

## JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Weather Service (NWS) and the California Wildland Fire Coordination Group (CWCG) use a joint Fire Weather Program Assessment Team (FWPAT) to evaluate fire weather services in California. This team may make recommendations for improvements and/or changes to the program, and they also help ensure fire weather information is coordinated between agencies.

### 1. California Fire Weather Web Page and the Emergency Communication Center Dispatch Area (ECCDA) Forecast Summaries

An interagency fire weather web page for California is available at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/s to/ca fw/>. This web site serves as a portal for fire weather information for California, including links to fire weather forecasts, SPOT forecasts, current conditions, and much more.

Emergency Communication Center Dispatch Area (ECCDA) Forecast Summaries are also available from this web site. These simplified fire weather summaries are meant to be used for fire agency radio broadcasts while at the same time providing the most essential daily weather information. Any Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch headlines shown in the ECCDA Forecast Summaries are linked to the actual watch or warning product. All forecast segments within an ECCDA are listed at the beginning of the forecast and can be mouse clicked to jump immediately to that segment.

### 2. Training

Meteorological training can be provided by both NWS and Predictive Services (PS). The NWS forecast offices primarily handle local courses that occur within their area of responsibility. Predictive Services' primary role is with regional and national level courses.

Requests for training from NWS offices should be directed to that office's Fire Weather focal point or the Meteorologist-In-Charge. If the office is not able to provide an instructor for a course, that office will assume the responsibility for finding an instructor. Requests for training from the PS units should be directed to the Training Coordinator or PS program manager. In all cases, sufficient advance notice ( $\geq$  six weeks whenever possible) should be given to allow for scheduling and proper preparation.

Costs incurred by NWS in providing training assistance (other than salary costs for a normal non-holiday weekday) will be borne by the requesting agency. Costs incurred by PS instructors are covered in their annual budget, without need for reimbursement.

Below is a table outlining the instructor availability for 2016:

<b>Name Of Office</b>	<b>Instructors qualified to teach S-190, S-290</b>	<b>Other Classes that the listed office has at least one meteorologist qualified to instruct</b>
Redding Predictive Services	Brenda Belongie Steve Leach	S-390, S-490, S-491, RX-410 WIMS, S-144, ECCO, RX-341
Riverside Predictive Services	Tom Rolinski Rob Krohn	S-390, S-490, S-491, WIMS, RX10
Eureka	Jeff Tonkin	S-390, S-490, RX-300
Hanford	Cindy Bean Dan Harty Jim Dudley	S-390, RX-300
Las Vegas	Jim Harrison	S-390
Medford	Frederic Bunnag Brett Lutz Noel Keene Michael Stavish Thomas Wright Ryan Sandler	S-390, S-490
Monterey	Ryan Walbrun Matt Mehle	S-390, S-490, S-590
Oxnard	Rich Thompson Dave Gomberg	S-390, S-490
Phoenix	Valerie Meyers	S-390, S-490
Reno	Alex Hoon Jim Wallmann Edan Weishahn	S-390, S-490
Sacramento	Mike Smith Jason Clapp	S-390, S-490, S-590, RX-300
San Diego	Stefanie Sullivan	S-390

### 3. Coordination Conference Calls

Coordination conference calls will be conducted, as warranted between the PS units and the WFOs during fire season. **See the document titled “Predictive Services Coordination Calls in the appendix section.**

#### 4. National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Forecasts.

The NWS provides weather forecasts for parameters that permit the NFDRS software to predict the next day's fire danger indices that the land management agencies utilize for fire management decision support. Criteria for Issuance – NWS will issue daily forecasts for use by the NFDRS during periods determined in consultation with land management agencies. Dates during which these forecasts are needed vary by year and by office. NWS NFDRS trend or point forecasts are usually available to fire agencies by 1500 LST/1600 LDT/2300 Z. The goal of the land management agencies is to provide quality observations in a timeframe that provides the NWS an hour to review the NFDRS observations and publish the forecasts. In order to meet these goals, the daily NFDRS fire weather observations must be made available to the NWS from WIMS in collectives by 1415 LST/1515 LDT/2215Z. NFDRS stations that do not have valid observations available in WIMS on time will not have next day fire danger indices available.

The observation data that the land management agencies utilize for NFDRS outputs is typically available to the agencies between 1300 LST/1400 LDT/ 2100 Z and 1340 LST/1440 LDT/2140 Z. To facilitate timely delivery of the NFDRS observations to the NWS, the agencies must strive to have their local quality control and data entry completed in WIMS by 1345 LST/1445 LDT/2145 Z. Collectives are run at 10-minute intervals beginning at 1330 LST/1430 LDT/ 2130 Z, with the last collective run at 1415 LST/1515 LDT/2215 Z. Depending on local needs, these times can vary. It is important that land management agencies and their supporting WFO discuss and mutually agree to the timeframes that best meet their collective needs.

