

# New Jersey Annual Fire Operating Plan



**Philadelphia/Mount Holly NWSFO**  
**New York, NY NWSFO**

# **INTRODUCTION**

The state of New Jersey's approximate 8,000 square miles are bordered by New York to the north, Pennsylvania to the west and Delaware to the south. More than 50% of the state is defined as coastal plain. The highest point in the state (1803 feet) is High Point located in Sussex County, a topographic region known as the Appalachian Valley. Nearly 40% of New Jersey land is considered forest, while about 20% is used for agriculture. New Jersey offers nearly 200 miles of coastline.

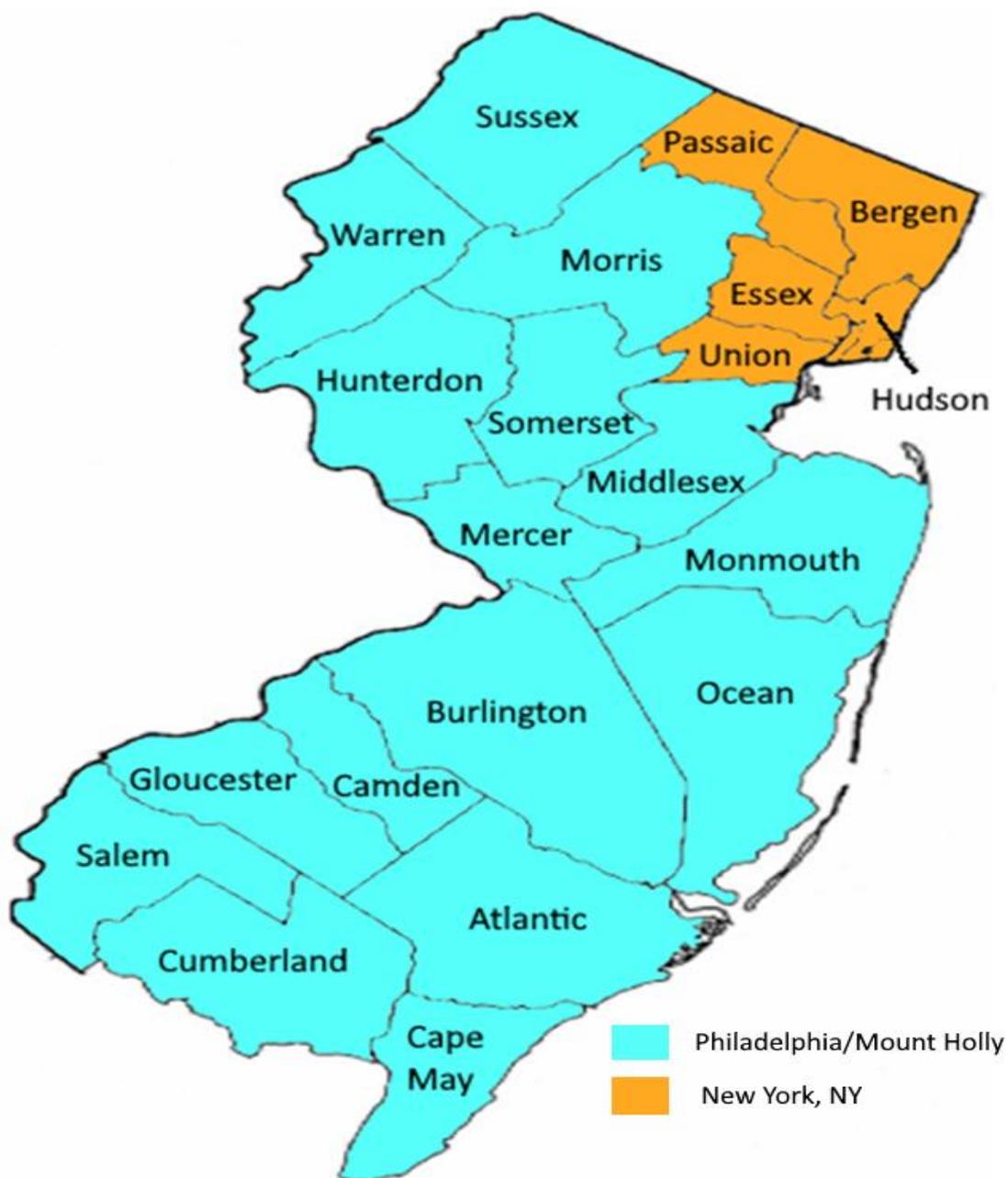
The climate of New Jersey is dominated by the Westerlies, but the Atlantic Ocean has the significant greatest influence on the weather in New Jersey, especially for the coastal areas.

