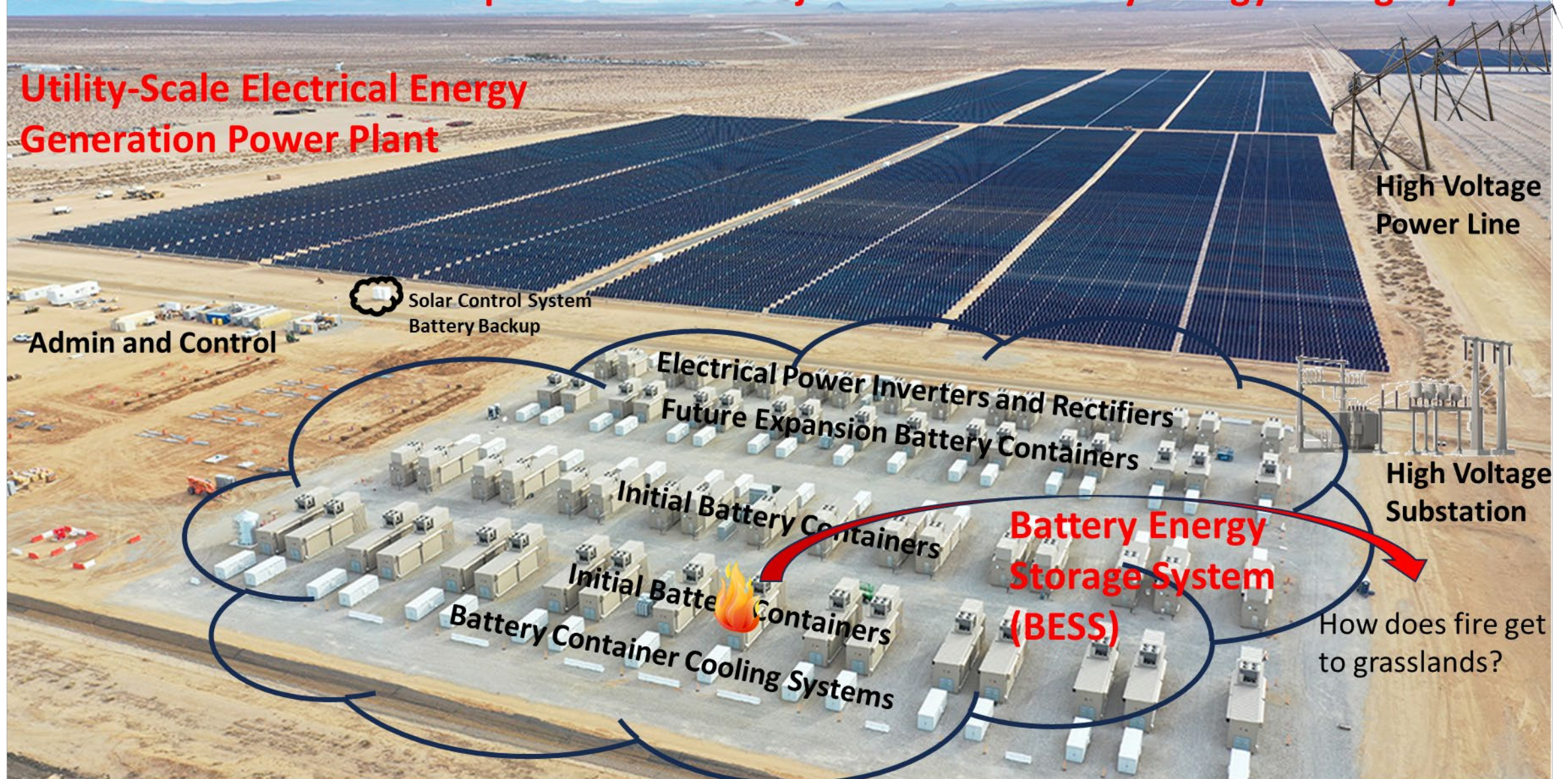


# Simulated View of AES Proposed Rancho Viejo Solar and Battery Energy Storage System

## Utility-Scale Electrical Energy Generation Power Plant





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2017-03-28

## Vehicle Fires Resulting from Hot Surface Ignition of Grass and Leaves [2017-01-1354](#)

One potential fire ignition source in a motor vehicle is the hot surfaces on the engine exhaust system. These hot surfaces can come into contact with combustible and flammable liquids (such as engine oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, gasoline, or Diesel fuel) due to a fluid leak, or during a vehicle collision. If the surface temperature is higher than the hot surface ignition temperature of the combustible or flammable liquid in a given geometry, a fire can potentially ignite and propagate. In addition to automotive fluids, another potential fuel in post-collision vehicle fires is grass, leaves, or other vegetation. Studies of hot surface ignition of dried vegetation have found that ignition depends on the type of vegetation, surface temperature, duration of contact, and ambient conditions such as temperature and wind speed. Ignition can occur at