BehavePlus fire modeling system:

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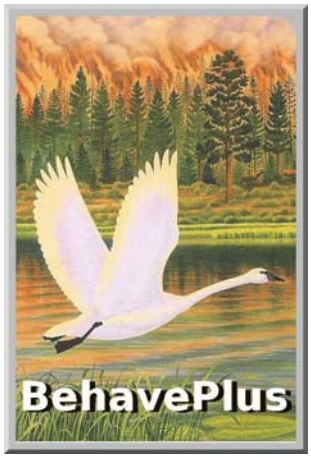

BehavePlus is the successor to BEHAVE, which was first available for field application in 1984. It continues to be an appropriate tool for many fire management applications including prescribed fire planning, fuel modeling, fuel hazard assessment, and projecting the behavior of an ongoing fire. BehavePlus can be effectively used to learn about the fire models (such as transition to crown fire) that are included in spatial modeling systems where relationships are not as readily apparent. The relationship among BehavePlus, FARSITE, FlamMap, and FSPro will be explained.

The workshop will be useful to those not familiar with BehavePlus, to help them see if it meets their needs. It will also be valuable to experienced BehavePlus users who will see helpful features, the newest modeling capabilities, and recently developed supporting material.

BehavePlus includes models for surface and crown fire spread and intensity, crown fire type, safety zone size, size and shape of a point source fire, containment requirements, spotting distance, scorch height, tree mortality, probability of ignition, and fine dead fuel moisture. Special features of the program include producing tables of acceptable fire conditions for fire prescriptions, exporting results for further analysis using a spreadsheet, developing workspaces for documentation files, and more. The program help system includes a description of the many input and output variables. That information is also available in a single reference document with many internal links.

Participants can either watch a demonstration of version 4.1, or run the program along with the presenter. BehavePlus version 4.0 is available on www.FireModels.org along with supporting documentation and training material. Version 4.1 will be available before the Fire Congress.