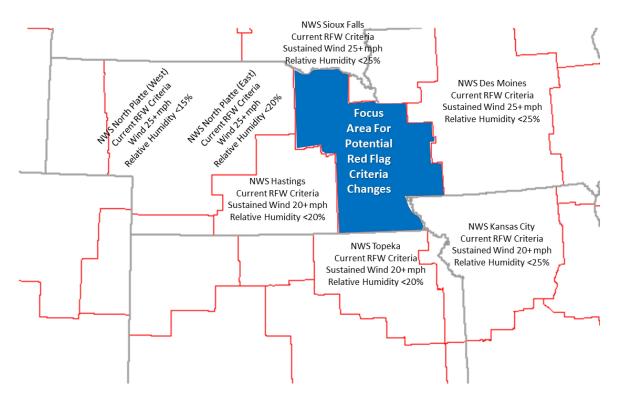
Seeking Feedback on Possible Sliding Scale Criteria for Red Flag Warnings

The National Weather Service in Omaha/Valley has been considering possible updates to criteria for when we issue Red Flag Warnings in the NWS Omaha/Valley forecast area.



This adjustment is being considered largely based on some recent wildfire events that did not technically meet RFW criteria, but were significant events. The adjustment would:

- Account for days with very strong wind and near-criteria relative humidity
- Bring criteria (in the blue area) in line with neighboring NWS criteria
- Attempt to differentiate between cases when fuels are "dry enough" and when fuels are "very dry/fully cured".

The current criteria - 15 knot (17 mph) sustained winds [or frequent gusts to at least 25 knots (29 mph)] and RH less than 20% for 3 hours. Fuel status needs to be YES / Fuels would support extreme fire growth.

POSSIBLE UPDATED CRITERIA

(3-tiered system, graphical representations on the next page)

A. 20 mph sustained winds (or frequent gusts to at least 30 mph) and RH less than or equal to 20 percent for 3 hours or more. Fuels would support extreme fire growth.

The values below would only be used when in addition to the fuel status being YES, grasses are fully cured / Percent Green values are 12 or less. This would typically be from about mid November to late April. These dates may vary from year to year.

- B. 25 mph sustained winds (or frequent gusts to at least 35 mph) and RH less than or equal to 25 percent for 3 hours or more.
- C. 30 mph sustained winds (or frequent gusts to at least 40 mph) and RH less than or equal to 30 percent for 3 hours or more.

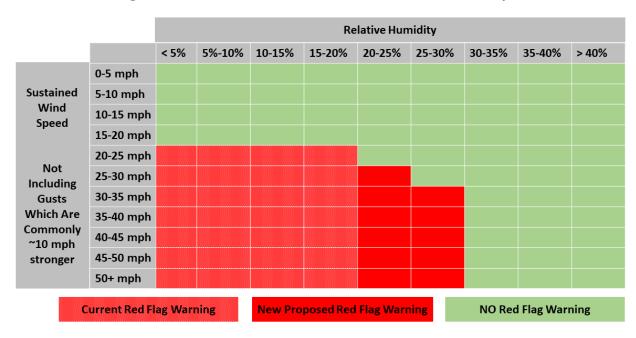
The second two combinations have occurred in recent years on days that appeared to have Extreme Fire Danger with fires that spread rapidly. The numbers also fit in fairly well with some of our neighboring NWS offices.

We are also seeking feedback regarding the current duration criteria which require these wind and RH conditions to occur 3 hours or more. Are there scenarios when dry and windy conditions would produce Red Flag conditions quicker or slower than 3 hours?

Please provide feedback to the National Weather Service in Omaha/Valley via the short form at this link.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOS9stbOBaYnOBZIN0qTJmbAIM YvM0jUfgKsNzH27YiyO-pg/viewform

Proposed Update to Red Flag Warning Criteria Assuming Critical Fuels AND Persistence For The Minimum Required Time







AND

Wind 17+ mph or Gusts 29+ mph

AND



FOR



Proposed Update to Red Flag Warning Criteria

(One of the following combinations need to be met)

1 Critical Fuels

AND

Wind 20+ mph Gusts 30+ mph

AND



FOR



2 Critical Fuels

AND

Wind 25+ mph Gusts 35+ mph

AND



FOR



3 Critical Fuels

AND

Wind 30+ mph Gusts 40+ mph

AND



FOR



At Least 3 Hours