

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **3/18/24** through 2359hrs Saturday, **3/24/24**.

CONDITIONS SUMMARY

National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings

| Current Hazard | Area | Duration |
|----------------|------|----------|
| None | | |
| | | |

There are four weather hazard forecast categories:

- 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 Climate Outlook from the National Weather Service

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Temperature | Near normal predicted |
| Precipitation | Near normal predicted |

Weekly forecast from the National Weather Service

- Drier, milder, and breezy conditions expected by mid-week before cooler and unsettled weather returns at the end of the week into the weekend.

Drought Status from NOAA

| Area | Current Drought Condition |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| North JeffCo. | D0 |
| South JeffCo. | D0 |
| West JeffCo. | D1 |

The six drought conditions are: None; D0: Abnormally Dry; D1: Moderate Drought; D2: Severe Drought; D3: Extreme Drought; D4: Exceptional Drought.

Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) from NOAA

| Area | Current EDDI Category |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Jefferson County | EW0 to neutral |

EDDI is a drought index based upon the “thirst” of the atmosphere – which leads to the drying of soils and vegetation. EDDI shows the anomaly in daily evaporative demand aggregated of a specific time window at a given location. EDDI is not a drought or soil moisture level predictor, but at short timescales it can indicate the potential for vegetative and soil drying conditions.

The EDDI categories are:

Neutral

Wetness Categories: EW4, EW3, EW2, EW1, EW0 (4 being the wettest to 0 least wet)

Dryness Categories: ED4, ED3, ED2, ED1, ED0 (4 being the driest to 0 least dry)

| Air Quality from Montana DEQ | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| Location | Current Condition | Last Report |
| Helena | Good | Good |
| Butte | Good | Good |
| The six air quality conditions and descriptions are: | | |
| Good: Air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. | | |
| Moderate: Air quality is acceptable, however there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. | | |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (SG): Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected. | | |
| Unhealthy: Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. | | |
| Very Unhealthy: Health alert: the risk of health effects is increased for everyone. | | |
| Hazardous: Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected. | | |
| Fire Restrictions | | |
| Current Status | Interagency campfire & forest activity restrictions Applicable to recreational fires under 48" in diameter. | |
| X | No restrictions on campfires or forest activities | |
| | 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 | |
| Current Status | County debris burning (slash pile burning) restrictions 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) | |
| X | No debris burning restrictions county-wide. County burn permit & permit activation required. | |
| | Some fire districts/fire service areas with debris burning closures: None | |
| | Debris burning closed county-wide. | |
| Current Period | Montana DEQ debris burning restriction period | |
| X | Spring/Summer burning period (March 1 – August 31) 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 the winter burn approval process. DEQ application and special procedures required in addition to county permit. | | |

| Fire Danger Indices | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|------------------------|---|
| NRCC PSA NR11 Data Point Summaries* | | Current | | Previous Report |
| Energy Release Component (ERC) | | 12.14 | | 0.64 |
| 1000-hour fuel moisture % | | 20.20 | | 23.18 |
| 100-hour fuel moisture % | | 17.76 | | 23.31 |
| GIDC Data Point Summaries** | | Current ERC | Current ERC Percentile | Previous Report ERC Previous Report ERC Percentile |
| FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC | | 13.5 | 16.8 | 0.8 8.9 |
| FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC | | 11.1 | 13.9 | 0.2 4.6 |
| Site Specific Data | | Current ERC | Current KBDI | Previous Report ERC Previous Report KBDI |
| Helena 3800' elevation, site 241907 | | 26 | 473 | 1 471 |
| Whitehall 4390' elevation, site 243204 | | 0 | 44 | 0 36 |
| Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206 | | 0 | 2 | 1 0 |
| Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302 | | 19 | 37 | 1 33 |
| Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303 | | 1 | 3 | 1 0 |
| 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. | | | | |
| *NR11 PSA RAWs sites include Dearborn (241910), Elkhorn (243303), Helena (241907), Little Snowy (242207), South Fork Judith (242102) using Fuel Model Y. | | | | |
| **GFIDC (Great Falls Interagency Dispatch Center) FDRA (Fire Danger Rating Area) ERC. The Helena Ranger District of the USFS and the Helena Unit of the DNRC Central Land Office utilize these data points for fire danger analysis. FDRA #1 RAWs sites include Elkhorn (243303) and Helena (241907), and FDRA #2 RAWs sites include Gleason (241802), Benchmark (241901), and S. Fork Judith (242102). | | | | |
| Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: Keetch-Byram Drought Index. 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) | | | | |
| Geographic Area | | | PL | Previous Report PL |
| Northern Rockies | | | 1 | 1 |
| National | | | 1 | 1 |
| Preparedness Level general descriptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fire personnel can suppress wildfires without requesting additional resources from other areas. Fire activity is at or below normal. Fire personnel can manage fire activity without requesting many resources from other areas. Fire activity is increasing. Fire personnel require some significant resources from other areas. Large incidents are burning for more than two operational periods. Fire personnel are starting to compete for resources from other incidents. Large, complex fire activity is increasing. 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 | Previous Report | | |
| Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893 | | 67 | 67 | | |
| Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722 | | 72 | 72 | | |
| 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 | Previous Report | | |
| Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893 | | 79 | 78 | | |
| Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722 | | 82 | 82 | | |
| * = More than half of the stations in this basin dataset are missing. Data may be unreliable. | | | | | |
| Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) | | | | | |
| Stream/Location | Latest observed CFS | Previous Report observed CFS | Historical data for today's date | | |
| | | | Mean | High | Low |
| Prickly Pear Creek – Clancy | 40.5 | 40.5 | 33 | 95 | 12 |
| Boulder River – Boulder | 80.4 | 60.2 | 63 | 195 | 22 |
| Jefferson River – Twin Bridges | 1510 | 1180 | 1370 | 3330 | 627 |
| Jefferson River - Three Forks | 1870 | 1330 | 1560 | 3680 | 874 |
| Road Conditions | | | | | |
| Visit MDT’s interactive road conditions map at: www.511mt.net | | | | | |
| ACTIVITY SUMMARY | | | | | |
| Burn Permit Data | | | | | |
| Data Point | | Current YTD/MTD | Previous Report YTD/MTD | 2023 Total | |
| Total Permit Sales | | 266 | 206 | 687 | |
| Total Activations | | 428 | 306 | 1685 | |
| March Activations | | 315 | 193 | 167 | |
| County-wide Calls for Service (CFS) | | | | | |
| Type | Last Week | Previous Report | YTD | 2023 | |
| Wildfires | 3 | 1 | 5 | 26 | |
| Fire Restriction Violations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | |
| Structure Fires | 0 | 0 | 6 | 20 | |
| Other Fire Calls* | 7 | 3 | 39 | 261 | |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury) | 7 | 8 | 132 | 656 | |
| EMS BLS Calls | 13 | 11 | 136 | 622 | |
| EMS ALS Calls | 4 | 9 | 51 | 234 | |
| Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS. | | 2385 | 2156 | | |
| *Other Fire Calls include Arson, Aircraft Incidents, Downed Wires, Electrical Hazards, Explosions, Fire Alarms, Fireworks, Gas Leaks, HAZMAT, Smoke Reports, and Vehicle Fires. | | | | | |
| Statewide Montana Wildfire Data | | | | | |
| 2024 YTD Quantity | 2024 YTD Acreage | 2023 Total Quantity | 2023 Total Acreage | | |
| 42 | 2950 | 1662 | 123,133 | | |

