

SITUATION REPORT

Spring-Summer-Fall Edition

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **05/25/25** through 2359hrs Saturday, **05/31/25**.

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 | Above normal predicted |
| Precipitation | Below normal predicted |

Weekly weather hazard key points from the National Weather Service

Early this week, rainfall and snowmelt will bring area waterways to near bank full. Unsettled, cooler conditions are expected for the rest of the week.

Drought Status from NOAA

| Area | Current Drought Condition | Previous Report Drought Condition |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| North JeffCo. | D0/D1 | D1/D2 |
| South JeffCo. | None/D0 | D0/D1 |
| West JeffCo. | D0/D1 | 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 | 13 | 13 | 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 | 36.62 | | < 60th | | 25.74 | < 60th | | |
| NR11 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture % | 15.11 | | > 40th | | 17.98 | > 40th | | |
| NR11 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture % | 11.86 | | 20 th - 40 th | | 15.56 | > 40 th | | |
| NR09 PSA Energy Release Component | 37.40 | | < 60th | | 28.22 | < 60th | | |
| NR09 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture % | 15.25 | | > 40th | | 18.26 | > 40th | | |
| NR09 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture % | 11.67 | | 20 th – 40 th | | 14.35 | > 40th | | |
| GDC Data Point Summaries** | Current | | Current Percentile | | Previous Report | Previous Report Percentile | | |
| FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC | 35.1 | | 64.7 | | 27.6 | 42.2 | | |
| FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC | 24.2 | | 74.4 | | 19.9 | 62.9 | | |
| 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 | 42 | 30 | 3 | 353 | 27 | 20 | 2 | 335 |
| Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.) 4390' elevation, site 243204 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 161 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 135 |
| Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206 | 33 | 29 | 4 | 29 | 22 | 24 | 4 | 7 |
| Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302 | 39 | 41 | 8 | 119 | 28 | 24 | 3 | 95 |
| Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303 | 39 | 24 | 2 | 17 | 29 | 23 | 3 | 7 |

*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 |
| PL 57 | PL 58 |
| PL 59 | PL 60 |
| 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 | 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 | 0 | - | 44 | 31 | |
| Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722 | 60 | 31 | 108 | 48 | |
| 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 | 39 | 99 | 50 | |
| Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722 | 103 | 67 | 108 | 72 | |
| * = 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 | 102 | 125 | 139 | 509 | 21 |
| Boulder River – Boulder | 349 | 550 | 596 | 1950 | 47 |
| Jefferson River – Three Forks | 3760 | 2110 | 5570 | 13,500 | 1090 |
| Jefferson River – Twin Bridges | 3780 | 2110 | 5350 | 12,200 | 1290 |
| 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 | 569 | 559 | 687 | | |
| Total Activations | 1194 | 1159 | 1685 | | |
| May Activations | 252 | 225 | 281 | | |
| Countywide Calls for Service (CFS) | | | | | |
| Type | Last Week | Previous Report | YTD | 2024 | |
| Wildfires | 0 | 0 | 17 | 59 | |
| Structure Fires | 1 | 0 | 13 | 24 | |
| Other Fire Calls* | 3 | 7 | 110 | 295 | |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury) | 4 | 13 | 253 | 555 | |
| EMS BLS Calls | 7 | 10 | 226 | 584 | |
| EMS ALS Calls | 5 | 2 | 107 | 283 | |
| Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service | 5123 | 4891 | | 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 | | |
| 246 | 6025 | 220 | 5318 | 2322 | 352,491 |

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

| Course | Date/Time | Location | Contact/Registration |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| HSEEP L0146 Exercise & Evaluation Program | 6/4-6/5 | Fort Harrison, Helena | betsy.ross@mt.gov |
| DNRC CAT Camp | 6/6-6/8 | Lewistown | Register Here |
| MGT461 Evacuation Planning, Strategies, & Solutions | 6/10 | Missoula EOC | Register for Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions (MGT-461) delivery # 3930 in Missoula, Montana |
| EMAC Basics | 6/17 | Virtual | https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/mhsbVcVnNz |
| EMAC Lessons Learned – Hurricane Helene | 6/18 | Virtual | Webinar Registration - Zoom |
| 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 |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| HAZMAT Awareness | 6/12 | Bull Mtn VFD | ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov |

Grant Opportunities

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

Collaboration Opportunities

| Dates/Times | Event |
|-------------|--|
| 6/2 @ 1830 | L&C Fire Council - Craig |
| 6/6 @ 1200 | L&C Chief's Wildland Coordination Meeting - Helena |
| 6/9 @ 0900 | Headwaters Country Jam Coordination Meeting - Virtual |
| 6/12 @ 0800 | JCSO Dispatch Wildfire Pre-Season Prep - Boulder |
| 6/12 @ 0900 | Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City |
| 6/13 @ 1200 | L&C Chief's Wildland Coordination Meeting - Helena |
| 6/16 @ 0900 | MTDES District Meeting - Butte |
| 6/16 @ 1800 | Town of Whitehall Hazard Mitigation Plan Consideration |
| 6/17 @ 1500 | L&C LEPC - Helena |
| 6/18 @ 0900 | FireSafe Montana – Montana City |
| 6/18 @ 1300 | SWMT COAD - Bozeman |
| 6/18 @ 0900 | FireSafe Montana – Montana City |
| 6/19 @ 0900 | Jefferson County LEPC - Whitehall |
| 6/20 @ 1200 | L&C Chief's Wildland Coordination Meeting - Helena |

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

| Dates | Event |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 6/1-6/4 | Fire Academy - Dillon |
| 6/23-6/24 | Out of Office |
| | |

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

NEW – Jefferson County has added a new tool to provide citizens with incident information, and it's as simple as sending a text message! Text **jcmtalert** to **99411** to receive texts with the alerts that also appear on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

You can also sign up when you create a CodeRed emergency notification account at:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFD59278BCD2>.

Click on the checkbox next to the "Jefferson County, MT Alerts" option at the bottom of the page.

- 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

- NEW - Sign up for text alerts:**

Text **jcmtalert** to **99411** to receive texts with the alerts that also appear on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page. You can also sign up when you create a CodeRed emergency notification account at: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFD59278BCD2>. Click on the checkbox next to the "Jefferson County, MT Alerts" option at the bottom of the page.

- 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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