

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **10/06/24** through 2359hrs Saturday, **10/12/24**.

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	Above normal predicted

Weekly weather hazard key points from the National Weather Service

- **Warm and dry conditions are expected through Wednesday afternoon. Cold front passage expected Wednesday into Thursday to bring mountain snow and gusty wind. A shift to cooler & wetter patterns is expected to persist through the rest of the week.**

Drought Status from NOAA

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

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	21	19

Air Quality from Montana DEQ

Location	Current Condition	Previous Report
Helena	Moderate	Moderate
Butte	Moderate	Moderate

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 in size; 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)
	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:
X	Debris burning closed county-wide.
Current Period	Montana DEQ debris burning restriction period.
	Spring/Summer burning period (March 1 – August 31) County burn permit & permit activation required.
X	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) 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	43.90	60 th -80 th	45.02	60 th -80 th				
NR11 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	12.35	40 th -20 th	13.01	40 th -20 th				
NR11 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	12.30	40 th -20 th	10.48	10 th -20 th				
NR09 PSA Energy Release Component	48.26	80 th -90 th	n/a	n/a				
NR09 PSA 1000-hour fuel moisture %	11.75	20 th -10 th	n/a	n/a				
NR09 PSA 100-hour fuel moisture %	10.89	40 th -20 th	n/a	n/a				
GDC Data Point Summaries**	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	45.4	87	47.1	89.5				
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	41	97.5	39.6	96.1				
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	42	24	2	490	45	26	2	481
Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.)4390' elevation, site 243204	3	29	46	483	3	35	68	473
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	47	35	5	292	48	35	4	281
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	43	21	2	288	47	23	2	276
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	48	27	3	201	48	40	6	187

*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	3	3
National	5	5

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	33	33	n/a	n/a
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	40	44	n/a	n/a

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	15	3	12	10th
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	11	13	78	10th

* = 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	14.6	<25th	15	<25th	31	71	11.6
Boulder River – Boulder	19.4	<25th	18.8	<25th	39	111	6.2
Jefferson River – Three Forks	750	<25th	685	<25th	1450	3220	693
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	745	<25th	667	<25th	1220	1930	659

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	2023 Total
Total Permit Sales	629	627	687
Total Activations	1421	1421	1685
October Activations	7	3	92

Countywide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2023
Wildfires	1	3	52	26
Structure Fires	0	1	17	20
Other Fire Calls*	5	14	243	261
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	17	13	405	656
EMS BLS Calls	10	19	493	622
EMS ALS Calls	4	5	208	234
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	9678	9419		

*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		
2018	339,478	1991	338,960	1662	123,133

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
Pediatric Disaster Response	10/21-10/22	Helena	https://teex.org/class/MGT439/
FEMA L1301 Continuity Planning	11/13-11/14	Fort Harrison	TBD
L0102 Science of Disaster	12/3-12/5	Fort Harrison	Betsy.Ross@mt.gov
MGT481 Disaster Recovery	11/20	Fort Harrison	https://teex.org/class/MGT481/
L0102 Science of Disaster	12/3-12/5	Fort Harrison	TBD
G318 Local Mitigation Planning	4/15-4/17	Fairmont Hot Springs	TBD

Exercise Opportunities

Exercise	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Montana Shakeout Earthquake drill	10/17	Statewide	https://www.shakeout.org/montana/

Grant Opportunities

Grant	Due Date	Contact

Collaboration Opportunities

Dates/Times	Event
10/15 @ 1830	Jefferson County Fire Council – Montana City
10/16 @ 0900	Jefferson County LEPC - Whitehall
10/17 @ 1130	Gallatin County AHAD - Bozeman
10/23 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC
11/4 @ 1830	L&C Fire Council – West Valley
11/14 @ 0900	Tri-County Firesafe Working Group – Montana City
11/20 @ 0900	Firesafe Montana – Montana City
11/20 @ 1300	SWMT COAD - Bozeman

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

Dates	Event
10/17 – 10/20	Out of Office – In State
10/28-10/31	FAA Part 107 Classroom Training – Helena
11/05-11/06	FAA Part 107 Flight Training – Helena
11/12	SERC Fall Meeting - Helena
11/15-11/22	IAEM Conference - Colorado Springs

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- Debris burning closed due to weather and fuel conditions. With continued forecasted fire receptive weather conditions, debris burning will remain closed until data points moderate.
- The Sheep Creek Fire is now 576 acres in size. The fire still has not progressed substantially closer to I-15 or north into Mormon Gulch. The Ratio Mountain fire is now 1965 acres in size. The fire has not moved closer to identified values. Close cooperation with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest continues with participation in the Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP), daily briefings, and resource coordination.

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.

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