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

| Course | Date/Time | Location | Contact |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| L1301 Continuity Planning | 5/29-5/30 | Helena | ryanlee@mt.gov |
| FEMA COML, COMT, AUXCOM | TBD | TBD | al@simonshome.org |
| | | | |

Exercise Opportunities

| Exercise | Date/Time | Location | Contact |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Quad-County Wildfire Pre-Plan Review | April 30 th , 1800 | Whitlach Station, Unionville | ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov |
| CAT Camp | 6/7-6-9 | Helena CLO | TBA |

Grant Opportunities

| Grant | Due Date | Contact |
|-------|----------|---------|
| | | |

Collaboration Opportunities

| Dates/Times | Meeting |
|-------------|--|
| 3/26 @ 1100 | Tri-County COAD - Helena |
| 3/27 @ 0900 | Jefferson County LEPC - Whitehall |
| 3/27 @ 1200 | Butte/Silver Bow LEPC - Butte |
| 4/1 @ 1830 | Lewis & Clark County Fire Council - Helena |
| 4/9-4/10 | Montana Prescribed Fire Council - Helena |
| 4/9-4/11 | Northern Rockies Spring IMT Meetings - Missoula |
| 4/11 @ 0900 | Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City |
| 4/16 @ 1500 | Lewis & Clark County LEPC - Helena |
| 4/16 @ 1830 | Jefferson County Rural Fire Council - Boulder |
| 4/17 @ 0900 | FireSafe Montana – Montana City |
| 4/17 @ 1300 | Southwest Montana COAD - Bozeman |
| 4/18 @ 1130 | Gallatin County AHAD (LEPC) - Bozeman |
| 4/23 @ 1100 | Tri-County COAD - Helena |
| 4/24 @ 1200 | Butte/Silver Bow LEPC - Butte |

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Schedule

| Dates | Event |
|-----------|---|
| 4/1-4/5 | L-381 Training – Helena |
| 4/11 | NR Team 9 Spring Meeting – Missoula |
| 4/23-4/25 | New DES Coordinator Training - Helena |
| 5/17-5/19 | Wildfire Leadership Conference - Billings |
| 5/24-5/27 | Out of State – Memorial Day Weekend |
| 6/7-6-9 | CAT Camp - Helena |
| | |
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| | |

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- We saw the fuels conditions wake up last week, and we had more grass fires as evidence of it. With gradually warming conditions we will likely see more until green-up.
- **VFD's: Please strongly consider sending crews to this year's CAT Camp, it is AGAIN being held in Helena from June 7th-9th.** We only had two engines from Jefferson County last year. Both of those who went had an incredible experience working with live fire and live air support. It is not common for this to be held this close. This year they will be having two tracks, one for those with less experience, and one for those with more. Registration information will be passed along when it becomes available.
- I will be out of the office next week for training, so there will be no Situation Report issued until the week of April 8th.

HOW TO GET EMERGENCY INFORMATION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Sign up for emergency phone notifications:
<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFD59278BCD2>
- Follow the Jefferson County, Montana Sheriff's Office Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyMontanaSheriffsOffice>
- Tune into your local low-power FM radio station: Basin: 98.3FM; Boulder: 105.9FM; Cardwell: 106.1FM; Elk Park: 103.7FM; Jefferson City/Clancy: 100.3FM; Montana City/Clancy: 105.9FM; Whitehall: 106.5FM.

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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