

SITUATION REPORT

Spring-Summer-Fall Edition

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **04/13/25** through 2359hrs Saturday, **04/19/25**.

CONDITIONS SUMMARY

National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings

Current Hazard(s)	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 weather hazard key points from the National Weather Service

- Scattered rain and snow expected throughout the week.

Drought Status from NOAA

Area	Current Drought Condition	Previous Report Drought Condition
North JeffCo.	D1/D2	D1/D2
South JeffCo.	D0/D1	D0/D1
West JeffCo.	D1/D2	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	8	8	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.
*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 Data Point Summaries*	Current		Current Percentile		Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile		
NR11 PSA Energy Release Component	32.92		< 60th		23.7	< 60th		
NR11 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	15.50		> 40th		17.27	> 40th		
NR11 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	12.34		> 40th		13.48	> 40th		
NR09 PSA Energy Release Component	0.56		< 60th		0.50	< 60th		
NR09 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	23.20		> 40th		23.25	> 40th		
NR09 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	23.29		> 40th		23.33	> 40th		
GDC Data Point Summaries**	Current		Current Percentile		Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile		
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	33.7		58.4		n/a	n/a		
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	14.1		50.2		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	36	24	3	462	27	19	2	458
Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.) 4390' elevation, site 243204	0	0	0	398	0	0	0	393
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	0	0	0	223	0	0	0	221
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	36	19	2	225	30	24	3	221
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	30	19	2	119	18	1	0	114

*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)	
PL 1	PL 2
PL 3	PL 4
PL 5	PL 6
PL 7	PL 8
PL 9	PL 10
PL 11	PL 12
PL 13	PL 14
PL 15	PL 16
PL 17	PL 18
PL 19	PL 20
PL 21	PL 22
PL 23	PL 24
PL 25	PL 26
PL 27	PL 28
PL 29	PL 30
PL 31	PL 32
PL 33	PL 34
PL 35	PL 36
PL 37	PL 38
PL 39	PL 40
PL 41	PL 42
PL 43	PL 44
PL 45	PL 46
PL 47	PL 48
PL 49	PL 50
PL 51	PL 52
PL 53	PL 54
PL 55	PL 56
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PL 61	PL 62
PL 63	PL 64
PL 65	PL 66
PL 67	PL 68
PL 69	PL 70
PL 71	PL 72
PL 73	PL 74
PL 75	PL 76
PL 77	PL 78
PL 79	PL 80
PL 81	PL 82
PL 83	PL 84
PL 85	PL 86
PL 87	PL 88
PL 89	PL 90
PL 91	PL 92
PL 93	PL 94
PL 95	PL 96
PL 97	PL 98
PL 99	PL 100

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.

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	82	31	91	42	
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	83	21	93	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	97	36	98	47	
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	99	41	99	43	
* = 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	27.9	29.6	56	154	21
Boulder River – Boulder	97.4	90.4	211	682	41
Jefferson River – Three Forks	1620	2030	2460	5410	1000
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	1450	1880	2340	6600	804
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	439	396	687		
Total Activations	811	703	1685		
April Activations	318	210	394		
Countywide Calls for Service (CFS)					
Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2024	
Wildfires	2	2	13	59	
Structure Fires	1	0	10	24	
Other Fire Calls*	8	6	76	295	
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	9	7	199	555	
EMS BLS Calls	11	8	156	584	
EMS ALS Calls	4	6	80	283	
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service	3645	3423		12,097	
Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.					
*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		
92	2791	73	2328	2322	352,491

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
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
DNRC Pack Testing & RT130	5/13	CLO, Helena	scott.ward@mt.gov
Planning: Emergency Operations	5/13-5/14	Fort Harrison, Helena	betsy.ross@mt.gov
DNRC Wildland Fire Academy	5/28-6/6	Dillon	TBA
HSEEP L0146 Exercise & Evaluation Program	6/4-6/5	Fort Harrison, Helena	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	Fort Harrison, Helena	G197 Interest
MGT340 Leadership in Crisis	10/23/25	Helena	TBA

Exercise Opportunities

Exercise	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Quad-County Pre-Plan	5/8 @ 1800	Montana City VFD	ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov

Grant Opportunities

Grant	Due Date	Contact

Collaboration Opportunities	
Dates/Times	Event
4/22 @ 1100	Tri-County COAD - Helena
4/23 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC - Butte
4/24 @ 1430	MEMA Statewide PIO Working Group - Virtual
4/29 @ 1300	SW Montana ORAP - Virtual
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
5/12 @ 1900	Regional EMS Coordination Meeting - TBA
5/20 @ 1500	L&C County LEPC - Helena
5/29	NorthWestern Energy Wildfire Summit - Helena
Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule	
Dates	Event
5/19-5/23	Out of State
5/27-5/30	Instructing FI210 - Butte
6/1-6/4	Fire Academy - Dillon

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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