surface temperatures as low as 300 °C, if the vegetation is in contact with the surface for 10 minutes or longer. At surface temperatures of 400 °C, ignition can occur in 3 minutes, and at surface temperatures of 500 °C, ignition can occur in a few seconds. We made measurements of the surface temperature at various locations along the exhaust system of a passenger vehicle, including on the catalytic converter, under different transient conditions. The temperatures were measured using thermocouples welded to the exhaust system. The tests show that the maximum external surfaces temperatures occur under transient conditions after the vehicle comes to a sudden stop. Thus, testing that only measures steady-state temperatures or temperatures while the vehicle is moving will not necessarily capture the worst-case temperatures. For the vehicle tested, exhaust system components can reach temperatures of 400 °C and these temperatures can be sustained for minutes after the vehicle stops, and thus are capable of igniting dried vegetation.

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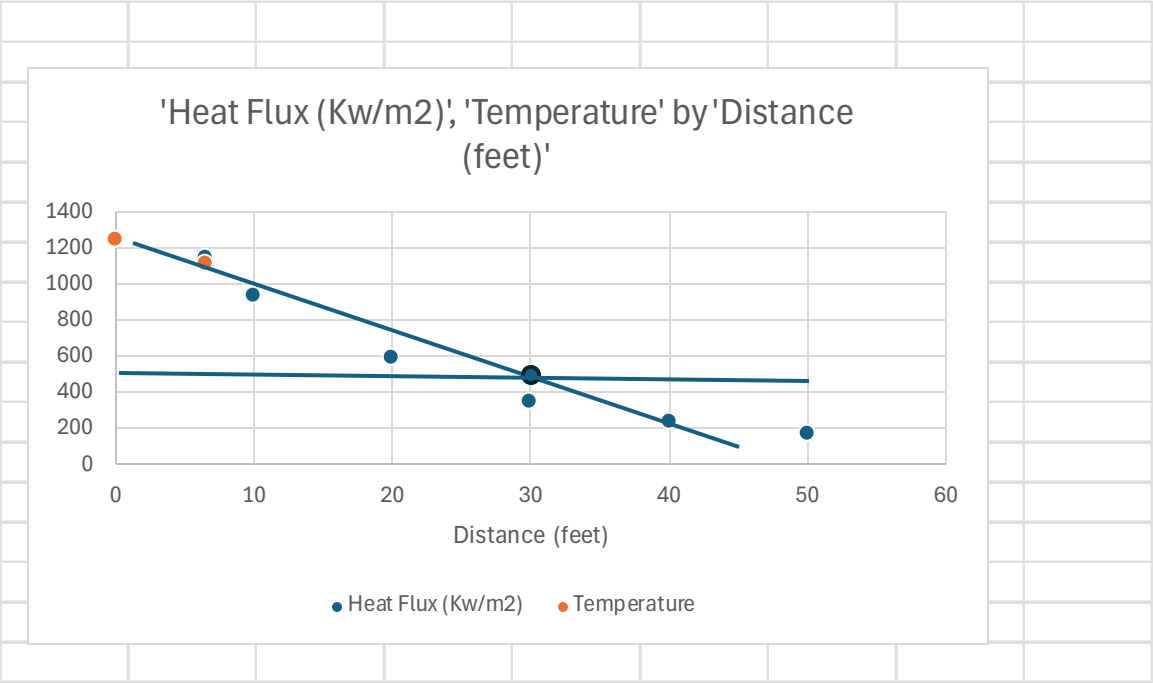
Snap-Acceleration Smoke Test Procedure for Heavy-Duty Diesel Powered Vehicles  
[J1667\\_201802](#)