Because of the goal of protecting life, property and economic interests on government land, land management agencies must be critically concerned with the control of wildfire, as well as the use of fire as a land management tool. Critical to this goal is timely and accurate weather information.

The purpose of the operating plan is to outline the meteorological support available to state management agencies in New Jersey as provided by the National Weather Service. Including but not limited to Daily Fire Weather Forecasts, Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches, and Spot Forecasts. We also provide forecasts for prescribed burns and land management forecasts to federal agencies.

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Two forecast offices issue forecasts, watches, warnings, and other statements for the state of New Jersey. The Philadelphia/Mount Holly NWSFO (PHI) located in Mount Holly, New Jersey covers the majority of the state, with the exception of the five northeast counties, which are covered by the New York, NJ NWSFO (OKX) located in Upton, New York. Mount Holly's area of responsibility includes: Sussex, Warren, Morris, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May. New York, NY's area of responsibility includes Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Union, and Hudson.



# Fire Weather Planning Forecast

The forecast is made up of fire weather zones that is broken down into each individual county, with a couple of counties split in half, as well as four coastal zones.

Mount Holly produces two routine FWF products that are issued around 330-400 am and 330-400 pm local time. New York, NY produces one routine FWF product that is issued around 330-400 am local time. The forecast should be updated when significant changes occur to the forecast, or conditions are significantly different from forecast, or a Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watch is issued. Forecasts are issued 365 days a year. The forecast consists of three 12 hour periods (today, tonight and tomorrow) beginning at 500 am local time on the day of forecast preparation for the morning issuance, and four 12 hour periods (tonight, tomorrow, tomorrow night, and the following day) beginning at 500 pm for afternoon issuance. An extended 3 to 7 day forecast, as well as an 8 to 14 day Outlook, is also included.

The forecast includes at a minimum Cloud Amount as a descriptive term, Chance of Precipitation in Percent, Precipitation Type, Max/Min Temperature, Max/Min Relative Humidity, 20 foot Wind Direction to 8 points of the compass and Speed in mph (am and pm), Precipitation Amount and Duration (if precipitation were to occur), Mixing Height, and Transport Wind Direction and Speed; and may also include Ventilation Rate and a Dispersion Descriptor which is the product of the transport wind and mixing height.

**...HEADLINE... REQUIRED FOR FIRE WEATHER WATCH OR RED FLAG WARNING**

## DISCUSSION

The discussion is a brief plain language summary of the weather pattern as it pertains to our County Warning Area. This is usually taken from the Area Forecast Discussion (AFD). When particularly windy and dry conditions are expected, they should be mentioned in the FWF discussion and Area Forecast Discussion (AFD). The FWF should be updated when a Red Flag Watch/Warning is issued, changed, or ended; or when conditions are significantly different than forecast.

## GENERAL FORECAST

Parameter definitions:

Cloud Cover	(Cloudy, Mostly Cloudy, Partly Cloudy, Clear)
Precip Chc (%)	(Percent chance of Precip, 0-100)
Precip Type	(Thunderstorm, rain, freezing rain, snow/rain, drizzle, none)
Min/Max Temp	(Max/Min temperatures as zone avg)
Max/Min RH	(Max/Min Relative Humidity in percent)
20ft Wind-am (mph)	(20 foot wind speed and direction give to the 8 points of the compass for the morning)
20ft Wind-pm (mph)	(20 foot wind speed and direction give to the 8 points of the compass for the afternoon or evening/overnight)
Precip Amount	(A precipitation range similar to RDF ranges)
Precip Duration	(How long precip will accumulate (in hours))
Mixing Hgt (FT AGL)	(The mixing height to the nearest 100 feet at time of max/min temp)
Trans Wind (MPH)	(Transport wind direction and speed through the Mixed Layer)
Vent Rate (MPHXFT)	(Actual value of the product of the mixing height and transport wind)
Dispersion	(Categories based on the Dispersion Index)

Remarks:

Any item which you deem necessary to enhance usage of the forecast, such as additional information on strength and areal extent of thunderstorms, frontal timing, sudden wind shifts, or any other unusual weather activity which may not be evident from the general forecast.

