

MODULE

Fire Weather Forecast

“It is best to read the weather forecast before praying for rain.”

Mark Twain

Group Exercise:

Scenario:

It is August 5th at 1652. Your group is a squad on a 20 person hand crew. Your individual task will be listening to the day’s afternoon fire weather forecast and prepare to give a briefing to the rest of your crew which will soon be starting a burnout operation. The facilitator will determine which forecast zone you are working in.

Task:

As a group, determine the following:

- What information from the forecast would be useful for your briefing?

What information would you leave out and why?

- Based on the forecast for your zone, are there any safety concerns that you would emphasize or focus on?

Fire Weather Forecast

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR SW IDAHO AND SE OREGON
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOISE ID
452 PM MDT SUN AUG 5 2007

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM MDT THIS EVENING FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW HUMIDITY FOR THE BOISE AND PAYETTE FOREST WHICH INCLUDES ZONES 401 THROUGH 404...

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR SCATTERED MAINLY DRY THUNDERSTORMS THROUGH 800 PM MDT AND 700PM PDT FOR THE VALE AND BURNS BLM. THIS INCLUDES FIRE WEATHER ZONES 636 AND 637...

..DISCUSSION..

UPPER LOW OVER NORTHWEST NEVADA HAS PRODUCED SCATTERED DRY LIGHTNING OVER THE BURNS AND VALE BLM TODAY BUT CONDITIONS SHOULD STABILIZE EARLY THIS EVENING. THREAT OF DRY THUNDERSTORMS WILL CONTINUE OVER THE WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS UNTIL DARK. IN ADDITION... GUSTY WINDS TO 20-30 MPH OVER THE RIDGES SHOULD SUBSIDE BY SUNSET.

IDZ401>404-060015-

WESTERN PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST-EASTERN PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST-
NORTHERN BOISE NATIONAL FOREST-SOUTHERN BOISE NATIONAL FOREST-
452 PM MDT SUN AUG 5 2007

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM MDT THIS EVENING FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RH...

..REST OF TODAY...PARTLY CLOUDY WITH ISOLATED DRY THUNDERSTORMS.
THUNDERSTORMS MAY PRODUCE GUSTY WINDS OF 40 TO 50 MPH.

MAX TEMPERATURE.....70 TO 85.

24 HR TREND.....ON AVERAGE...2 DEGREES COOLER.

MIN HUMIDITY....13 TO 22 PERCENT.

24 HR TREND.....ON AVERAGE...UNCHANGED.

20-FOOT WINDS.....

VALLEYS.....SOUTHWEST 8 TO 11 MPH.

RIDGES.....SOUTHWEST 8 TO 14 MPH...WITH GUSTS TO AROUND 25 MPH.

HAINES INDEX.....5 MODERATE.

LAL.....2.

CWR /0.10 INCH/....10 PERCENT.

SMOKE DISPERSAL:

MIXING HEIGHT.....8500-10500 FT AGL.

TRANSPORT WINDS....SOUTHWEST 10 TO 20 MPH.

ORZ636-637-060015-

BURNS BLM-VALE BLM-

452 PM MDT SUN AUG 5 2007 /352 PM PDT SUN AUG 5 2007/

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM MDT /7 PM PDT/ THIS EVENING FOR SCATTERED DRY THUNDERSTORMS...

REST OF TODAY...

SKY/WEATHER.....PARTLY CLOUDY. SCATTERED DRY THUNDERSTORMS.
THUNDERSTORMS MAY PRODUCE GUSTY WINDS.

MAX TEMPERATURE.....80 TO 90.

24 HR TREND.....ON AVERAGE...2 DEGREES COOLER.

MIN HUMIDITY.....7 TO 14 PERCENT.

24 HR TREND.....ON AVERAGE...UNCHANGED.

20-FOOT WINDS.....

VALLEYS.....SOUTHWEST 9 TO 15 MPH.

RIDGES.....SOUTHWEST 11 TO 17 MPH...WITH GUSTS TO AROUND 30 MPH.

HAINES INDEX.....5 MODERATE.

LAL.....2.

CWR /0.10 INCH/.....0 PERCENT.

FORECAST DAYS 3 THROUGH 7...

.TUESDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. A 20 PERCENT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND
THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS 45 TO 60. HIGHS 75 TO 90. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

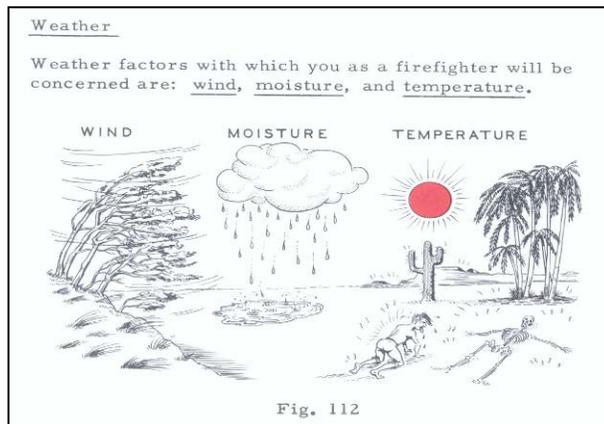
.WEDNESDAY...MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 45 TO 60. HIGHS 75 TO 90. WEST WINDS UP TO 10
MPH.

.THURSDAY...MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 50 TO 60. HIGHS 75 TO 95. WEST WINDS AROUND 10
MPH.

.FRIDAY...MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 50 TO 65. HIGHS 80 TO 95.

.SATURDAY...MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 50 TO 65. HIGHS 80 TO 95.

-----END OF FIRE WEATHER FORECAST-----



(1952 Fireman's Guide)

Want to find out more about fire weather forecasts?

- National Wildfire Coordinating Group list of fire weather web sites:

<http://www.nwcg.gov/teams/wfwt/biblio/weather1.html>

- Wildland Fire Assessment System - Quick Links (provides explanations and current maps of various fire weather products):

<http://www.wfas.net/content/view/16/31/>

- National Weather Service - Fire Weather Home Page: <http://fire.boi.noaa.gov/>