Hiller Report, page 4/5 states Theoretical complete fire engagement of enclosure would result in external wall temperature of approximately 1241-degree C. This represents an external distance to grass fuel of 0 feet. With a design basis wind of 9 mph, the surface temperature of a first responder at 6.5 feet would intermittently be 1110-degree C. A reasonable assumption is that the decrease in resulting surface temperature would be proportional to the gradient of the Heat Flux. The Heat Flux gradient can be plotted from the data in the Hiller Report, page 34, Table 2. Once the data is plotted the gradient plot is used to plot a similar linear gradient for temperature over distance. The estimated intermittent temperature at 30 feet from the radiating enclosure is on the order of 500-degree C or less.

Distance (feet)	Heat Flux (Kw/m2)	Temperature
0		1241
6.5	1148	1110
10	939	
20	589	
30	348	500
40	235	
50	170	

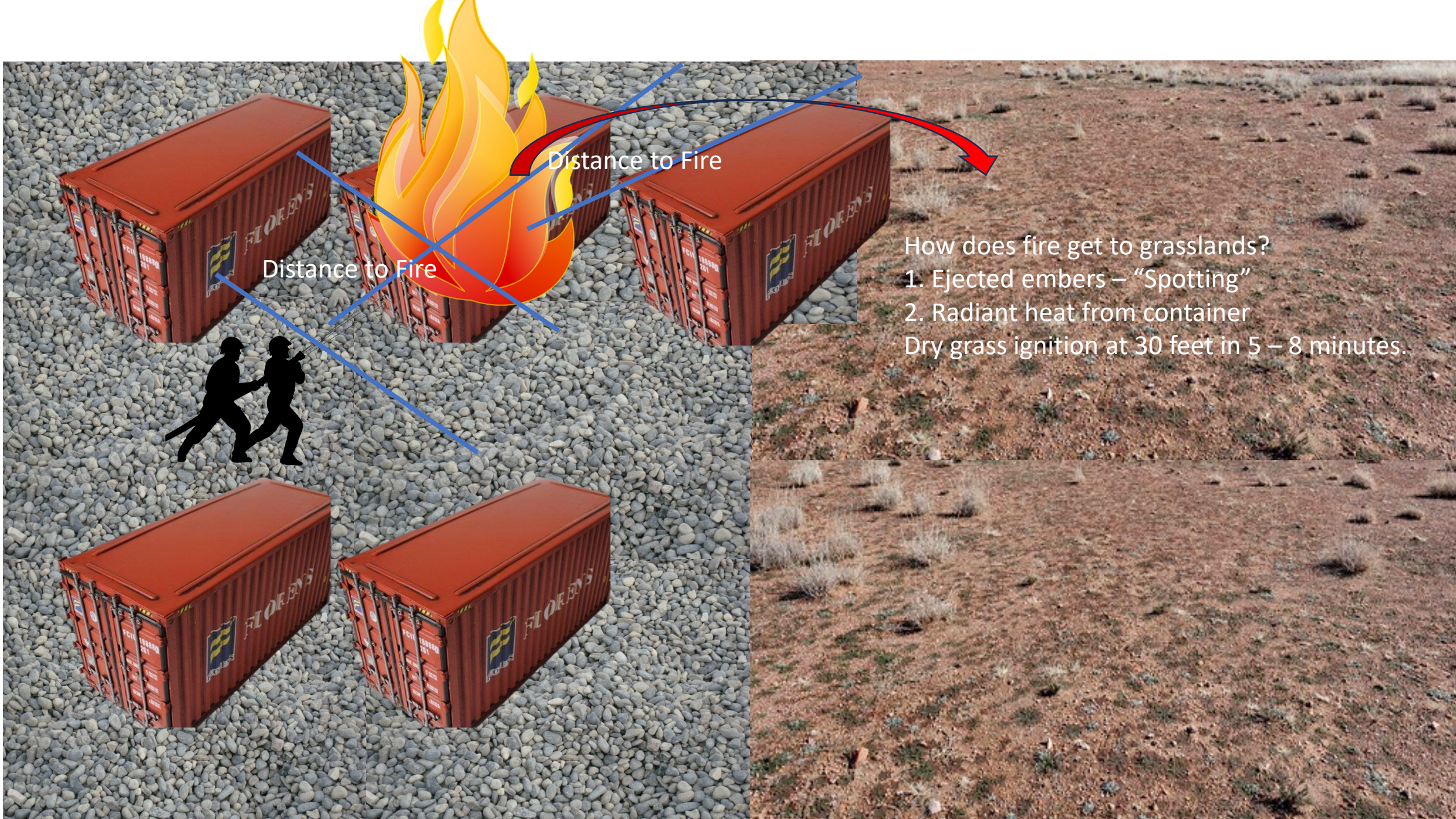
Table 2: Theoretical Momentary Heat Flux as a Function of Distance

