

SITUATION REPORT

Spring-Summer-Fall Edition

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **03/23/25** through 2359hrs Saturday, **03/29/25**.

CONDITIONS SUMMARY

National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings

Current Hazard(s)	Area	Duration
Winter Storm Warning	North & West Jefferson County	From 3/31 @ 6pm - 4/2 @ 12am

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	Above normal predicted
Precipitation	Below normal predicted

Weekly weather hazard key points from the National Weather Service

- Periods of rain and snow are likely this week, with a slight potential for heavy snow. Isolated thunderstorms are also possible.

Drought Status from NOAA

Area	Current Drought Condition	Previous Report Drought Condition
North JeffCo.	D1/D2	D2
South JeffCo.	D0/D1	D0/D1
West JeffCo.	D2	D1/D2

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

Earthquake Summary from USGS

Area	YTD # of Earthquake Occurrences (> M1.0)	Previous Report YTD Earthquakes	2024 # of Earthquake Occurrences
Jefferson County	4	4	28

Air Quality from Montana DEQ

Location	Current Condition	Previous 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 public is less likely to be affected.

Unhealthy: Some members of the 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 are limited to improved rings 3 feet or smaller; outdoor smoking is limited to areas cleared of vegetation for 3 feet.
	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. Between Dec. 1 & Feb. 28 DEQ application & approval also required*.
	Some fire districts/fire service areas with debris burning closures:
	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. The 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). DEQ application & approval required for burning*. County burn permit & county permit activation is still required in addition to DEQ permit.
<p>*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.</p>	

Fire Danger Indices

NRCC Data Point Summaries*	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
NR11 PSA Energy Release Component	17.38	< 60th	12.5	< 60th				
NR11 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	18.90	> 40th	20.81	> 40th				
NR11 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	16.36	> 40th	19.20	> 40th				
NR09 PSA Energy Release Component	.02	< 60th	0.62	< 60th				
NR09 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	23.16	> 40th	23.09	> 40th				
NR09 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	23.36	> 40th	23.30	> 40th				
GDC Data Point Summaries**	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
Site Specific Data	Current				Previous Report			
	ERC	BI	SC	KBDI	ERC	BI	SC	KBDI
Helena (CLO, Helena Valley, N. of Lincoln Rd.) 3800' elevation, site 241907	31	25	3	498	29	21	2	495
Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.) 4390' elevation, site 243204	0	0	0	411	0	0	0	468
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	0	0	0	275	0	0	0	277
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	27	18	2	264	29	33	6	276
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	11	7	1	143	1	0	0	168

*NR11 PSA RAWs sites include Dearborn (241910), Elkhorn (243303), Helena (241907), Little Snowy (242207), South Fork Judith (242102) using Fuel Model Y. NR09 RAWs sites include Antelope (245415), Brenner (245409), Ennis (245501), Galena (243206), Wise River (245405) 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: Energy Release Component. The available BTUs per square foot within the flaming front at the head of a fire.
- BI: Burning Index. A measure of fire intensity. BI combines the Spread Component and Energy Release Component to relate to the contribution of fire behavior to the effort of containing a fire. BI has no units, but in general doubling the BI indicates that twice the effort will be required to contain a fire as was previously noted, and the number is a rough estimate of 10 times the flame length of a fire.
- 1000-hour fuels: 3"-8" diameter fuels; 100-hour fuels: 1"-3" diameter fuels.
- SC: Spread Component. The predicted forward rate of spread of a head fire expressed in feet per minute.
- 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.

NRCG Preparedness Levels (PL)

Geographic Area	PL	Previous Report PL
Northern Rockies	1	1
National	2	2

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.

NRCS Snow Water Equivalencies

Location	Current		Previous Report	
	% of median	Percentile	% of median	Percentile
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	86	28	89	36
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	94	35	94	35

Snow water equivalent is the depth of water that would result from the melting of the snowpack.

* = Basin dataset may be unreliable due to missing information.

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

Location	Current		Previous Report	
	% of median	Percentile	% of median	Percentile
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	95	36	90	31
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	96	37	87	22

* = Basin dataset may be unreliable due to missing information.

