



Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Information

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

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

There are many sources of fire related weather information available in many forms. The weather forecast that comes out each day on TV, radio, or in the newspaper, applies to fire as well as it does to other activities. For the most part, fire specific weather information is found on the internet. Several helpful Web sites are listed below.

Kansas Web sites

Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for Kansas:

www.nws.noaa.gov/alerts/ks.html

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 are met to indicate there is a good chance of extreme fire behavior, a weather warning called a Red Flag 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.

(620) 225-6514

www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc/?n=firewx

Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-7119

www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/?n=/firewx/index.php

Hastings, Neb.

402-462-4287

www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=firewx

Topeka, Kan.

(785) 234-259

www.crh.noaa.gov/top/?n=fire

Wichita, Kan.

(316) 942-8483

www.crh.noaa.gov/ict/?n=firewx

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

Rangeland Fire Danger Index

www.crh.noaa.gov/product.php?site=TOP&product=RFD&issuedby=TOP

The system of fire danger rating that will continue to be available as one more source of fire weather information.

MesoWest

www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/mesomap.cgi?state=KS&rawsflag=1

This site has links to several weather observation sites to get current weather observation information such as temperature and relative humidity.

RAWS (Remote Automated Weather Station) Sites

Cimarron National Grassland

raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=CGLK1&time=GMT

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=QNRK1&time=GMT

Manhattan Airport

http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=KMHK

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=TGSK1&time=GMT

Missouri Dept. of Conservation,
Clinton, MO

raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=CITM7&time=GMT

RAWS stations are internet linked weather data gathering stations.

There are currently four in the state and one just into Missouri. You can use the one closest to your location to find detailed current weather observations, graphs, fuel moisture, and 24-hour trend.

National Web Sites

US Drought Monitor

www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

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

fire.boi.noaa.gov/

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/index.html

This National Weather Service Web site provides information on what 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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