

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **4/15/24** through 2359hrs Saturday, **4/21/24**.

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	Above normal predicted

Weekly forecast from the National Weather Service

- Gusty winds Monday, with cooler, wetter conditions predicted towards the end of the week.

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	Neutral to ED0 in west-central areas.

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)	26.04		18.56	
1000-hour fuel moisture %	17.58		19.38	
100-hour fuel moisture %	15.51		18.54	
GIDC Data Point Summaries**	Current ERC	Current ERC Percentile	Previous Report ERC	Previous Report ERC Percentile
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	32.5	53.3	27.3	39.2
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	25.9	46.8	25	46.8
Site Specific Data	Current ERC	Current KBDI	Previous Report ERC	Previous Report KBDI
Helena 3800' elevation, site 241907	40	443	35	441
Whitehall 4390' elevation, site 243204	4	68	3	61
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	1	7	0	5
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	39	52	34	47
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	27	10	18	6

Fire danger considerations:

- 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:

- 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:

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	Previous Report
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	45	67
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	49	n/a

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	81
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	85	87

* = 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	50.5	79.8	59	189	22
Boulder River – Boulder	166	323	229	741	41
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	1770	2870	2420	6000	800
Jefferson River - Three Forks	1990	3010	2550	5430	1000

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	441	395	687
Total Activations	854	729	1685
April Activations	347	222	343

County-wide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2023
Wildfires	2	0	7	26
Fire Restriction Violations	0	0	0	7
Structure Fires	1	0	9	20
Other Fire Calls*	3	2	51	261
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	9	14	163	656
EMS BLS Calls	12	9	178	622
EMS ALS Calls	7	4	68	234
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	3233	3007		

*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
116	5765	1662	123,133

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
G191 EOC/ICS Interface	5/14	Virtual	https://forms.office.com/g/eXkPpNqeim
L1301 Continuity Planning	5/29-5/30	Helena	ryanlee@mt.gov
G205 Recovery – Local Role	6/26-6/27	Virtual	https://forms.office.com/g/ep0WgrCAeN
MGT 346 EOC Ops & Planning	8/21-8/22	Butte	ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov
Pediatric Disaster Response	10/21-10/22	Helena	https://teex.org/class/MGT439/
L1301 Continuity Planning	11/13-11/14	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	Whitlatch 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
4/23 @ 1100	Tri-County COAD - Helena
4/24 @ 1200	Butte/Silver Bow LEPC - Butte
4/30 @ 0900	Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest Coordination Meeting - Boulder
4/30 @ 1800	Quad County Wildfire Pre-Plan Review - Unionville
5/1 @ TBA	Beaverhead-Deerlodge Coordination Meeting - Dillon
5/7 @ 0900	Senior officials & response agencies Wildfire Coordination Meeting - Boulder
5/8 @ 1400	JCSO wildfire pre-season coordination meeting - Boulder
5/8 @ 1830	Jefferson Valley SAR TTX – Whitehall
5/9 @ 0900	Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City
5/13 @ 1630	HAZMAT Awareness – Basin VFD
5/21 @ 1500	Lewis & Clark County LEPC - Helena
5/22 @ 1200	Butte/Silver Bow LEPC - Butte
5/28 @ 1100	Tri-County COAD - Helena
5/30 @ 1300	Central Region HCC Food Borne Illness TTX - Boulder
6/7 – 6/9	CAT Camp – Helena
6/13 @ 0900	Tri-County Firesafe Working Group – Montana City

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

Dates	Event
4/23	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

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has re-started work on I-15 between Jefferson City and Clancy. Segments of the southbound lanes will be converted to two-way traffic with crossovers and a single lane in each direction. Expect speed and lane restrictions through the rest of the summer. The project website is located here: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i15bridges/> Those with questions may contact project PIO Chris Averill at chrisa@strategies360.com or at 406-285-1006.
- MDT has confirmed that the culvert replacement project under Montana Highway 282 at Haab Lane between Clancy and Montana City will begin sometime after school gets out, but not later than mid-July. The project is scheduled to last for 40 days, with Highway 282 completely closed for 10 days of that timeframe. More information will be released by MDT as the work gets closer to beginning.
- **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.

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. If you wish to unsubscribe from this email list, please email: ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov