

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level Definitions

Geographic Area preparedness levels are determined from the ground up, and at the higher levels may constrain activities on a single unit not experiencing similar activity. This assures that sufficient resources will be available for Area and National situations. Area Preparedness Levels must also be responsive to the National Preparedness Levels which identify amounts of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment nationally.

Certain circumstances may arise where it is necessary to make exceptions to management considerations specified in the Preparedness Levels. Since the National Preparedness Levels are designed to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the National situation, management considerations at higher levels may constrain activities in the Geographic Areas not experiencing significant activity. In such situations, the Northern Rockies Geographic Area (NRGA) may have activity occurring at a lower level than is reflected by the National Preparedness Levels. Northern Rockies Area will continue those activities that will not detract from an appropriate level for National response. The Northern Rockies will document changing preparedness levels utilizing the Criterium Decision Plus software. Preparedness Levels (PL) in the Northern Rockies are derived from 2 tiered approach. These can be summed up by measuring the following:

1. What is occurring? This includes measuring fire business such as fire activity, Incident Management Team (IMT), and Operational Resource commitments.
2. What could occur? This includes measuring significant fire potential and fire danger indices within Northern Rockies Geographic Area Zones (NRGA Zones), Northern Rockies Predictive Service Areas (PSA's) and how these relate to the probability of fire occurrence and fire danger

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 1

Minimal fires occurring across the NRGA. Number and size of fires are within normal range for time of year. Little or no commitment of other than local resources. No Incident Management Team (IMT) Commitment. All Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Zone (NRCG Zone) classifications reflect little (green) to low (yellow) risk with no increase in potential forecasted over the next 7 days. All NRCG zone classifications below the 90th percentile for ERC and are forecasted to remain so for the next 7 days

Northern Rockies - Preparedness Level 2

Wildland fire activity is increasing. Light Initial Attack occurring across the GACC. 1-2 NRGA zones experiencing large fire activity. Resources within the NRGA appear adequate to manage the situations. Some commitment of Type 3 Incident Management Teams (IMT), 1-2 IMT2s may be committed. 1 NRCG Zone reflects is expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk with no or very few high (red) risk events forecasted over the next 7 days. 1 NRCG zone is currently and is expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.

Northern Rockies – Preparedness Level 3

Daily IA in some NRCG Zones. 3 NRGA zones have large incidents burning more than 2 burning periods. 50% of the NRGA National resources are committed. Additional resources may be mobilized from outside the NRGA. Northern Rockies Type 1 and all NRCG type 2 IMTs are committed or on order to

manage large incidents. – 2-3 NRCG Zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate risk (brown) or occasional high risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days. 2-3 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.

Northern Rockies – Preparedness Level 4

Large fire activity is increasing. Four or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large incidents. Initial Attack (100+) activity is heavy across the NRGAs. Initial Attack resources are committed. All NRGAs National resources are committed. Resources are being mobilized from outside the NRGAs. IMTs from outside the NRGAs may be on order. 4 NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect moderate (brown) or occasional high (red) risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days. 4-5 NRCG zones are currently and are expected to remain above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.

Northern Rockies – Preparedness Level 5

There is a high level of unsuccessful IA across the geographical area. New incident IA capability is compromised due to ongoing large fire activity. 5 or more NRCG Zones are experiencing large fire activity. Incident resource needs are not being met. Significant competition for resources is occurring. Four NRGAs zones requiring multiple IMTs. NRCG Zone requests for IMTs are not being met. 5 or more NRCG zones reflect and are expected to continue to reflect a moderate (brown) risk or frequent high risk events are forecasted over the next 7 days. 5 or more NRCG zones are currently and are expected to be above the 90th percentile for ERC over the next 7 days.