Distance	Momentary Maximum Theoretical Heat Flux (kW/m²)
10'	939
20'	589
30'	348
40'	235
50'	170
60'	127
70'	98
80'	77
90'	62
100'	51



The estimated intermittent temperature at 30 feet can be combined with the SAE Technical Paper estimations for dry grass ignition. Even if you apply a large confidence interval on the intermittent temperature below 500-degree C. **It can be established that at 30 feet, dry grass could ignite from the radiated energy of an enclosure fire engagement in the range of 5 – 8 minutes.**





Distance to Fire

Distance to Fire

How does fire get to grasslands?


- 1. Ejected embers – “Spotting”
  - 2. Radiant heat from container
- Dry grass ignition at 30 feet in 5 – 8 minutes.




Fuel Model 3 (Tall Grass – 2.5 ft)

Surface Fire Behavior Lookup Tables (NWCG.GOV)

Fires in this fuel are the most intense of the grass group and display high rates of spread under the influence of wind. Wind may drive fire into the upper heights of the grass and across standing water. Stands are tall, averaging about 3 feet (1 m), but considerable variation may occur. Approximately 1/3 or more of the stand is considered dead or cured and maintains the fire. Wild or cultivated grains that have not been harvested can be considered similar to tall prairie and marshland grasses.

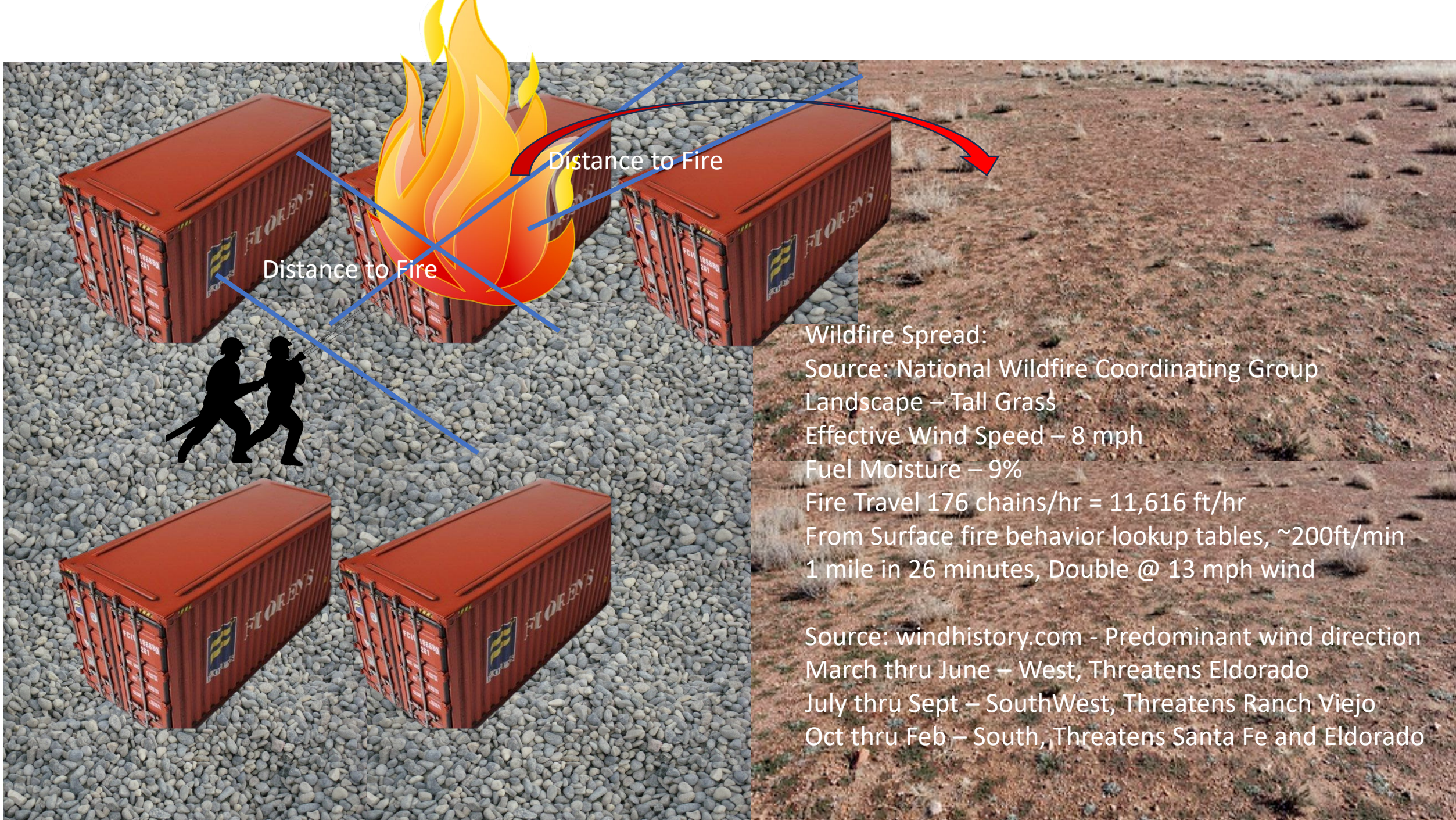


SPREAD Ch/hr		Effective Windspeed(EWS), mph												
		*Use 20ft/FCST wind only if EWS = MFWS and assumes unsheltered wind adjustment (0.4)												
*20ft/FCST	EWS	NWNS/0	Back - 1/2	Flank - 1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
1-hr Moisture, %	1	8	18	<u>32</u>	68	157	261	377	502	636	776	923	1076	1234
	3	6	14	<u>25</u>	52	121	201	290	387	490	598	712	829	951
	5	5	11	<u>20</u>	<u>42</u>	97	162	234	312	395	482	574	669	767
	7	4	9	17	<u>36</u>	82	137	198	264	335	409	486	566	650
	9	4	8	15	<u>32</u>	73	122	176	234	296	362	430	501	575
	11	3	8	14	<u>29</u>	67	111	161	214	271	331	393	458	526
	13	3	7	13	<u>27</u>	62	103	149	198	251	306	364	425	487
	15	3	6	12	<u>25</u>	57	95	137	182	231	282	335	391	448
	17	3	6	10	<u>22</u>	51	85	122	163	207	252	300	350	401
	19	2	5	9	19	<u>43</u>	71	103	137	174	212	253	294	338
	21	2	4	7	14	<u>32</u>	53	77	103	130	159	189	194	194
	23	1	2	4	8	18	<u>30</u>	<u>43</u>	54	54	54	54	54	54



Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme
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### Wildfire Spread:

