



MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION SYSTEM
PUBLICATION

California Fire Weather Program
Risk Preparedness Guide
MACS 410-3

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This document contains information relative to the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) and the Incident Command System (ICS), developed by FIRESCOPE and adopted as the framework of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). ICS products are designed to be compatible with and compliant with NIMS, as directed by the National Response Framework and adopted by the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.

Additional information and documentation can be obtained from the following source:

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INTRODUCTION

The California Fire Weather Program Risk Preparedness Guide is designed to alert and to provide early notification to the Fire Service of critical weather conditions that may lead to a large fire, significant growth on existing fires, and or extreme fire danger/behavior. Major elements of the program may include, but are not limited to, media notifications, increased public awareness, and fire prevention/detection activities.

OBJECTIVE

The Objective is to ensure timely notification of the California Fire Service of a High Risk Day from Predictive Services, and/or a Red Flag Warning, Fire Weather Watch, or Cancellation issued by a National Weather Service Forecast Office.

ELEMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE WEATHER PROGRAM RISK PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

The California Fire Weather Program Risk Preparedness Guide consists of a High-Risk Day, Fire Weather Watch, Red Flag Warning, or Cancellation.

Definitions:

- 1) High Risk Day – Notice issued by the Predictive Services Units located in Redding and Riverside when there is a 20% chance or higher of either a new large fire occurring, or significant growth on existing fires. High Risk Days are displayed in the 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Product which incorporates fuel dryness and weather triggers to display Significant Fire Potential during the next seven days across the Geographic Area by Predictive Service Areas. The product can be found at:
For South Ops - <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/>
For North Ops - <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm>
- 2) Fire Weather Watch – Issued by the National Weather Service 18 to 96 hours in advance of a Red Flag Event (i.e. critical weather conditions that may result in extreme fire danger/behavior).
- 3) Red Flag Warning – Issued by the National Weather Service up to 72 hours in advance of a Red Flag Event.
- 4) Cancellation – When the National Weather Service terminates a Fire Weather Watch or a Red Flag Warning, or it expires.

Criteria

- 1) High Risk Days – The 7-Day Significant Fire Potential product has an explanation page which describes the product in more detail and lists the established criteria (See Appendix A in this document) for the Predictive Service Areas across the state.
 - [North Ops version of this document](#)
 - [South Ops version of this document](#)
- 2) Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning - A complete listing of Red Flag Criteria for each National Weather Service Forecast Office in California can either be found in Appendix A in this document or in the California Annual Operating Plan located below.
 - [California Annual Operating Plan](#)

Coordination

The National Weather Service will coordinate all Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, and Cancellations with Predictive Services/local fire agencies as time permits. Predictive Services will notify the National Weather Service of the issuance of any High-Risk Days

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Predictive Services/National Weather Service

Upon issuing a High-Risk Day, Fire Weather Watch, Red Flag Warning or Cancellation, the issuing office will notify the Geographical Area Coordination Center(s) (GACC) that is affected.

Geographical Area Coordination Centers

The affected Geographical Area Coordination Center (GACC) will use their procedures to notify regional state offices and local dispatch centers.

Local Dispatch Centers

The affected local dispatch centers will implement notifications as dictated by their current Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan.

POST – NOTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Entities may wish to establish and implement various activities that may include but are not limited to the following:

- Fire patrols
- Road or area closures
- Arson watch
- Additional Staffing
- Reconnaissance flights
- Upgraded dispatch levels
- Pre-deployment of resources
- Equipment use restrictions

APPENDIX A

Particularly Dangerous Situation

Red Flag Warning Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) - Phrase used within the Red Flag Warning headline and body of the product (i.e., this is not a new RFW product) that highlights exceptional fire weather conditions (combination of meteorological and fuels) considered rare and/or especially impactful to the public and firefighting community.

Links to the Predictive Services' High-Risk criteria, **additional qualifying fuels information and NWS Red Flag criteria can be found in the** California Fire Weather annual operating plan: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/AOP.pdf>

Additionally, information can also be found on the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center website; <https://wftiic.ca.gov/>