

NOAA Decision Support For Southeast U.S. Wildfires

- Deployed 12 Incident Meteorologists to 8 Large Wildfires from November 2 to December 8 in four states (GA, TN, NC, SC)
- Chimney Top 2 Fire (Gatlinburg, TN) damaged or destroyed 1684 structures, killed 14 people, and injured at least 130 others.
- Due to an ongoing extreme drought and very dry vegetation (fuels), NWS IMETs deployed for up to two weeks at a time, which is rare for the Southeast U.S.

Pinnacle Mountain Fire (Pickens, SC)



Special Considerations/Opportunities

- Smoke dispersion over densely populated areas.
 - Wildfire smoke plumes drifted over major metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Savannah, and Columbia on multiple days in November.
 - NWS Offices in Peachtree City, Greenville-Spartanburg, and Columbia issued high impact briefings/e-mails to core partners and Air Stagnation Advisory products to the public to alert citizens with respiratory challenges.
- Unique opportunity to strengthen local deep core partnerships in a Weather Ready Nation.
 - WFO Columbia IMET partnered with SC state land management officials on the Pinnacle Mountain Fire in the first Type 1 Team dispatch within the state in recent memory.



Chimney Top 2 Type I Team Awaits Weather Briefing