

Subject: RED FLAG WARNING

Date: Monday; August 18th

From: National Weather Service – Missoula, MT <nws.missoula@noaa.gov>

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MISSOULA FIRE WEATHER OFFICE MORNING LAND MANAGEMENT FORECAST

1130 AM MDT MON AUG 18.....FOSS

...RED FLAG WARNING FOR ALL ZONES UNTIL 1900 HOURS FOR GUSTY SOUTH-SOUTHWEST WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

Broadcast discussion...an upper-level trough will move into the Pacific northwest later tonight...then east to the Northern Rockies Tuesday and Wednesday. Strong flow aloft and continued dry conditions will create Red Flag conditions tomorrow.

Discussion...trough of low pressure off the west coast will move east tonight. Southwest flow aloft will strengthen overnight and with daytime heating will mix down tomorrow to create breezy to windy conditions statewide. Combining the winds with the dry relative humidities...Red Flag conditions will once again develop but be more widespread. An associated cold front with the trough of low pressure will drop south Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning. Breezy to windy conditions can continue to be expected out ahead of the front. Some showers and thunderstorms could also be expected as the front passes but mainly limited to the northern part of the state. A few isolated showers may pop up in area 2.

The trough of low pressure should exit the region on Wednesday. Behind it...a ridge of high pressure will build in and a drying trend should begin again. Temperatures will warm back up to seasonal norms before rising above normal towards the weekend.

Thunderstorms imply strong gusty and erratic winds

All winds are 20-foot...10-minute averages

Extended forecast temperatures are for the 5000-foot level