

SITUATION REPORT

JEFFERSON COUNTY MT

From 0001hrs Sunday, **9/1/24** through 2359hrs Saturday, **9/7/24**.

CONDITIONS SUMMARY

National Weather Service Outlooks/Advisories/Watches/Warnings

Current Hazard(s)	Area	Duration
Air Quality Alert	County-wide	-

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 forecast from the National Weather Service

- **Unseasonable warmth and ongoing dryness to start the week. Elevated fire weather conditions Monday. Mid to late-week storm system forecast to bring widespread precipitation, cooler temperatures, and improved air quality.**

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.

Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) from NOAA

Area	Current EDDI Category	Previous Report EDDI Category
Jefferson County	Neutral	Neutral

EDDI is a drought index based upon the "thirst" of the atmosphere – which leads to the drying of soils and vegetation. EDDI shows the anomaly in daily evaporative demand aggregated of a specific time window at a given location. EDDI is not a drought or soil moisture level predictor, but at short timescales it can indicate the potential for vegetative and soil drying conditions.

The EDDI categories are:

Neutral

Wetness Categories: EW4, EW3, EW2, EW1, EW0 (4 being the wettest to 0 least wet)

Dryness Categories: ED4, ED3, ED2, ED1, ED0 (4 being the driest to 0 least dry)

Earthquake Summary from USGS

Area	YTD # of Earthquake Occurrences (> M1.0)	Previous Report # of Earthquake Occurrences
Jefferson County	19	18

Air Quality from Montana DEQ

Location	Current Condition	Previous Report
Helena	Unhealthy	Moderate
Butte	Unhealthy	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 general public is less likely to be affected.

Unhealthy: Some members of the general 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.
	No restrictions on campfires or forest activities
X	Stage 1 Restrictions Campfires limited to improved rings 3 feet or smaller in size; outdoor smoking 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.
	Some fire districts/fire service areas with debris burning closures: None
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. 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*.

*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 PSA NR11 Data Point Summaries*	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
Energy Release Component (ERC)	50.52	90th	49.84	80th				
Burning Index (BI)	31.7	80th	32.18	80th				
1000-hour fuel moisture %	12.04	20th	12.33	40th				
100-hour fuel moisture %	10.75	20th	10.32	20th				
GDC Data Point Summaries**	Current	Current Percentile	Previous Report	Previous Report Percentile				
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) ERC	54.5	96.3	53.4	95.5				
FDRA #1 (South Prairie) BI	31.9	85.6	32.3	88				
FDRA #2 (Forested) ERC	40.6	97.1	39	96.1				
FDRA #2 (Forested) BI	27.3	93.0	27.4	93				
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	52	29	3	491	53	32	3	475
Whitehall (USFS Whitehall, N. of Legion Ave.)4390' elevation, site 243204	1	5	4	432	1	4	3	414
Galena (South of Boulder) 6545' elevation, site 243206	49	36	5	254	50	38	5	232
Ginger (East Elkhorns S. of Indian Ck. Rd.) 4370' elevation, site 243302	53	27	2	364	55	30	3	345
Elkhorn (East Elkhorns S. of Eagle Cr. Rd.) 6010' elevation, site 243303	56	34	4	231	55	34	4	210

Fire danger considerations:

- Open debris burning will be reconsidered as the ERC and/or the BI approach the 80th percentile, in addition to other environmental and staffing considerations.

*NR11 PSA RAWs sites include Dearborn (241910), Elkhorn (243303), Helena (241907), Little Snowy (242207), South Fork Judith (242102) 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: Available BTUs per square foot within the flaming front at the head of a fire.
- 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.

Preparedness Levels (PL)

Geographic Area	PL	Previous Report PL
Northern Rockies	3	3
National	5	4

Preparedness Level general descriptions:

- Fire personnel can suppress wildfires without requesting additional resources from other areas. Fire activity is at or below normal.
- Fire personnel can manage fire activity without requesting many resources from other areas. Fire activity is increasing.
- Fire personnel require some significant resources from other areas. Large incidents are burning for more than two operational periods.
- Fire personnel are starting to compete for resources from other incidents. Large, complex fire activity is increasing.
- 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.

Snow Water Equivalencies

Location	Current		Previous Report	
	% of median	% of median peak	% of median	% of median peak
Helena Valley (north of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 360, 487, 903, 893	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	n/a	n/a	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.

