Critical fire weather conditions across all of North Dakota and parts of western Minnesota this afternoon and evening.

Red Flag Warning in effect from 1 PM to 8 PM CDT for red highlighted area.

Very dry air, gusty northwest winds, and dry vegetation will create dangerous conditions.

Any fires that occur could spread rapidly and unpredictably.
Hazards, Timing and Duration: Relative humidity as low as 15 percent, northwest winds around 20-30 mph with gusts up to 45 mph, and dry vegetation will combine to produce critical fire weather conditions this afternoon and evening.

Red Flag Warning in effect from 1 PM to 8 PM CDT.

Areas Impacted: All of North Dakota and portions of western Minnesota.
Weather Message of the Day:

Critical fire weather conditions across much of the region today. Pay attention to burn bans in your county!

Fire Quick Facts and Preparedness:

Quick facts you should know about fire:
- Each year, an average of 20,000 agricultural-related fires cause $102 million in direct property losses and result in 25 fatalities.
- A wildfire moves at speeds up to 14mph, the average human can only run between 10-15 mph in clean air.
- Wildfires have been started by cigarettes, campfires, lightning, arson, sparks from sharpening tools, a dragging chain behind a trailer, hot mufflers from a car or ATV parked in the grass, and even a bird landing wrong on a power line.

Preparedness:

Know your risk: If you are planning on doing an agricultural burn, call your local NWS office for a forecast! The professionals do it, so can you! Do not burn on windy and dry days.
- Many counties require a burn permit. Call your local authorities to see if one is required for your area, and to notify them of your burn. This can help prevent false alarm calls to the fire department.
- A Fire Weather Watch is issued when the grasses and trees are dry enough to support large fire growth AND the weather elements are expected to encourage it as well.
- A Red Flag Warning is issued when the grasses and trees are critically dry and the weather conditions would support a fire growing out of control if started. Be extra careful with fire on these days! Do not burn!

Learn Before You Burn - do not burn on dry & windy days, call the NWS for a forecast first!