USGS Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)

Stream/Location	Latest Observed CFS	Previous Report CFS	Historical data for today's date		
			Mean	High	Low
Prickly Pear Creek – Clancy	29.6	21.3	34	80	15
Boulder River – Boulder	75.8	36.9	75	359	22
Jefferson River – Three Forks	2070	1100	1640	4330	902
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	2140	1010	1490	4270	723

Road Conditions: Visit MDT's interactive road conditions map at: www.511mt.net

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Burn Permit Data

Data Point	Current YTD	Previous Report YTD	2024 Total
Total Permit Sales	318	237	687
Total Activations	481	302	1685
March Activations	339	160	394

Countywide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2024
Wildfires	2	1	8	59
Structure Fires	0	0	6	24
Other Fire Calls*	5	1	57	295
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	7	9	172	555
EMS BLS Calls	11	12	123	584
EMS ALS Calls	2	10	67	283
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	2927	2432		12,097

*Other Fire Calls include Arson, Aircraft Incidents, Downed Wires, Electrical Hazards, Explosions, Fire Alarms, Fire Restriction Violations, Fireworks, Gas Leaks, HAZMAT, Smoke Reports, and Vehicle Fires.

Statewide Montana Wildfire Data

Current Report		Previous Report		2024 Total Quantity	2024 Total Acreage
2025 YTD Quantity	2025 YTD Acreage	2025 YTD Quantity	2025 YTD Acreage		
34	2230	15	551	2322	352,491

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
Zootown Event TTX	4/10	Missoula EOC	rokon@missoulacounty.us
DNRC RT-130 SFS	4/16	Clancy VFD	tyzer.smith@mt.gov
DNRC RT-130 SFS	4/17	Birdseye VFD	scott.ward@mt.gov
Wildfire Home Risk Assessment Training	4/18	Missoula	Please RSVP here by April 11, 2025
DNRC Basic Wildland	4/18-4/19	Whitehall VFD	scott.ward@mt.gov
DNRC Aviation Training	4/19	Whitehall VFD	wade.hendricks@mt.gov
G318 Local Mitigation Planning	4/15-4/17	Fairmont Hot Springs	https://forms.office.com/g/seyVKz5yZC
DNRC Pack Testing & RT130	4/21	CLO, Helena	scott.ward@mt.gov
MGT-318 Public Information for All-Haz.	4/22-4/23	Bozeman	https://teex.org/class/MGT318/
Preliminary Damage Assessment Training	5/9	Butte	https://forms.office.com/g/xmUUeKxjxG
Planning: Emergency Operations	5/13-5/14	Fort Harrison, Helena	betsy.ross@mt.gov
DNRC Wildland Fire Academy	5/28-6/6	Dillon	TBA
DNRC CAT Camp	6/6-6/8	Lewistown	TBA
MGT461 Evacuation Planning, Strategies, & Solutions	6/10	Missoula DNRC	Register for Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions (MGT-461) delivery # 3930 in Missoula, Montana
G197 Integrating Access & Functional Needs into EM	8/12-8/13	Helena	G197 Interest
MGT340 Leadership in Crisis	10/23/25	Helena	TBA

Exercise Opportunities

Exercise	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Quad-County Pre-Plan	May	Montana City	ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov

Grant Opportunities

Grant	Due Date	Contact
FY25 Homeland Security Grant	4/9/25	https://des.mt.gov/Grant-Programs/State-Homeland-Security-Grants

Collaboration Opportunities

Dates/Times	Event
4/2 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC - Butte
4/2 @ 1800	The Fire Problem presentation – Helena Middle School

4/7 @ 1830	L&C County Fire Council - Helena
4/8 @ 1300	Northern Rockies IMT Spring Meeting - Virtual
4/10 @ 0900	Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City
4/15 @ 1500	L&C County LEPC - Helena
4/15 @ 1830	Jefferson County Fire Council - Whitehall
4/16 @ 0900	FireSafe Montana – Montana City
4/16 @ 1300	Northern Rockies Team 9 Spring Meeting - Virtual
4/17 @ 1130	Gallatin Co. AHAD (LEPC) - Bozeman
5/5 @ 1830	L&C County Fire Council
5/6 @ 0900	Jefferson County Senior & Response Officials Pre-Season Wildfire Meeting - Boulder
5/8 @ 0900	Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

Dates	Event
5/8	State Emergency Response Commission meeting - Helena
5/19-5/23	Out of State

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- Debris burning (slash pile burns over 48” in size) is open county-wide and Jefferson County is now in Montana DEQ’s Spring/Summer Burning Period through August 31st. During this period, burners are required to purchase and activate a county burn permit for **each day** of their burn. Burners can visit <https://app.egovmt.com/burnpermit/> to purchase and activate their permits. Those conducting burns must never leave the burn unattended, must clear the area around the burn of flammable material, and must always have a suitable source of extinguishment available. Burners should also check the forecast for the day of and for the days following the burn. Burns should be cancelled should any adverse weather conditions be predicted.

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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