



Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Information

Of the contributing factors such as fuels, topography, and regulations to be taken into account before conducting a prescribed burn or taking action on a wildfire one factor is completely beyond our control.

Weather is the most constantly changing and hardest to predict variable in a fire environment. When weather forecasts and weather condition information is not given the consideration it deserves, consequences may include increased loss of property and, in extreme cases, a threat to human life.

Daily weather forecasts on TV, radio, or phone apps are a good source of general weather information, but are not specific to fire weather, so it is not recommended to rely on these for planning burning or fire related matters. For example, they often lack detailed information on wind shifts and gusts, which can be critical to fire behavior.

In planning any prescribed burn, it is also important to check weather not only for the day of the burn, but also for at least three days following the burn. A number of serious fires have occurred when someone burned on a day with favorable weather, but a day or two later, an unseen ember was whipped to life when dry winds kicked up. The sources below are good locations to



find weather information specific to fire behavior and fire planning

Kansas Web Sites

Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for Kansas:

alerts.weather.gov/cap/ks.php?x=1

This site will post Red Flag fire weather warnings and watches.

Beginning in October of 2006 the National Weather Service in cooperation with several state and federal fire management agencies began issuing Red Flag warnings. When the conditions indicate a good chance of extreme fire behavior, a Red

Flag weather warning is issued. Red Flag warnings need to be taken just as seriously as any other severe weather warning, and no burning should be conducted on a Red Flag day.

National Weather Service (NWS) Offices, Phone Numbers, and Fire Weather Pages

Dodge City, Kan.

weather.gov/ddc/fire

Goodland, Kan.

weather.gov/gld/fire

Hastings, Neb.

weather.gov/gid/fire

Topeka, Kan.

weather.gov/top/fire

Wichita, Kan.

weather.gov/ict/fire

Springfield, Mo.

weather.gov/sgf/fire

Kansas City/Spring Hill, Kan.

weather.gov/eax/fire

These offices provide more detailed and localized information on current fire weather conditions for a given area.

Kansas Mesonet

www.mesonet.ksu.edu

This site links to weather stations spread across Kansas with current conditions, as well as a link to fire weather, which will show current relative humidity and wind speeds

with gusts for selected stations or statewide. Coming soon will be a page with National Fire Danger Rating System indices, which are still being validated in early 2022 but will soon be posted publicly.

National Web Sites

U.S. Drought Monitor

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Palmer Drought Index

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif

These two sites provide long-term, cumulative drought information that can be useful in determining the dryness of fuels in a wildland fire.

National Fire Weather Page

www.weather.gov/fire

This National Weather Service Web site provides information on national conditions and warnings.

Storm Prediction Center Fire Weather Forecast

www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire_wx/

This National Weather Service Web site provides information on locations the National Weather Service expects to experience extreme fire weather over a given time period.

For more information contact the Kansas Forest Service at (785) 532-3300.

Links to Web sites were current at press time, for an updated list, see our Web site at www.kansasforests.org



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