Users who fail to meet the last collective, and want an NFDRS forecast for the following day, must coordinate with their local WFO to try and arrange for an updated forecast. Solutions to on-going timeliness problems should be coordinated between the local user, WFO and GACC Predictive Services Unit. NWS forecasters should contact the USFS Fire & Aviation Management Helpdesk (24/7) (1-866-224-7677) for assistance in dealing with WIMS issues.

Procedures – For every NFDRS observation received from WIMS at the 1415 LST (1515 LDT) collective, forecast weather parameters for 1300 LST (1400 LDT) the next day will be produced. This will occur through zone trend, station trend, or station specific (point) forecasts. Regardless of the forecast methodology, forecast values for NFDRS stations should not unduly deviate from historical possibility for those stations. All NFDRS observation stations are assigned a six-digit station identification number for use in WIMS. The Northern California or Southern California PS units must be contacted for assignment of a six-digit number for any new station, or for any changes in location made to existing stations that already have a WIMS ID number. The PS units will notify the NWS of any new or relocated NFDRS stations.

NWS forecasters should contact the USFS Fire and Aviation Management help desk at 1-866-224-7677 for assistance in WIMS issues.

NFDRS Collective and Bulletin Times (local variations allowed depending on need)

WFO	GATEWAY Routine	Header	1 <sup>st</sup> OBS Collective	2 <sup>nd</sup> OBS Collective	Forecast Obs	GATEWAY Routine	Header	Observed NFDRS Indices Bulletin #1	Observed NFDRS Indices Bulletin #2	Forecast NFDRS Indices Bulletin #1	Forecast NFDRS Indices Bulletin #2
Eureka	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2215	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2215	2245	none
Hanford	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2215	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2215	2245	none
Las Vegas	SENDOBS	SHUS65	2115	2230	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS45	2115	2230	2245	2245
Los Angeles	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2200	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2200	2245	none
Medford	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2155	2215	2305	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2200	2215	2305	none
Monterey	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2200	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2200	2245	none
Phoenix	SENDOBS	SHUS65	2115	2200	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS45	2115	2200	2245	none
Reno	SENDOBS	SHUS65	2145	2200	2255	SENDNFDR	FNUS45	2150	2205	2245	none
Sacramento	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2205	2301	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2205	2245	none
San Diego	SENDOBS	SHUS66	2145	2200	2245	SENDNFDR	FNUS46	2145	2200	2245	none

## Contact Information

Office

Name

Position

<p><b>Northern California PSU</b>          6101 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002          FAX Number: (530) 226-2742          WEB: <a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm</a>          Office Email: <a href="mailto:redning.fwx@fire.ca.gov">redning.fwx@fire.ca.gov</a>          Hours: Fire Season 7am-5pm daily,          Low Season 7am-5pm M-F</p>	<p>Vacant          Cathy Johnson          Russ Gripp          Brenda Belongie          Steve Leach          Vacant</p>	<p>PSU Manager          Fire Intelligence Coordinator          NFDRS/WIMS/RAWS Lead          USFS GACC Meteorologist          BLM GACC Meteorologist          Intelligence Officer</p>
--	--	--

<p><b>Southern California PSU</b>          2524 Mulberry St. Riverside, CA 92501-2200          FAX Number: (951) 276-6439          WEB: <a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm</a>          Office Email: <a href="mailto:riverside.fwx@fire.ca.gov">riverside.fwx@fire.ca.gov</a>          Hours: Fire Season 7am-5pm daily,          Low Season 7am-5pm M-F</p>	<p>Tom Rolinski          Matt Shameson          Rob Krohn          Bruce Risher          Vacant</p>	<p>USFS GACC Meteorologist/ PS Mgr.          USFS GACC Meteorologist          USFS GACC Meteorologist          Intelligence Coordinator          Intelligence Officer</p>
--	---	---

<p><b>NWS Eureka Forecast Office</b>          300 Startare Dr. Eureka, CA 95501-6000          FAX Number: (707) 443-6195          WEB: <a href="http://www.weather.gov/eureka">http://www.weather.gov/eureka</a>          Backup Offices: WFO Monterey and WFO Medford</p>	<p>Troy Nicolini          Jeff Tonkin          Vacant</p>	<p>Meteorologist In Charge          Fire Weather Program Mgr / IMET          Warning Coordination Meteorologist</p>
--	---	---

<p><b>NWS Hanford Forecast Office</b>          900 Foggy Bottom Rd. Hanford, CA 93230-5236          FAX Number: (559) 584-1152          WEB: <a href="http://www.weather.gov/hanford">http://www.weather.gov/hanford</a>          Backup Office: WFO Sacramento</p>	<p>Kevin Lynott          Cindy Bean          Dan Harty          Jim Dudley          Jerald Meadows</p>	<p>Meteorologist In Charge          Fire Weather Program Mgr.          IMET          IMET          Warning Coordination Meteorologist</p>
---	--	---