

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0000hrs Sunday, **08/07/22** through 2359hrs Saturday, **08/13/22**

CONDITIONS SUMMARY			
National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings			
Area	Current Hazard	Statement	Duration
North/East County	None		
Central County	None		
South/West County	None		
<p>There are four weather hazard forecast categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlook: Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days. Could pose a threat to life/property. • Advisory: Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely. Could cause significant inconvenience. • Watch: Risk of weather hazard soon. Could pose a threat to life/property. • Warning: Weather Hazard is occurring, imminent or likely. Poses a threat to life/property. 			
6-10 Day Weather Outlook		Drought Status	
Temperature	Precipitation	Current Condition	
		North of Boulder Hill: D0: Abnormally Dry South of Boulder Hill: D0: Abnormally Dry	
Above normal predicted	Below normal predicted	The six drought conditions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • D0: Abnormally Dry • D1: Moderate Drought • D2: Severe Drought • D3: Extreme Drought • D4: Exceptional Drought 	
Air Quality			
Location	Current Condition*	Last Week	
Helena	Good	Moderate	
Butte	Good	Good	
<p>The six air quality conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good; Moderate; Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (SG); Unhealthy; Very Unhealthy; Hazardous. 			
Fire Restrictions			
<p>Campfire & Forest Activity Restrictions Applicable to fires under 48" in diameter</p>			

Restriction Level		Current Status
No restrictions on campfires or forest activities		X
Stage 1 Restrictions Campfires limited to established rings, limited smoking areas		
Stage 2 Restrictions Stage 1 restrictions plus total campfire ban, 1pm-1am forest activity limits with patrol requirement		
Area closures: None		
Debris Burning Applicable to fires over 48" in diameter		
Restriction Level		Current Status
No debris burning restrictions Burn permits & permit activation still required		
Winter debris burning restrictions DEQ approval required in addition to county permit activation*		
Some Fire districts/Fire Service Areas with debris burning closures: None		
Debris burning (slash pile burning) closed county-wide		X
*DEQ winter burning restrictions in effect from December 1st – February 28th annually. Call MT DEQ at 406-444-3490 to begin winter burn approval process.		
Fire Danger Indices		
Data Point	Current	Last Week
Energy Release Component (ERC)	45.6	43.9
1000-hour fuel moisture %	12.4	10.9
100-hour fuel moisture %	12.3	14.2
Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)	Current	Last Week
Helena (3800' elevation, Helena airport) site 241907	n/a	486
Galena (6545' elevation, south of Boulder) site 243206	n/a	n/a
Whitehall (4390' elevation, Whitehall) site 243204	n/a	515
<p style="color: red;">Red text indicates record low value for this date.</p> <p>Fire danger considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open debris burning will be reconsidered as the ERC passes 30, in addition to other environmental and staffing considerations. • ERC: Available BTUs per square foot within the flaming front at the head of a fire. • 1000-hour fuels: 3"-8" diameter fuels • 100-hour fuels: 1"-3" diameter fuels • KBDI: The index ranges from zero, the point of no moisture deficiency, to 800, the maximum drought that is possible, and represents a moisture regime from 0 to 8 inches of water through the soil layer. At 8 inches of water, the KBDI assumes saturation. 		
Preparedness Levels (PL)		
Location	PL	Last Week
Northern Rockies	3	3
National	3	3

Preparedness Level general descriptions:

1. Fire personnel can suppress wildfires without requesting additional resources from other areas. Fire activity is at or below normal.
2. Fire personnel can manage fire activity without requesting many resources from other areas. Fire activity is increasing.
3. Fire personnel require some significant resources from other areas. Large incidents are burning for more than two operational periods.
4. Fire personnel are starting to compete for resources from other incidents. Large, complex fire activity is increasing.
5. Fire resource needs are not being met, with significant competition from other incidents. New incident Initial Attack capability is compromised due to large fire activity. At any point along the scale, the index number indicates the amount of net rainfall that is required to reduce the index to zero, or saturation.

Snow Water Equivalencies

Location	% of median	Last Week
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill)	n/a	n/a
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill)	n/a	n/a

* = More than half of the stations in this basin dataset are missing. Data may be unreliable.

Precipitation Water Year-to-Date (October 1- September 30)

Location	% of median	Last Week
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill)	95	95
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill)	102	103

* = More than half of the stations in this basin dataset are missing. Data may be unreliable.

Hydrology in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)

Location	Latest Observed CFS	Last Week Observed CFS	% of normal (mean)
Prickly Pear Creak – Clancy	13.8	16.9	45.65
Boulder River – Boulder	26.4	35.6	82.97
Jefferson River – Three Forks	162	342	23.94

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Burn Permit Data

Data Point5	2022	2021 Totals*
August Activations	0 (closed)	0 (closed)
Year-to-Date Activations	1475	1383
Year-to-Date Permit Sales	639	649

*Number is for total month and/or year

County-Wide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Week
Wildfires	8	3
Fire Restriction Violations	2	2
Structure Fires	0	0
Vehicle Fires	0	2
Other Fire Calls*	4	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	10	11
EMS Calls (includes patient transfers, motor vehicle accidents, and fire support)	26	25
HAZMAT	0	0
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service (includes all the above AND law enforcement)	7944	7649

*Other Fire Calls include Fire Alarms, Arson, Electrical Hazards, Explosions, Fireworks, Gas Leaks, Downed Wires, and Smoke Reports.

Notes

- Debris burning (slash pile burning) is closed in all of Jefferson County. This closure only applies to fires larger than 48” in size. Campfires are still legal at this time, but care should be taken anytime you light a fire. Clear the area around a campfire and have a suitable source of extinguishment readily available. You can be held responsible for a wildfire caused by your actions.
- Ignitions were mostly lightning caused last week, however it should be noted that fuels were more receptive to starts, as multiple small fires resulted from one cell that came through Jefferson County.

Requests

- County Commissioners: our weekly Helena and Dillon Division fire restrictions calls will be held tomorrow morning. The data is beyond Stage 1 restriction trigger points. My suggestion would be to again strongly encourage the USFS to move into Stage 1 restrictions. Should they disagree, we should remain out of Stage 1 to be consistent across the landscape. If one Forest goes into restriction and one does not, I would recommend we also move to Stage 1, as conditions are primed for fire growth. If there are any disagreements with that position, please let me know by 0900 Tuesday morning.

HOW TO GET EMERGENCY INFORMATION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Sign up for emergency phone notifications at:
<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFD59278BCD2>
- Follow the Jefferson County, Montana Sheriff’s Office Facebook Page
- Tune into your local low-power FM radio station:

Basin: 98.3 FM	Boulder: 105.9 FM	Cardwell: 106.1 FM	Elk Park: 103.7 FM
Jefferson City/Clancy: 100.3 FM	Montana City/Clancy: 105.9 FM	Whitehall: 106.5 FM	

The Jefferson County, MT Situation Report is a weekly product of Jefferson County’s Office of Emergency Management.

Conditions data points are as of the morning of the issuance of the Situation Report, while activity data points are for the previous week.

Situation Report Incident Editions may occur in the event of major incidents.

Major incidents are generally incidents with widespread impacts or incidents whose duration is greater than one operational period.

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