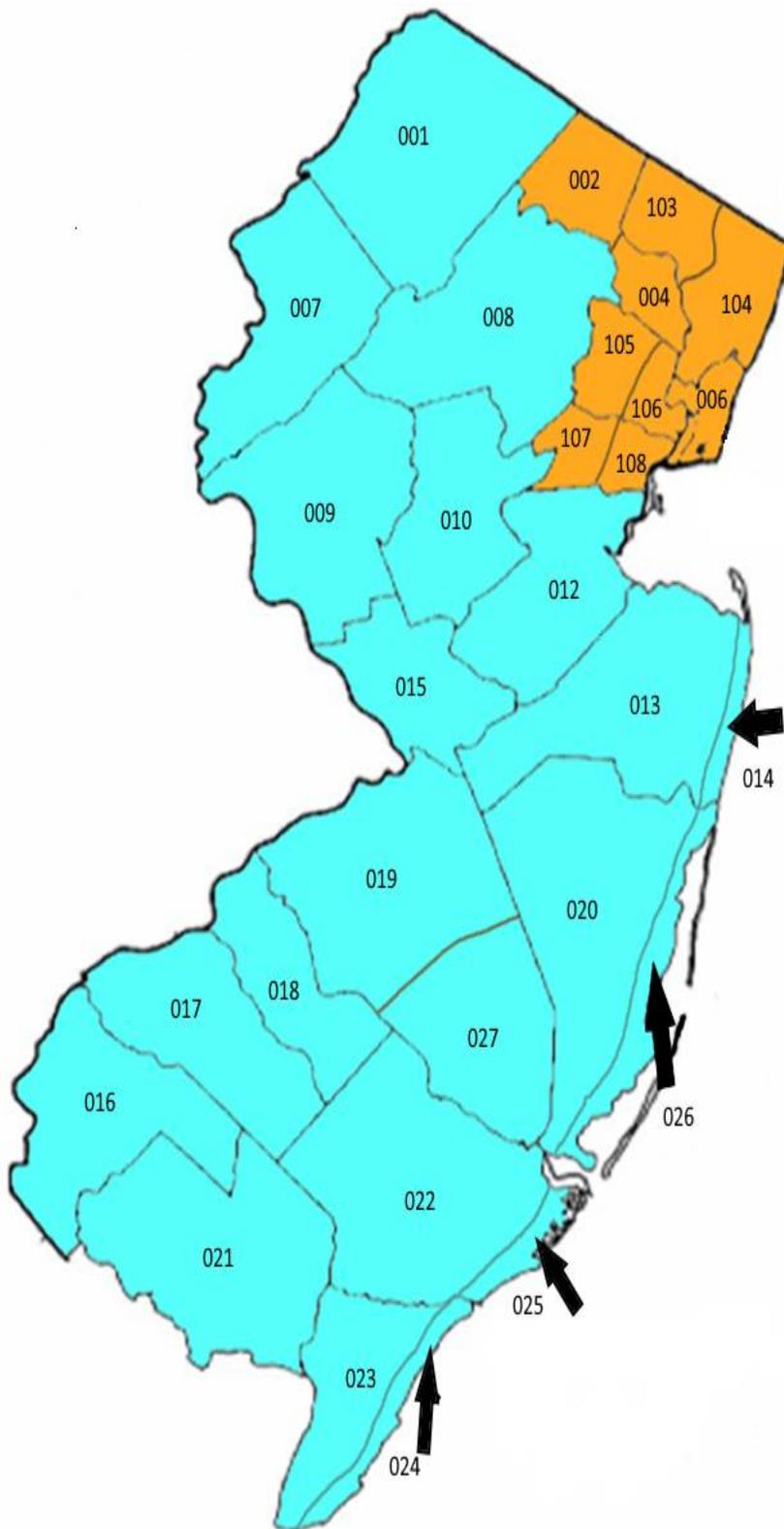
#### EXTENDED FORECAST INCLUDING WINDS (3 to 7 days)

The extended forecast (broken into 12 hour segments) is a basic narrative forecast of expected weather over the 3 to 7 day extended period.

### **DISSEMINATION**

Products are disseminated via the National Weather Service AWIPS Network and are transmitted on the NOAA Weather Wire Service. In addition, all forecasts are available on the Internet.

# Fire Weather Zones Used in Fire Weather Forecast (FWF)



## Fire Weather Zones

- 001. Sussex
- 002. Western Passaic
- 003. Not Used**
- 004. Eastern Passaic
- 005. Not Used**
- 006. Hudson
- 007. Warren
- 008. Morris
- 009. Hunterdon
- 010. Somerset
- 011. Not used**
- 012. Middlesex
- 013. Western Monmouth
- 014. Eastern Monmouth
- 015. Mercer
- 016. Salem
- 017. Gloucester
- 018. Camden
- 019. Northwestern Burlington
- 020. Ocean
- 021. Cumberland
- 022. Atlantic
- 023. Cape May
- 024. Atlantic Coastal Cape May
- 025. Coastal Atlantic
- 026. Coastal Ocean
- 027. Southeastern Burlington

# Fire Weather Forecast Examples

Fire Weather Planning Forecast  
National Weather Service Mount Holly NJ  
1006 AM EST Thu Feb 6 2025

## .DISCUSSION...

A low pressure system and its associated fronts cross the region today bringing a mixed bag of wintry precipitation to the area. High pressure briefly returns late tonight into Friday before another low pressure system passes through late Saturday into Saturday night. High pressure returns temporarily on Sunday into Monday before another system approaches the region for the Tuesday and Wednesday timeframe.

