

## WHAT IS...

## A Fire Danger Rating?

## FIRE FACT SHEET

**M**anagers use the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to input data and to receive information used to determine fire danger in their area. Based on the fire danger, managers may impose restrictions or closures to public lands, plan for or pre-position staff and equipment to fight new fires and to make decisions whether to suppress or allow fires to burn under prescribed conditions.

### NFDRS Components

Since 1974, five rating levels have been used to describe danger levels in public information releases and fire prevention signing. These ratings range from low (green) to extreme (red).

#### Low (green)

**Fire starts are unlikely.** Weather and fuel conditions will lead to slow fire spread, low intensity, and relatively easy control with light mop-up. Controlled burns can usually be executed with reasonable safety.

#### Moderate (blue)

**Some wildfires may be expected.** Expect moderate flame length and rate of spread. Control is usually not difficult and light to moderate mop-up can be expected. Although controlled burning can be done without creating a hazard, routine caution should be taken.

#### High (yellow)

**Wildfires are likely.** Fires in heavy, continuous fuel such as mature grassland, weed fields, and forest litter will be difficult to control under windy conditions. Control through direct attack may be difficult but possible, and mop-up will be required. Outdoor burning should be restricted to early morning and late evening hours.

#### Very High (orange)

**Fires start easily from all causes and may spread faster than suppression resources can travel.** Flame lengths will be long with high intensity, making control very difficult. Both suppression and mop-up will require an extended and very thorough effort. Outdoor burning is not recommended.

#### Extreme (red)

**Fires will start and spread rapidly.** Every fire start has the potential to become large. Expect extreme, erratic fire behavior. **NO OUTDOOR BURNING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AREAS WITH EXTREME FIRE DANGER.**



*Signs such as this may be a common sight on or near public lands to make people aware of the fire danger.*

### For more information:

LANL Fire Wildfire Management Planning Website: <http://www.LANLWildlandfire.com>