Fire Danger PocketCards for Firefighter Safety

The Fire Danger PocketCard is a tool based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to help firefighters develop an awareness of the current fire situation. The primary objective of the NFDRS is to provide a measure of the seriousness of local burning conditions. The PocketCard provides a visual reference of those conditions and how they compare to previous fire seasons.

What is Fire Danger Rating?
- A decision *aid* that describes the factors (fuels, weather, and topography) which affect the initiation, spread, and difficulty of control of wildfires on an area.
- Aid is emphasized because fire danger rating information is not a stand-alone answer – it must be considered along with local knowledge of an area.

What will the Fire Danger PocketCard do?
- The Fire Danger PocketCard is useful in initial fire size up, initial attack, and extended attack
- The Fire Danger PocketCard gives firefighters a general indicator of the potential for fuels to support extreme fire behavior and of the difficulty of control.

What won't the Fire Danger PocketCard do?
- The Fire Danger PocketCard will not provide site specific fire behavior predictions.

How do Firefighters Use the Fire Danger PocketCards?
- Compare current and predicted local fire danger to historical local fire danger in order to enhance situational awareness.
- Use this information to be aware of indicators that predict the potential for extreme fire behavior.

The Fire Danger PocketCard Talking Points
Designed to help the local unit provide a PocketCard briefing to all firefighting resources. Use these points to develop a briefing that is commensurate with the incident complexity. Select/cover points that are appropriate.

Seasonality
- Fire danger ahead/behind seasonal normals
- Memorable years and associated fire danger ratings (paint the picture, tell the story, relate it to today's conditions)

Local Unit Fuel Models and Indexes
- Fuel models and indices used
- Today's index values
- Predicted index values

Other Special Information
- Live and dead fuel moisture contents
- Terrain influence
- Fire behavior (previous, current, expected)

Local History / Lessons Learned / Thresholds
- Include the critical threshold values for these weather measures and events:
  - Relative humidity
  - Wind speed
  - Temperature
  - Other relevant local values

Weather Forecast
- Fire weather forecast (previous and current observations and current forecast)
- Red Flag / Fire Weather Watch
- Winds, RH, temperatures, etc

PocketCard Information & Key Features

Upper Left Quadrant	Upper Right Quadrant
- Historical maximum, average, and locally-determined critical level - Representative index - Name of the area	- Fire weather forecast zone - Weather data sources - Length of weather records used - Local threshold values - Conditions that shout "watch out" - Map of the area of application - Explanations of the maximum/average trends
Lower Left Quadrant	**Lower Right Quadrant**
- Past seasonal trends for the representative index - Past extreme fires - Fuel model considered	- Information to enhance understanding of the seasonal trend graphs - Definitions and insights into the plotted index - Situational awareness information - Discussion regarding adjustment for local conditions