PAZ054-062100-

Carbon-

Including the city of Jim Thorpe  
1006 AM EST Thu Feb 6 2025

	Today	Tonight	Fri
Cloud Cover	Mcldy	Pcldy	Pcldy
Precip Type	Snow/Fz Ra	None	None
Chance Precip (%)	100	0	0
Max/Min Temp	36	25	33
Min/Max RH %	72	97	47
Wind 20ft/early(mph)	SE 7 G21	W 5 G21	W 13 G27
Wind 20ft/late(mph)	S 4 G19	W 8 G23	NW 12 G25
Precip Amount	0.29	0.00	0.00
Precip Duration	7		
Mixing Hgt(ft-agl/msl)	1570	440	4730
Transport Wnd (mph)	SE 18	W 12	NW 35
Vent Rate (mph-ft)	35230	140	171840
Dispersion	Good	Very Poor	Very Good
Max ADI Early	19 Gen Poor	14 Gen Poor	91 Good
Max ADI Late	19 Gen Poor	14 Gen Poor	91 Good
Max LVORI Early	5	4	1
Max LVORI Late	5	4	1

Remarks...None.

## .FORECAST FOR DAYS 3 THROUGH 7...

.FRIDAY NIGHT...Partly cloudy. Lows around 16. Northwest winds around 5 mph.

.SATURDAY...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s. Northwest winds around 5 mph.

.SATURDAY NIGHT...Freezing rain and snow. Lows in the lower 20s. Southeast winds around 5 mph.

.SUNDAY...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s. Southwest winds around 5 mph.

.SUNDAY NIGHT...Partly cloudy. Lows around 15. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

.MONDAY...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s. West winds around 5 mph.

.MONDAY NIGHT...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 18. Northwest winds around 5 mph.

.TUESDAY...Mostly cloudy with snow likely. Highs in the lower 30s. East winds around 5 mph.

.TUESDAY NIGHT...Mostly cloudy with snow likely. Lows around 19. North winds around 5 mph.

.WEDNESDAY...Partly sunny with a chance of snow. Highs around 30. North winds around 5 mph.

Fire Weather Planning Forecast for Southeastern New York  
 Northern New Jersey and Southern CT  
 National Weather Service New York NY  
 323 AM EST Thu Feb 6 2025

.DISCUSSION...

Low pressure impacts the area today with mixed precipitation this morning into the afternoon. Winds will be out of the S-SE late through the day. Dry and windy conditions are expected for Friday with gusts upwards of 30-35 mph from the NW. Minimum RH values today will be above 60 percent and above 40 percent tomorrow.

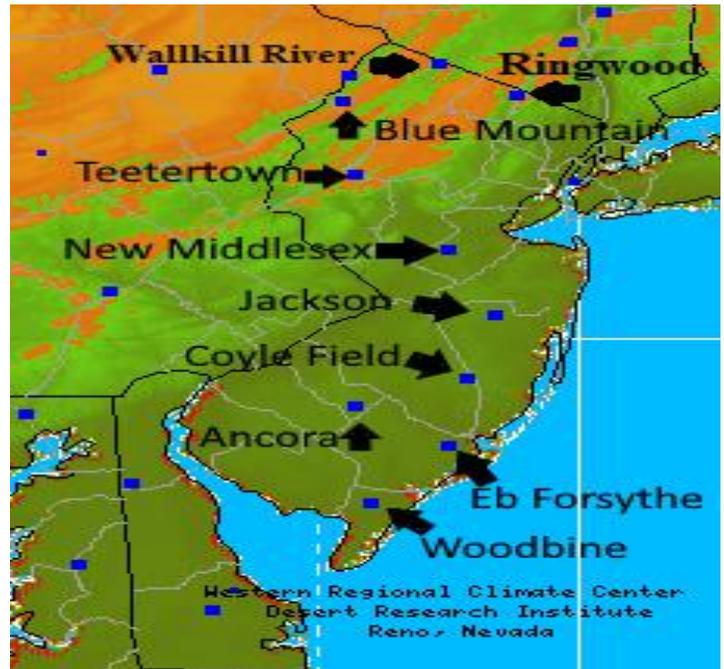
NYZ212-070830-  
 New York City-  
 323 AM EST Thu Feb 6 2025

