

# SITUATION REPORT

## JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **10/27/24** through 2359hrs Saturday, **11/02/24**.

### CONDITIONS SUMMARY

#### National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings

Current Hazard(s)	Area	Duration
<b>None</b>		

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	<b>Near normal predicted</b>
Precipitation	<b>Above normal predicted</b>

#### Weekly weather hazard key points from the National Weather Service

- **Windy conditions expected Monday, with snow possible Monday through Wednesday. Any snow accumulation that occurs in Jefferson County is expected to be mostly light. Quiet conditions return Friday through next weekend.**

#### Drought Status from NOAA

Area	Current Drought Condition	Previous Report Drought Condition
North JeffCo.	<b>D2</b>	<b>D2</b>
South JeffCo.	<b>D1/D2</b>	<b>D1/D2</b>
West JeffCo.	<b>D2/D3</b>	<b>D2/D3</b>

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

#### Earthquake Summary from USGS

Area	YTD # of Earthquake Occurrences (> M1.0)	Previous Report # of Earthquake Occurrences
Jefferson County	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>

#### Air Quality from Montana DEQ

Location	Current Condition	Previous Report
Helena	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>
Butte	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>

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.

<b>Fire Restrictions</b>	
<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Interagency campfire &amp; forest activity restrictions.</b> Applicable to recreational fires under 48" in diameter.
<b>X</b>	<b>No restrictions on campfires or forest activities</b>
	<b>Stage 1 Restrictions</b> Campfires are limited to improved rings 3 feet or smaller in size; outdoor smoking is limited to areas cleared of vegetation for 3 feet.
	<b>Stage 2 Restrictions</b> Stage 1 restrictions plus total campfire ban, 1pm-1am forest activity limits with patrol requirement.
	<b>Area closures:</b> None
<b>Current Status</b>	<b>County debris burning (slash pile burning) restrictions.</b> 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)
<b>X</b>	<b>No debris burning restrictions county-wide.</b> 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.
<b>Current Period</b>	<b>Montana DEQ debris burning restriction period.</b>
	<b>Spring/Summer burning period (March 1 – August 31)</b> County burn permit & permit activation required.
<b>X</b>	<b>Fall burning period (Sept.1 – Nov 30)</b> County burn permit & permit activation required. The burner also must check DEQ ventilation hotline (800-225-6779 or <a href="http://www.burnclosures.mt.gov">www.burnclosures.mt.gov</a> ) for current air quality conditions.
	<b>Winter burning period (Dec 1 – Feb 28)</b> County burn permit & permit activation required. DEQ application & approval required*.
<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	38.7	< 60th	42.92	60 <sup>th</sup> - 80 <sup>th</sup>				
NR11 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	12.81	40 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	12.73	40 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>				
NR11 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	12.26	20 <sup>th</sup> – 40 <sup>th</sup>	12.90	> 40 <sup>th</sup>				
NR09 PSA Energy Release Component	19.96	< 60th	41.92	60 <sup>th</sup> - 80 <sup>th</sup>				
NR09 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	13.42	> 40th	12.85	20 <sup>th</sup> - 40 <sup>th</sup>				
NR09 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	16.13	> 40th	14.30	> 40 <sup>th</sup>				
GDC Data Point Summaries**	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	39.7	76.2	44.6	85.7				
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	26.6	78.1	38.6	95.1				
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	37	28	4	499	41	25	2	498
Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.) 4390' elevation, site 243204	0	0	0	479	2	37	99	478
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	21	0	0	305	43	34	5	304
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	35	21	2	305	42	37	6	303
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	38	26	3	217	45	51	11	215

\*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	2
National	2	3

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	19	8	16	17
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	15	15	8	19

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 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	31	0	33	0
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	2	0	15	2

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

### USGS Streamflow in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)

Stream/Location	Latest Observed CFS	Percentile	Previous Report CFS	Previous Report Percentile	Historical data for today's date		
					Mean	High	Low
Prickly Pear Creek – Clancy	17.4	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	16.6	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	30	60	11.9
Boulder River – Boulder	21.9	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	28.3	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	42	91.4	6.8
Jefferson River – Three Forks	1090	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	1020	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	1580	2960	900
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	993	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	948	< 25 <sup>th</sup>	1360	2080	746

