

WHAT IS...

A Fire Weather Watch?

FIRE FACT SHEET

A Fire Weather Watch is issued when the potential for severe fire weather exists in the near future. A watch is used when there is a relatively low probability of occurrence and less chance of verifying. The fire danger rating is usually in the high to extreme category..

A Fire Weather Watch normally will be issued 12 to 24 hours in advance of the expected onset of severe fire weather conditions and typically in conjunction with the routine narrative forecasts. The area affected, onset time, and a statement describing the conditions will be included in the forecast. Fire Weather Watches are cancelled if subsequent information indicates that the conditions are no longer expected to develop. This cancellation is disseminated either by headline in the routine forecast or special statement.



NOTE: You may see a Fire Weather Watch issued for a period less than 12 hours, but this can be done only for dry lightning and when there is a low probability of the event developing. If there is a high probability of dry lightning, then a Red Flag Warning will be used.



For more information:

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