	Today	Tonight	Fri
Cloud Cover	Cloudy	Pcldy	Pcldy
Precip Type	Snow/Rain	None	None
Chance Precip (%)	100	0	0
Chance of Thunder (%)	0	0	0
Temp (24h trend)	39 (+3)	34 (+5)	41
RH % (24h trend)	47 (+17)	95 (+5)	37
Wind 20ft/early(mph)	SE 7-11 G19	SW 5-9	W 12-16 G29
Wind 20ft/late(mph)	Lgt/Var	W 7-11 G20	NW 13-17 G29
Precip Amount	0.35	0.00	0.00
Precip Duration	9		
Precip Begin	6 AM		
Precip End	6 PM		
Mixing Hgt(ft-agl/msl)	2770	130	6080
Transport Wnd (mph)	SE 22	W 24	W 36
Vent Rate (kt-ft)	52630	2730	188480
Max ADI Early	49 Gen Good	19 Gen Poor	120 Very Good
Max ADI Late	23 Fair	22 Fair	114 Very Good

Remarks...None.

# National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Forecast (FWM)

The National Fire Danger Rating System measures wildland fire danger at observation sites throughout the contiguous United States. The National Weather Service role in NFDRS is forecasting weather input which, combined with user input, allows the NFDRS software to predict the next day's fire danger indices. These indices impact agency resource management decisions, firefighter safety, and protection of the public and property. Note that a NFDRS station may represent a large fire danger rating area of similar climatology and fuel type. NFDRS forecasts for a station are intended to be applied across a large fire danger rating area. The forecast is issued under the PIL PHLFWMPHI.



## Sites used in Mount Holly's FWM:

Ancora (280071); Blue Mountain (280101); Coyle Field (280051); Eb Forsythe (281501); Jackson (280291); New Middlesex (280231); Teetertown (280191); Walkkill River (305803); Woodbine (280091)

## Sites used in New York, NY's FWM: (Coming soon)

Ringwood (280311)

## INFO

The forecast will be for the previously determined RAWS stations. The product will be automatically run around 330-400 pm after Fire Weather grids are created, saved and published.

## GENERAL FORECAST

1. ZONE/FCST Shows whether this forecast is for an NFDRS zone or individual station. Zone average trends can be used when enough observations are available for the zone area. Choice between zone or individual station forecasts should be worked out in the AOP with fire weather users.
2. NO NFDRS Zone Number (or individual NFDRS site number)
3. YYMMDD Year, month, and day valid forecast time
4. 13 Always 1300 LST
5. WX Weather valid at 1300 LST tomorrow. Valid entries are:
  - a. 0-clear
  - b. 1-scattered clouds (1/8 to 4/8)

- c. 2-broken clouds (5/8 to 7/8)
  - d. 3-overcast clouds (more than 7/8)
  - e. 4-foggy
  - f. 5-drizzle
  - g. 6-raining
  - h. 7-snowing or sleet
  - i. 8-showers (in sight or at the station)
  - j. 9-thunderstorm (Categories 5, 6, or 7 sets wet flag to “yes”)
6. TEMP Temperature in deg F valid at 13 LST (or temperature trend + or -)
  7. RH Relative humidity in percent valid at 13 LST (or RH trend + or -)
  - 8.
  - 9.
  10. WDIR Use only for point forecast (FCST) version. Enter direction using sixteen point compass (N, NNE, NE, ENE, etc.) valid at 13 LST (20 ft level/10 minute average).
  11. WSPD Enter wind speed in mph valid at 13 LST (or wind speed trend + or -, 20 ft level/10 minute average)
  12. 10HR 10 hour timelag fuel moisture in percent valid at 13 LST (or trend + or -)  
(\*\*\*Forecasted only for manual NFDRS stations\*\*\*)
  13. Tx Max temperature from 1300 LST today to 1300 LST tomorrow
  14. Tn Min temperature from 1300 LST today to 1300 LST tomorrow
  15. RHx Max relative humidity from 1300 LST today to 1300 LST tomorrow
  16. RHn Min relative humidity from 1300 LST today to 1300 LST tomorrow
  17. PD1 Precipitation duration in hours 1300 LST today to 0500 LST tonight
  - 18 PD2 Precipitation duration in hours 0500 LST tonight to 1300 LST tomorrow
  19. WETFLAG Y or N. Indicates whether liquid water will be on the fuels at 13 LST. (Use with caution - a “Y” will set all the NFDRS indices to zero!)

## **Format**

The NFDRS Forecast will follow the comma delimited format as shown:

**FCST,NO,YMMDD,13,WX,TEMP,RH,,,WDIR,WSPD,10HR,TX,TN,  
RHx,RHn,PD1,PD2,WETFLAG**

Examples of the point and zone products, formatted for transmission into AWIPS, are displayed below:

FNUS81 KPHI DDHHMM  
FWMPHI

FCST,280071,030219,13,1,69,43,,,SE,8,,72,46,100,40,0,0,N

Follow the format precisely in order for the forecasts to be used as NFDRS input. Separate each element by a comma with no intervening spaces. (Some elements may not be forecast, but are represented by the null space between two consecutive commas.)

