildfire starts and rapid growth included the reintroduction of ‘Exceptional Drought / D4’, record warmth in the fall of 2021, and a particularly windy stretch in the spring of 2022. One result of this combination was the highest number of Red Flag Warnings issued in a single month (April 2022) and throughout the spring season (March-May), dating to even before the very active 2012 fire season. This presentation will provide more in-depth monthly climate information before and during the fire season, along with case studies of some higher profile wildfires and weather factors immediately preceding them.

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