

**Austin Water Utility-Wildland Conservation Division
Live Fuel Moisture Monitoring**

Live Fuel Moisture Content Data (%) and Locations

	Onion Creek	Slaughter Creek	Bee Caves	Four Points
11/8/09	126	131	116	114
10/22/09	No data	No data	119	114
10/8/09	130	134	124	130
08/17/09	85	79	75	71
08/08/09	74	119	66	59
07/22/09	No data	55	81	69
07/06/09	87	107	89	86
06/22/09	115	120	106	122
06/06/09	147	133	92	113
05/21/09	No data	No data	123	132
05/08/09	151	166	120	130
04/23/09	111	104	108	129
04/10/09	96	108	90	98
03/20/09	No data	94	86	93
03/04/09	83	85	87	84
02/20/09	90	93	88	88
02/04/09	81	83	86	85
01/21/09	81	88	79	89
01/09/09	87	95	84	91
12/02/08	81	72	No data	No data
11/17/08	89	86	94	91
11/03/08	85	98	94	88
10/20/08	104	118	No data	No data
10/09/08	100	70	No data	No data
09/24/08	128	80	No data	76

We are sampling open, unshaded stands of second growth juniper with tree heights between 3 – 12 feet. The junipers cover less than 50 % of the sampling area and the remainder is grass.

The following table provides an outline of the live fuel moistures that plants typically exhibit as they proceed through the growing cycle. This is a general guide and there is considerable variation based on the vegetation (deciduous, evergreen etc.) and weather. The important thing to remember in this region is that the volatility of junipers is heavily influenced by the live fuel moisture and when the live fuel moisture is less than 80% the junipers become volatile and burn much more readily.

Moisture content (%)	Stage of Vegetative Development
300	Fresh foliage, annuals developing early in the growing cycle
200	Maturing foliage, still developing, with full turgor
100	New growth complete and comparable to older perennial foliage
50	Entering dormancy, coloration starting, some leaves may have dropped off stem. Also indicative of drought conditions.
Less than 30	Completely cured.

NWCG Fireline Handbook Appendix A

Remember that juniper become much more volatile below 80%.