Source: National Wildfire Coordinating Group

Landscape – Tall Grass

Effective Wind Speed – 8 mph

Fuel Moisture – 9%

Fire Travel 176 chains/hr = 11,616 ft/hr

From Surface fire behavior lookup tables, ~200ft/min

1 mile in 26 minutes, Double @ 13 mph wind

Source: windhistory.com - Predominant wind direction

March thru June – West, Threatens Eldorado

July thru Sept – SouthWest, Threatens Ranch Viejo

Oct thru Feb – South, Threatens Santa Fe and Eldorado



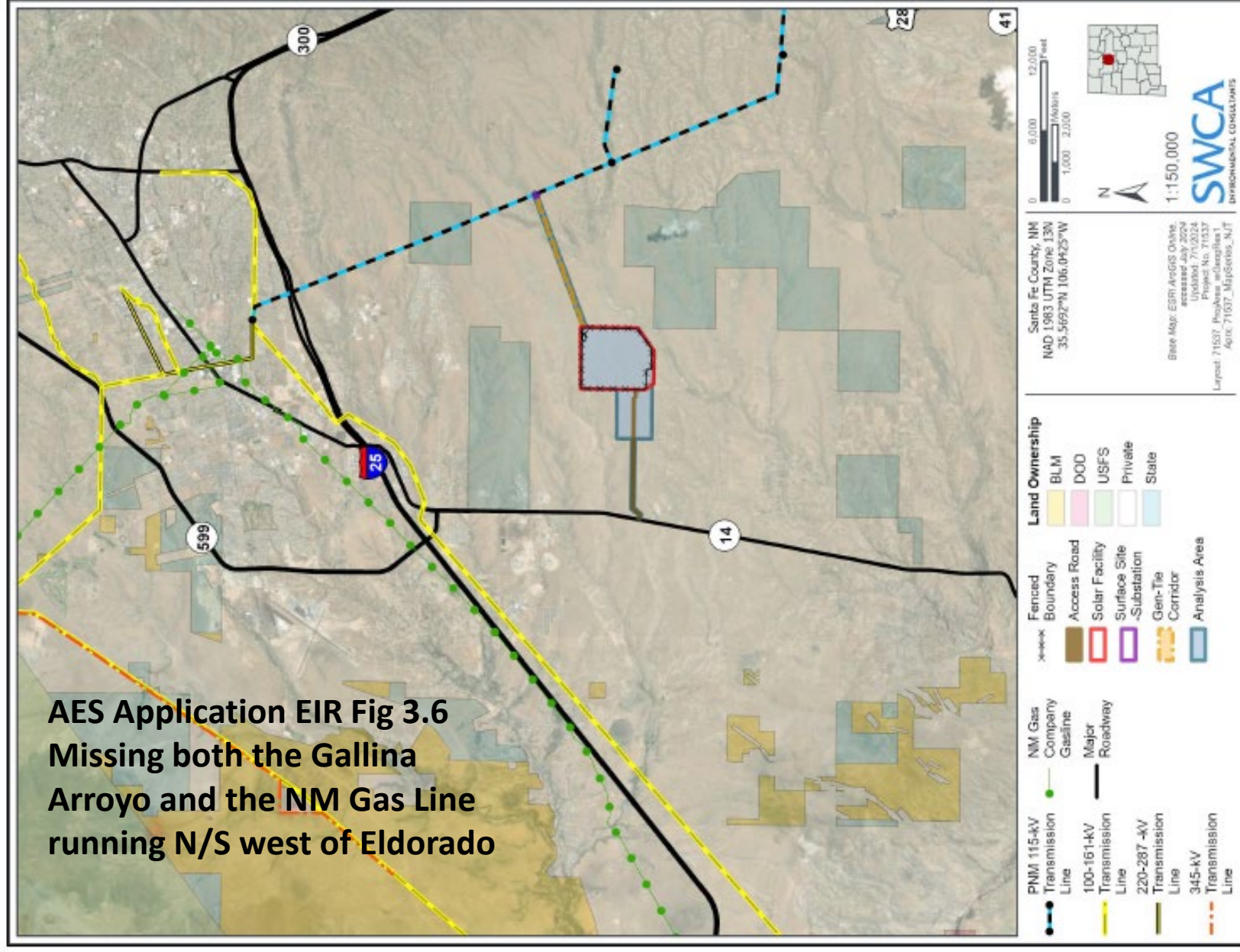


Figure 3.6. Analysis area and surrounding land uses.



