



# Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Information

Of the contributing factors such as fuels, topography, and regulations to be taken into account before conducting a prescribed burn or taking action on a wildfire one factor is completely beyond our control.

Weather is the most constantly changing and hardest to predict variable in a fire environment. When weather forecasts and weather condition information is not given the consideration it deserves, consequences may include increased loss of property and, in extreme cases, a threat to human life.

Daily weather forecasts on TV, radio, or in the newspaper are good sources of fire-related information. Fire-specific weather information can be found on the Internet. Several helpful Web sites are listed below.

## Kansas Web Sites

### Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories for Kansas:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/alerts/ks.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/alerts/ks.html)

This site will post Red Flag fire weather warnings and watches.

Beginning in October of 2006 the National Weather Service in cooperation with several state and federal fire management agencies began issuing Red Flag warnings. When



the conditions indicate a good chance of extreme fire behavior, a Red Flag weather warning is issued. Red Flag warnings need to be taken just as seriously as any other severe weather warning, and no burning should be conducted on a Red Flag day.

### National Weather Service (NWS) Offices, Phone Numbers, and Fire Weather Pages

Dodge City, Kan.

(620) 225-6514

[www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc/?n=firewx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc/?n=firewx)

Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-7119

[www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/?n=/firewx/index.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/?n=/firewx/index.php)

Hastings, Neb.

402-462-4287

[www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=firewx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gid/?n=firewx)

Topeka, Kan.

(785) 234-259

[www.crh.noaa.gov/top/?n=fire](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/top/?n=fire)

Wichita, Kan.

(316) 942-8483

[www.crh.noaa.gov/ict/?n=firewx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict/?n=firewx)

These offices provide more detailed and localized information on current fire weather conditions for a given area.

### Rangeland Fire Danger Index

[www.crh.noaa.gov/product.php?site=TOP&product=RFD&issuedby=TOP](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/product.php?site=TOP&product=RFD&issuedby=TOP)

The system of fire danger rating that will continue to be available as one more source of fire weather information.

### MesoWest

[www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/mesomap.cgi?state=KS&rawsflag=1](http://www.met.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/mesomap.cgi?state=KS&rawsflag=1)

This site has links to several weather observation sites to get current weather observation information such as temperature and relative humidity.

### RAWS (Remote Automated Weather Station) Sites

Cimarron National Grassland

[raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=CGLK1&time=GMT](http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=CGLK1&time=GMT)

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

[raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=QNRK1&time=GMT](http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=QNRK1&time=GMT)

Manhattan Airport

[http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=KMHK](http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=KMHK)

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

[raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=TGSK1&time=GMT](http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=TGSK1&time=GMT)

Missouri Dept. of Conservation, Clinton, Mo.

[raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso\\_base.cgi?stn=CITM7&time=GMT](http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/roman/meso_base.cgi?stn=CITM7&time=GMT)

RAWS stations are Internet linked weather data gathering stations. There are four in Kansas and one just into Missouri. Use the one closest to your location to find detailed current weather observations, graphs, fuel moisture, and 24-hour trend.

### National Web Sites

#### U.S. Drought Monitor

[www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)

#### Palmer Drought Index

[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/regional\\_monitoring/palmer.gif](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif)

These two sites provide long-term, cumulative drought information that can be useful in determining the dryness of fuels in a wildland fire.

### National Fire Weather Page

[fire.boi.noaa.gov/](http://fire.boi.noaa.gov/)

This National Weather Service Web site provides information on national conditions and warnings.

### Storm Prediction Center Fire Weather Forecast

[www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire\\_wx/index.html](http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire_wx/index.html)

This National Weather Service Web site provides information on locations the National Weather Service expects to experience extreme fire weather over a given time period.

For more information contact the Kansas Forest Service at (785) 532-3300.

Links to Web sites were current at press time, for an updated list, see our Web site at [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org)



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