**Road Conditions:** Visit MDT's interactive road conditions map at: [www.511mt.net](http://www.511mt.net)

## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### Burn Permit Data

Data Point	Current YTD	Previous Report YTD	2023 Total
Total Permit Sales	640	633	687
Total Activations	1490	1421	1685
November Activations	19	n/a	159

### Countywide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2023
Wildfires	0	2	56	26
Structure Fires	0	0	18	20
Other Fire Calls*	4	7	257	261
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	12	13	445	656
EMS BLS Calls	8	8	516	622
EMS ALS Calls	5	8	228	234
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	10,394	10,170		

\*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		2023 Total Quantity	2023 Total Acreage
2024 YTD Quantity	2024 YTD Acreage	2024 YTD Quantity	2024 YTD Acreage		
2053	344,492	2039	344,466	1662	123,133

# INFORMATION SUMMARY

## Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
BNSF Railroad Emergency Response Q&A webinar	11/7	Online	<a href="#">Webinar - Railroad Emergency Response Q&amp;A - BNSF Hazmat</a>
FEMA L1301 Continuity Planning	11/13-11/14	Fort Harrison	TBD
First Responder Operations HAZMAT	11/14-11/15	Fort Benton	chouteaucodes@gmail.com
MGT481 Disaster Recovery	11/20	Fort Harrison	<a href="https://teex.org/class/MGT481/">https://teex.org/class/MGT481/</a>
L0102 Science of Disaster	12/3-12/5	Fort Harrison	Betsy.Ross@mt.gov
L0102 Science of Disaster	12/3-12/5	Fort Harrison	TBD
ICS 300	1/7-1/10	Great Falls	<a href="mailto:gviolette@cascadecountymt.gov">gviolette@cascadecountymt.gov</a>
G318 Local Mitigation Planning	4/15-4/17	Fairmont Hot Springs	TBD

## Exercise Opportunities

Exercise	Date/Time	Location	Contact

## Grant Opportunities

Grant	Due Date	Contact

## Collaboration Opportunities

Dates/Times	Event
11/4 @ 1830	L&C County Fire Council – West Valley
11/14 @ 0900	Tri-County Firesafe Working Group – Montana City
11/19 @ 1500	L&C County LEPC - Helena
11/20 @ 0900	Firesafe Montana – Montana City
11/20 @ 1300	SWMT COAD - Bozeman
11/21 @ 1800	Madison Co. LEPC
11/26 @ 1100	Tri-County COAD - Helena
11/27 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC
12/2 @ 1830	L&C County Fire Council – St. Peter’s Health
12/4 @ 0900	Infectious Disease TTX – Boulder Public Health

## Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

Dates	Event
11/06-11/07	FAA Part 107 Flight Training – Helena
11/12	SERC Fall Meeting - Helena
11/15-11/22	IAEM Conference - Colorado Springs
11/19	SAC Fall Meeting - Helena
12/3-12/5	L0102 – Fort Harrison

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- Winter conditions are beginning to occur in Jefferson County. Travelers should have emergency supplies of food, water, blankets, winter clothing, and any medical supplies needed in their vehicles the event of a prolonged road blockage due to a crash.
- Another winter hazard to consider: your home's source of heat. Make sure electrical outlets are not overloaded, which may cause a fire. Have your chimney cleaned to reduce the likelihood of chimney fires. Finally, keep flammable material away from wood stoves, fireplaces, and their chimneys.
- Debris burning (slash pile burns over 48" in size) is open county-wide. Burners are required to purchase and activate a burn permit for each day of their burn and must consult with Montana DEQ's ventilation hotline prior to burning (800-225-6779 or [www.burnclosures.mt.gov](http://www.burnclosures.mt.gov)) during the fall burning period.
- A local opportunity for an ICS300 course is being developed for early spring 2025. More information will be provided as planning gets further developed.

### 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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