

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0000hrs Sunday, **3/12/23** through 2359hrs Saturday, **3/18/23**.

CONDITIONS SUMMARY		
National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings		
Area	Current Hazard	Duration
North/East County (MTZ322)	Winter Weather Advisory	Through 6pm Tuesday
South/West County (MTZ324)	Winter Weather Advisory	Through 6pm Tuesday
There are four weather hazard forecast categories: <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
		N Jefferson Co.: D0: Abnormally Dry SE Jefferson Co.: D0: Abnormally Dry SW Jefferson Co.: D1: Moderate Drought
Below normal predicted	Above 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	Moderate	Moderate
Butte	Moderate	Good
*The six air quality conditions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good; Moderate; Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (SG); Unhealthy; Very Unhealthy; Hazardous. 		
Fire Restrictions		
Campfire & Forest Activity Restrictions Applicable to recreational fires under 48" in diameter.		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 (Slash Pile Burning) Restrictions		Current Status
Applicable to ALL fires over 48" in diameter.		
BBQ pits and burn barrels are considered open fires on DNRC Forest Classified lands and therefore require a burning permit in those locations even if under 48" in size. (36.10.132(10), ARM)		
No debris burning restrictions county-wide.		X
County burn permit & permit activation required.		
Some fire districts/fire service areas with debris burning closures:		
None		
Debris burning closed county-wide.		
Debris Burning Restriction Period		Current Period
Spring/Summer burning period (March 1 – August 31)		X
County burn permit & permit activation required.		
Fall burning period (Sept.1 – Nov 30)		
County burn permit & permit activation required. Burner also must check DEQ ventilation hotline (800-225-6779 or www.burnclosures.mt.gov) for current air quality conditions.		
Winter burning period (Dec 1 – Feb 28)		
County burn permit & permit activation required. DEQ application & approval required*.		
*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. DEQ application and special procedures required in addition to county permit.		
Fire Danger Indices		
Data Point (PSA NR11)	Current	Last Week
Energy Release Component (ERC)	0.3	0.3
1000-hour fuel moisture %	23.4	23.3
100-hour fuel moisture %	23.6	23.6
Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)	Current	Last Week
Helena 3800' elevation, site 241907	n/a	n/a
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	n/a	n/a
Whitehall 4390' elevation, site 243204	n/a	n/a
Ginger (East Elkhorns off Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	n/a	n/a
Fire danger considerations:		
<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	1	1	
National	1	1	
Preparedness Level general descriptions:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	112	109	
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	112	108	
Snow water equivalent is the depth of water that would result from the melting of the snowpack. * = 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) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	121	118	
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	110	106	
* = More than half of the stations in this basin dataset are missing. Data may be unreliable.			
Hydrology in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)			
Stream/Location	Latest Observed CFS	Last Week Observed CFS	Mean
Prickly Pear Creek – Clancy	n/a	n/a	32
Boulder River – Boulder	n/a	n/a	56
Jefferson River - Three Forks	n/a	n/a	1530
ACTIVITY SUMMARY			
Burn Permit Data			
Data Point	2023 YTD	2022 Totals*	
March Activations	109	314	
Total Activations	190	1844	
Total Permit Sales	138	722	
*Number is for total month and/or year			
County-Wide Calls for Service (CFS)			
Type	Last Week	Previous Week	
Wildfires	0	0	
Fire Restriction Violations	0	0	
Structure Fires	1	0	

Vehicle Fires	3	0
Other Fire Calls*	4	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	10	24
EMS BLS Calls	17	11
EMS ALS Calls	5	1
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	2495	2271
*Other Fire Calls include Arson, Aircraft Incidents, Downed Wires, Electrical Hazards, Explosions, Fire Alarms, Fireworks, Gas Leaks, HAZMAT, and Smoke Reports.		
Notes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens should be prepared to manage any impacts to their property from ice jams due to the ongoing freeze/thaw cycle of early spring. It is important to purchase and have sandbags and sand on-hand to mitigate any potential ice jam flooding. 		
Requests		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None currently 		
HOW TO GET EMERGENCY INFORMATION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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