## Distance to 47 Encantado Loop

7,628 feet to corner of BESS  
1.45 miles to corner of BESS

PNM Point of Interest

kml\_4606

Gallina Arroyo

Custom Closet of Santa Fe

NM Gas Line not  
shown on AES  
Application EIR,  
Figure 3.6

Pictures at 53 Camerada  
Rd, above ground gas  
lines

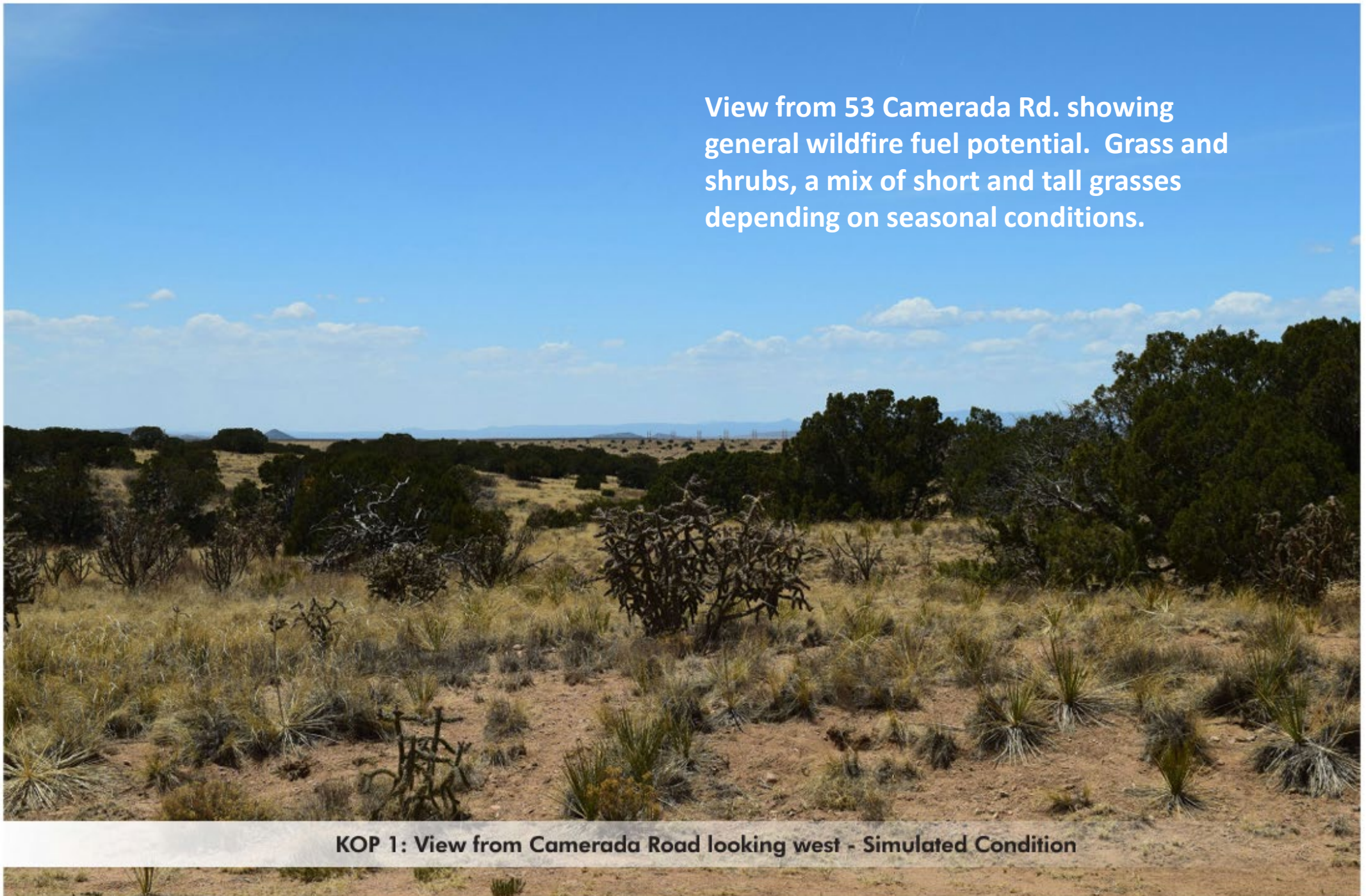
Google Earth

2000 ft





**View from 53 Camerada Rd. showing  
general wildfire fuel potential. Grass and  
shrubs, a mix of short and tall grasses  
depending on seasonal conditions.**



**KOP 1: View from Camerada Road looking west - Simulated Condition**





NM Gas Line not  
shown on AES  
Application EIR,  
Figure 3.6