## **Updates and Corrections and Other information**

Since the NFDRS system runs once a day, FWMs are not typically updated. The FWM will be corrected when a typographical/format error is detected. The forecast no includes 7 days.

# **SPOT FIRE WEATHER FORECAST**

The National Weather Service will issue Spot Fire Weather Forecasts in support of wildfire management, and natural resource management. The National Weather Service will provide spot forecast service upon request of any federal, state, tribal, or local official who represents that the spot forecast is required to support a wildfire. For non-wildfire purposes, resources permitting, the National Weather Service will provide spot forecast service under the following circumstances and conditions:

1. Upon request of any federal official who represents that the spot forecast is required under the terms of the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (NWS Directive 10-401).
2. Upon request of any state, tribal, or local official who represents that the spot forecast is required to carry out their wildland fire management responsibilities in coordination with any federal land management agency participating in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (NWS Directive 10-401).
3. Upon request of any public safety official who represents that the spot forecast is essential to public safety, e.g. due to the proximity of population centers or critical infrastructure. A “public safety official” is an employee or contract agent of a government agency at any level (federal, state, local, tribal, etc.) charged with protecting the public from hazards including wildland fires of whatever origin and/or other hazards influenced by weather conditions such as hazardous material releases.

## **THE SPOT FORECAST PROCEDURE:**

Spot forecasts will be requested by the acting official via the Spot Forecast Request webpage located at [www.weather.gov/spot](http://www.weather.gov/spot) which is linked from the Mount Holly and New York, NY fire weather webpages. The requesting official will enter all required information on the spot request page. Once the request is submitted, the spot forecast requests will be received via AWIPS with the product header PHLSTQPHI or NYCSTQOKX and information about the request will be available on the Spot Forecast webpage. Spot forecasts will be issued through the GFE formatter; only the GFE formatter should be used to create a forecast. The forecast is issued under the PIL PHLFWSPHI and NYCFSOKX. Once the forecast is issued, it will update on the webpage, usually within a minute or two.

Requests should only be made through the internet. As a backup a Spot Request Form (WS FORM D-1) can be used and then faxed, or the request can be called in directly to the office. The faxable form is located on the Mount Holly Fire Weather page at [www.weather.gov/phi](http://www.weather.gov/phi)

Under optimal conditions, a forecast should be available in a short period of time. Only under the most adverse weather conditions will a forecast be delayed.

Because of the numerous non-forestry duties and forecast products, the staff at the National Weather Service must ascertain the priority of the request among severe weather threats, aviation, marine, and public forecast deadlines.

The submission of at least one recent, accurate observation from the fire site is optional, but requested if possible. Especially if current conditions are different than previously forecast.

Constructive critique of spot forecasts by users is encouraged, preferably directly to the forecaster and substantiated by on-site observations. There is an option of the spot forecast page for feedback.

# Spot Forecast Example

Spot Forecast for Taylors Bridge RX...Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.  
National Weather Service Mount Holly NJ  
542 AM EST Thu Jan 30 2025

Forecast is based on ignition time of 0600 EST on January 30.  
If conditions become unrepresentative, contact the National Weather Service.

Please contact our office if you have questions or concerns with this forecast.

## .DISCUSSION...

High pressure briefly slides across our area today. An area of low pressure moves through Friday, with high pressure arriving during Saturday. A warm front lifts northward late Sunday into early Monday before the next cold front arrives late Monday. High pressure returns briefly to our region Tuesday before another low pressure begins to encroach Wednesday.

## .TODAY...

Sky/weather.....Sunny (20-30 percent).  
CWR.....0 percent.  
Chance of pcpn.....0 percent.  
Max temperature.....Around 44.  
Min humidity.....35 to 40 percent.  
Wind shift.....WNW in the morning will become S/SW between 2 and 4 PM.  
Wind (20 ft).....West winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the south around 5 to 10 mph late in the afternoon.  
Mixing height.....3500 ft AGL.  
Transport winds.....Northwest 10 to 15 mph shifting to the south around 10 mph late in the afternoon.  
Smoke dispersal.....Poor (3100 knot-ft) early in the morning increasing to good (34900 knot-ft) in the afternoon.  
ADI.....8 early in the morning increasing to 49 in the afternoon.

