

# Fire Danger Ratings



Below is a description of the fire danger ratings and meanings



## Low Fire Danger

BURN PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED

- The chances of accidental fires occurring are minimal.
- With care, the chance of permitted fires escaping is low.

- Best weather conditions to issue burning permits.
- Wildfires occurring on these days will be low intensity, slow spreading, and easy to control. Minimum manpower and equipment will be needed.



## Moderate Fire Danger

BURN PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED

- The chances of accidental fires occurring will increase slightly.
- Fires may escape if not properly attended.
- These may be acceptable conditions to issue burning permits if the permittee attends the fire and has the proper equipment to handle any problems.
- Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fire is of moderate intensity, although

heavy concentrations of fuel may burn hot.

- A slight increase in manpower and equipment should be considered.



### **High Fire Danger**

BURN PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED (depending on weather conditions throughout the day)

- The potential for accidental fires occurring increases significantly.
- All fine dead fuels ignite readily and fires start easily from most causes.
- Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly and short-distance spotting is common.
- High-intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels.
- Fires may become serious and difficult to control unless they are successfully attacked while small.



### **Very High Fire Danger**

**NO BURN PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED**

- The Potential for accidental fires occurring is extremely high.
- Fires will be very difficult to keep under control.
- Wildfires occurring on these days will develop high intensities and rapid spread rates very quickly. Initial attempts to control these fires may not be successful. Notify the State of major problems and be prepared to ask for additional assistance to control the fire.

- **Extreme Fire Danger- NO BURN PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED**

- Extreme fire danger exists after several consecutive days of very high fire danger.
- Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious.
- Development into high-intensity burning will usually be faster and occur from smaller fires than in the very high fire danger class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition.
- Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or in conifer stands may be unmanageable while the extreme burning condition lasts. Under these conditions, the only effective and safe control action is on the flanks until the weather changes or the fuel supply lessens.