

Eastern Montana Fire Zone Preparedness Level Worksheet

Adjective Rating	LOW				MODERATE				HIGH				VERY HIGH				EXTREME					
North	BI 0-13				BI 14-23				BI 24-33				BI 34-41				BI 42+					
South	BI 0-11				BI 12-20				BI 21-29				BI 30-36				BI 37+					
Red Flag Warning	No ↓		Yes ↓		No ↓		Yes ↓		No ↓		Yes ↓		No ↓		Yes ↓		No ↓		Yes ↓			
Ignition Risk	Low ↓		High ↓		Low ↓		High ↓		Low ↓		High ↓		Low ↓		High ↓		Low ↓		High ↓			
Fire Activity	Yes or No ↓				No ↓		Yes ↓		Yes or No ↓				No ↓		Yes ↓		No ↓		Yes ↓		Yes or No ↓	
Preparedness Level	1				2				3				4				5					

A. Preparedness Level

The preparedness level is calculated using a four-tier (1-4) fire danger rating system that will be based on Burning Index and indicators of fire business. The fire business indicators used to calculate the preparedness level include an indication of fire activity, Red Flag Warnings, and a measure of Ignition Risk. A flow chart guides personnel through the process. The break points for the planning level are set using an historical analysis (Fire Family Plus) of fire business and its relationship to daily RAWs observations entered into the NIFMID database and processed by WIMS, which calculates the staffing index values (BI, IC, SC, ERC, etc).

Worksheet Instructions:

- 1. Adjective Rating/ Percentile Breaks:** Place a checkmark in row one indicating the forecasted staffing index/component range. These indices are based on the 1300 RAWs observations which are input to the WIMS processor.
- 2. Red Flag Warning:** Place a checkmark in row two based on the presence of these advisories issued by the National Weather Service.
- 3. Ignition Risk:** Place a checkmark in row three to indicate the relative risk of human and/or naturally caused ignitions. Human-caused risk is based upon activities such as holidays or special events occurring within the zone. During holiday weekends or special events, the ignition risk is "High;" otherwise, it is "Low." Lightning Activity Level (LAL) would be the basis for relative risk for natural ignitions; a forecasted LAL of 1 or 2 is "Low" ignition risk; 3 through 6 is "High". If multiple LALs are forecasted within the FDRA, use the highest LAL forecasted for that FDRA to complete the worksheet.
- 4. Fire Activity:** Fire activity can be defined as any fire within the zone that requires the commitment of a Federal ground or aviation resource. Place a checkmark in the appropriate box in row four.

Drawdown Staffing Levels Based on Preparedness Levels

Preparedness Level	ON-ZONE ENGINES				
	1	2	3	4	5
Miles City (of 3 engines)	1	1	2	3	3
Jordan (of 2 engines)	1	1	1	2	2
Fort Howes (of 3 engines)	1	1	2	3	3
Camp Crook/ Ekalaka (of 2 engines)	1	1	1	2	2
Totals	4	4	6	10	10

*The staffing levels identified above are only a guide; will need concurrence from the Fire Management Officer and/or Duty Officer.

*Focus will be on Zone totals rather than Station location, if needed Engine(s) will be moved to provide coverage throughout the zone.