TIME (EST)	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10A	11A	12P	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM
Sky (%)	8	9	9	5	4	3	8	15	32	29	41	42
Weather cov	.....											
Weather type	.....											
Tstm cov	.....											
CWR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chc of pcpn (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temp	30	28	30	33	36	38	41	43	44	44	44	42
RH	60	66	60	51	45	42	39	38	38	39	43	46
20 FT wind dir	W	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	W	W	W	SW	S	S
20 FT wind spd	5	5	5	7	6	7	7	7	7	6	6	6
20 FT wind gust	14	10	12	13	14	14	15	10	12	10	12	12
Mix hgt (kft)	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.7	1.7	0.4
Transp wind dir	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	W	W	W	W	S	S
Transp wind spd	9	9	8	13	10	12	12	12	12	10	10	9
ADI	10	10	8	34	33	41	45	49	44	35	22	10
Vrate kt-ft/1K	3	3	3	23	23	29	31	35	31	24	15	4
Ventr rate Cat	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR

## .TONIGHT...

Sky/weather.....Mostly cloudy (80-90 percent). Rain overnight.  
CWR.....80 percent.  
Chance of pcpn.....80 percent.  
Min temperature.....Around 36.

Max humidity.....90 to 95 percent.  
 Wind shift.....None expected.  
 Wind (20 ft).....South winds 5 to 10 mph.  
 Mixing height.....400 ft AGL.  
 Transport winds.....South 10 to 20 mph shifting to the southwest 15  
                                   to 20 mph after 3 am.  
 Smoke dispersal.....Poor (3800 knot-ft).  
 ADI.....7 to 18.

TIME (EST)	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10P	11P	MID	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM
Sky (%).....	50	72	79	80	86	96	98	99	98	98	99	98
Weather cov.....							SCH	SCH	LKY	DEF	DEF	LKY
Weather type....							RN	RN	RN	RN	RN	RN
Tstm cov.....												
CWR.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	70	80	80	70
Chc of pcpn (%)..0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	70	80	80	70
Temp.....	39	38	37	38	37	38	39	38	38	39	40	39
RH.....	54	59	61	62	67	64	64	70	76	82	85	92
20 FT wind dir..S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	SW	S	S
20 FT wind spd..7	7	7	7	8	8	8	9	9	10	10	10	9
20 FT wind gust.13	10	13	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	14
Mix hgt (kft)...0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transp wind dir.S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	SW	SW	SW	SW	S
Transp wind spd.10	13	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	17	20	20	16
ADI.....	7	8	9	13	14	14	15	15	15	18	18	14
Vrate kt-ft/1K..4	5	5	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	9	9	7
Ventrte Cat....PR	PR											

\$\$  
 Forecaster...Hoeflich  
 Requested by...Hannah Small  
 Type of request...PRESCRIBED  
 .TAG 2501670.0/PHI  
 .DELDT 01/30/25  
 .FormatterVersion 2.0.0  
 .EMAIL hsmall@dewildlands.org

# Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, and Special Weather Statements

## I. ISSUANCE TIMES AND PRODUCTS

Fire Weather Watches (PHLRFWPHL & NYCRFWOKX) are issued for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> 12 hour period of a forecast. A Red Flag Warning (also PHLRFWPHL& NYCRFWOKX) is issued for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> period of a forecast.

*FIRE WEATHER WATCHES AND RED FLAG WARNINGS WILL BE HEADLINED IN THE FIRE WEATHER FORECAST (PHLFWFPHI & NYCFWFOKX ) AS WELL AS THE HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK (PHLHWOPHI & NYCHWOOKX) AND INCLUDED IN THE AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION (PHLAFDPhi & NYCAFDOKX) WARNING SECTION.*

If Red Flag Warning conditions are expected in the Day 2-7 period, it should be discussed in the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO), in addition to the Fire Weather Forecast (FWF), and Area Forecast Discussion (AFD).

After coordinating with Fire Weather partners, if it is determined that conditions will be close to Red Flag Warning Criteria, but a Red Flag Warning is not needed, a Special Weather Statement (SPS) may be issued if determined necessary (e.g., fuels are not critically low, or duration of conditions are not expected to be very long). In certain situations, an SPS may be issued during the overnight without coordination with partners to give a “heads up.” However, coordination with surrounding WFOs should occur before an SPS is issued overnight. When an SPS is in effect or expected, there is no need to include fire weather information in the HWO.

## II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Watches and Warnings indicate the potential for spread of any fires that may develop. They are NOT an indication or forecast of whether fires will develop.

Per ER Supplement 11-2004: Red Flag Warnings will **not** be based solely on weather conditions. Bottom line – coordination with the customer before the issuance of a *RFW* is critical to ensure that **both** the meteorological and non-meteorological (fuels) parameters will meet the necessary criteria.