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	79	10th	80	10th
Jefferson River Basin (south of Boulder Hill) SNOTEL site #'s: 487, 722	75	10th	76	10th

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

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	10.9	< 25th	11.2	< 25th	29	123	5.60
Boulder River – Boulder	14	25th-50th	13.6	25 th -50th	29	166	6.1
Jefferson River – Three Forks	269	< 25th	231	< 25th	850	3400	169
Jefferson River – Twin Bridges	422	< 25th	354	< 25th	800	2000	237

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	616	616	687
Total Activations	1414	1414	1685
September Activations	0	n/a	92

County-wide Calls for Service (CFS)

Type	Last Week	Previous Report	YTD	2023
Wildfires	2	2	45	26
Structure Fires	0	0	15	20
Other Fire Calls*	9	12	194	261
Motor Vehicle Accidents (Injury and Non-Injury)	8	6	348	656
EMS BLS Calls	14	14	436	622
EMS ALS Calls	3	4	190	234
Year-to-Date Total Calls for Service Includes all the above plus law enforcement CFS.	8441	8148		

*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		
1604	278,713	1519	211,809	1662	123,133

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Training Opportunities

Course	Date/Time	Location	Contact/Registration
EPA's CAMEO Suite Training	10/17-11/14	Virtual	https://www.epa.gov/cameo/cameo-training-and-events
Pediatric Disaster Response	10/21-10/22	Helena	https://teex.org/class/MGT439/
L0102 Science of Disaster	12/3-12/5	Fort Harrison	Betsy.Ross@mt.gov
FEMA COML, COMT, AUXCOM	TBD	TBD	al@simonshome.org

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
9/3 @ 1300	Regional DES Coordination Call - Virtual
9/9 @ 1830	L&C Fire Council – Helena Fire
9/10 @ 1300	CISA Region 8 Quarterly Briefing - Virtual
9/12 @ 0900	Tri-County FireSafe Working Group – Montana City
9/17 @ 1500	L&C LEPC - Helena
9/18 @ 0900	FireSafe Montana – Montana City
9/18 @ 1300	SW Montana COAD - Bozeman
9/19 @ 0900	Jefferson County LEPC - Whitehall
9/24 @ 1100	Tri-County COAD - Helena
9/25 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC
10/1 @ 1300	Regional DES Coordination Call - Virtual
10/7 @ 1830	L&C Fire Council – Tri-Lakes Fire
10/10 @ 0900	Tri-County Firesafe Working Group – Montana City
10/15 @ 1830	Jefferson County Fire Council – Montana City
10/17 @ 1130	Gallatin County AHAD - Bozeman
10/23 @ 1200	Butte/Silverbow LEPC

Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management Upcoming Out of Office Schedule

Dates	Event
9/26-9/29	Out of State
10/1 – 10/3	MEMA Conference - Butte
10/9 – 10/12	State Fire Chiefs Convention - Missoula
10/17 – 10/20	Out of Office – In State

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- Heavy smoke will be present early in the week due to a shift in air currents. That shift has brought smoke and particulates from wildfires burning in Idaho into some areas of Montana.
- **Debris burning is closed throughout Jefferson County, and the County is currently under Stage 1 fire restrictions: Campfires are limited to being within improved rings, and smoking is prohibited except in vehicles, in established areas, or in areas cleared of flammable materials.**
- **Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS):** NorthWestern Energy may implement PSPS in Montana this summer during periods of fire danger in areas they have identified as a high hazard. Jefferson County, and specifically the area from Boulder Hill north, **will likely experience power shutoffs this summer if we experience certain fire danger conditions**. It is ***critically important*** to take steps **NOW** to prepare yourself, your family, your business, and your agency for electrical outages that may last, depending upon conditions, for a day or longer. If you have questions about this issue, please reach out to NorthWestern Energy directly.
- The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has re-started work on I-15 between Jefferson City and Clancy. Segments of the southbound lanes will be converted to two-way traffic with crossovers and a single lane in each direction. Expect speed and lane restrictions through the rest of the summer. The project website is located here: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/i15bridges/> Those with questions may contact project PIO Chris Averill at chrisa@strategies360.com or at 406-285-1006.

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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