

Weather and Wind Warnings

Overview

Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. List five visual indicators preceding a wind event
2. Describe how situational awareness and safety are interconnected with weather observations and weather forecasts.

Purpose: To emphasize that firefighters must assume personal responsibility for safety through attentiveness to predicted wind events and changing conditions.

Method: Students will watch a video and participate in a group exercise.

Content: Weather, featuring Heath Hockenberry, National Fire Weather Program Manager



Wind and Cloud Indicators



Instructions

The following are some pictures of cloud formations. For Assignment #1, below each picture, describe what future weather patterns the clouds could indicate. In addition, predict the type of fire behavior that could be expected from the possible resulting wind event from each cloud formation. Answer the question for Assignment #2 if suggested by your facilitator.

EXAMPLE



Indicates cool air aloft, possibility instability, could lead to active fire behavior

ASSIGNMENT #1

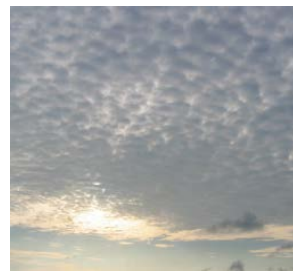












ASSIGNMENT #2

Cloud formations are very good indicators for predicting changes in weather and wind. What other types of indicators can you notice while in the field that would precede a wind event?

“You should have a 90% idea about the weather from daily weather briefings, issued warnings and watches, IAP’s etc., but that 10% has to be filled in by your training, and your situational awareness of the surrounding area.”

~ Heath Hockenberry, National Weather Service; National Fire Weather Program Manager



Special thanks to Heath Hockenberry for his extra efforts in the production of this module.

