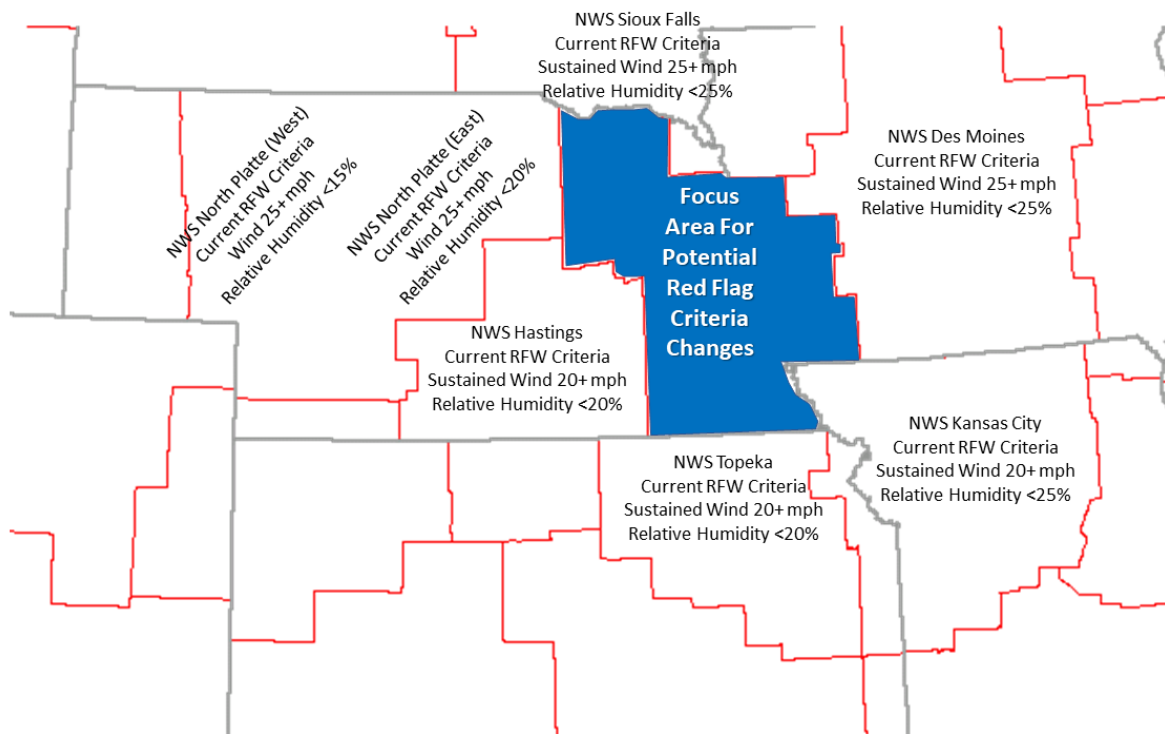


Seeking Feedback on Possible Sliding Scale Criteria for Red Flag Warnings

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.

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

		Relative Humidity								
		< 5%	5%-10%	10-15%	15-20%	20-25%	25-30%	30-35%	35-40%	> 40%
Sustained Wind Speed	0-5 mph	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	5-10 mph	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	10-15 mph	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	15-20 mph	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Not Including Gusts Which Are Commonly ~10 mph stronger	20-25 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	25-30 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
	30-35 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green
	35-40 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green
	40-45 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green
	45-50 mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green
	50+ mph	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green

Current Red Flag Warning

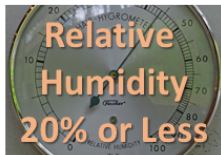
New Proposed Red Flag Warning

NO Red Flag Warning

Current Red Flag Warning Criteria



AND
Wind
17+ mph or
Gusts 29+ mph



AND
Relative Humidity
20% or Less
FOR
At Least 3 Hours

Proposed Update to Red Flag Warning Criteria
 (One of the following combinations need to be met)

1



AND
Wind
20+ mph
Gusts 30+ mph

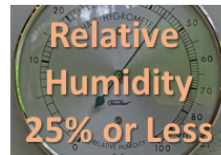


AND
Relative Humidity
20% or Less
FOR
At Least 3 Hours

2



AND
Wind
25+ mph
Gusts 35+ mph



AND
Relative Humidity
25% or Less
FOR
At Least 3 Hours

3



AND
Wind
30+ mph
Gusts 40+ mph



AND
Relative Humidity
30% or Less
FOR
At Least 3 Hours