There are rare situations when a Red Flag Warning can be issued on the overnight shift without coordination with partners. If surrounding offices are confident ALL factors, including fuels, will be below criteria, even without partner coordination, we can issue a Red Flag Warning. However, this is rare and should only be done when confidence is high that a borderline case will not occur and we will not be the only office issuing warnings. But again, this should be a rare occurrence, and if possible, waiting for coordination with state partners should occur most of the time.

### III. RFW Criteria

The National Weather Service will issue a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning for the following conditions (must meet all 3):

- 1) Winds sustained or frequently gusting above 20 mph.
- 2) Relative Humidity less than or equal to 30%.
- 3) 10 hour time lag fuels are less than 10 percent.

# Red Flag Warning Examples

URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service Mount Holly NJ  
228 PM EST Fri Nov 15 2024

PAZ054-055-060>062-070-071-101>106-161100-  
/O.UPG.KPHI.FW.A.0002.241116T1200Z-241116T2300Z/  
/O.NEW.KPHI.FW.W.0006.241116T1200Z-241116T2300Z/  
Carbon-Monroe-Berks-Lehigh-Northampton-Delaware-Philadelphia-  
Western Chester-Eastern Chester-Western Montgomery-  
Eastern Montgomery-Upper Bucks-Lower Bucks-  
228 PM EST Fri Nov 15 2024

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM EST SATURDAY FOR  
GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE SOUTHERN POCONOS,  
LEHIGH VALLEY, AND THE REST OF SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING  
PHILADELPHIA...

The National Weather Service in Mount Holly has issued a Red Flag  
Warning for gusty winds and low relative humidity, which is in  
effect from 7 AM to 6 PM EST Saturday. The Fire Weather Watch is  
no longer in effect.

- \* AFFECTED AREA...Carbon, Monroe, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton,  
Delaware, Philadelphia, Western Chester, Eastern Chester,  
Western Montgomery, Eastern Montgomery, Upper Bucks and Lower  
Bucks.
- \* TIMING...From 7 AM to 6 PM EST Saturday.
- \* WINDS...Northwest 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.
- \* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...As low as 27 percent.
- \* TEMPERATURES...Up to 59.
- \* IMPACTS...Any fire that develops will catch and spread  
quickly. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions  
are either occurring now, or will shortly due to a combination of  
strong winds, low relative humidity, and dry fuels. Any fires that  
develop may quickly get out of control and become difficult to  
contain.

For more information about wildfire danger, burn restrictions,  
and wildfire prevention and education, please visit your state  
forestry or environmental protection website.

&&

URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE  
National Weather Service New York NY  
326 PM EST Fri Nov 15 2024

NJZ002-004-006-103>108-NYZ211>213-160900-  
/O.UPG.KOKX.FW.A.0001.241116T1200Z-241116T2300Z/  
/O.NEW.KOKX.FW.W.0010.241116T1200Z-241116T2300Z/  
Western Passaic-Eastern Passaic-Hudson-Western Bergen-  
Eastern Bergen-Western Essex-Eastern Essex-Western Union-  
Eastern Union-Lower Hudson Valley-New York City-Long Island-  
326 PM EST Fri Nov 15 2024

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM EST SATURDAY FOR  
THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK CITY, LONG ISLAND AND NORTHEAST  
NEW JERSEY...

- \* AFFECTED AREA...Western Passaic, Eastern Passaic, Hudson,  
Western Bergen, Eastern Bergen, Western Essex, Eastern Essex,  
Western Union, Eastern Union, Lower Hudson Valley, New York  
City and Long Island.
- \* TIMING...From 7 AM to 6 PM EST Saturday.
- \* WINDS...Northwest 10 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.
- \* RELATIVE HUMIDITY...As low as 25 percent.
- \* TEMPERATURES...Around 60.
- \* LIGHTNING...None.
- \* IMPACTS...Rapid fire spread if ignition occurs.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Red Flag Warning means that critical fire weather conditions  
are expected or occurring. A combination of strong winds, low  
relative humidity, and dry fuels will create a significantly  
elevated fire growth potential.

## **Fire Weather Partners**

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Ray Martin  
Fire Weather Program Manager  
Philadelphia/Mount Holly National Weather Service Forecast Office

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Jason Franklin  
Meteorologist in Charge  
Philadelphia/Mount Holly National Weather Service Forecast Office

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Sarah Johnson  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
Philadelphia/Mount Holly National Weather Service Forecast Office

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Joe Pollina  
Interim Fire Weather Program Manager  
New York, New York National Weather Service Forecast Office

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*Vacant*  
Meteorologist in Charge  
New York, New York National Weather Service Forecast Office

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Nelson Vaz  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
New York, New York National Weather Service Forecast Office

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Robert Gill  
New Jersey Forest Fire Service  
Division of Parks and Forestry  
Department of Environmental Protection