

2011 NWS Riverton Weather Office

NOTE: This information describes the Riverton Fire Weather support for the Northern Rockies Geographic Area. While most of the information is the same for the Northern Rocky Mountain Area support, there are a few important differences, especially for Red Flag Criteria. The main difference is that Relative Humidity is less than or equal to 15 percent.

Location

The National Weather Service office in Riverton, Wyoming is located on Griffey Hill, West of Riverton Regional Airport.

The mailing address is:
National Weather Service
12744 West US Hwy 26
Riverton, WY 82501

Contact Information

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Office: (307) 857-3869
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Internet Addresses

General Weather Information: <http://weather.gov/riverton>
Fire Weather Information: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=firewx>
National Fire Weather Information: <http://weather.gov/fire>

Operational Hours

The National Weather Service office in Riverton, Wyoming is staffed 24 hours a day with at least one meteorologist certified to handle Fire Weather requests. Additional staff is usually available enabling multiple requests to be handled in a timely manner. The office has 2 certified Incident Meteorologists who are available for onsite support to large wildfires, prescribed fires, and other major incidents.

General Fire Weather Forecast Issuance Times (Dates may be adjusted according to user needs)

May 1 thru October 31 Daily AM Issuance by 0700 MDT and PM Issuance by 1530 MDT.

Forecast Services

Fire Weather Forecasts, site specific Spot Forecasts, Red Flag Warnings, and Fire Weather Watches will generally follow the format as defined in the **Fire Weather Products Section** of the **Northern Rockies Annual Operating Plan**. These products are issued on a routine basis through the season. Smoke Dispersion information is available in the Fire Weather Forecasts and upon request for verbal briefings or through spot requests.

Non-routine or unscheduled products may be issued at any time as weather conditions can and do change rapidly. The affected dispatch offices in the Riverton Fire Weather District will be alerted by telephone should this need occur.

Fire Weather Briefings

The National Weather Service in Riverton will offer fire weather briefings via conference call for local land managers on an *as needed* basis. A notification email will be sent with as much advance notice as possible when a conference call will take place. When needed, they will be held Tuesday mornings at 0900 MDT. The frequency of calls may increase as conditions dictate.

The briefings will use conference calls combined with GOTO Meeting.

Dial in information: Phone: (877) 775-4418 Pass Code: 321629

GOTO Meeting:

<https://www.gotomeeting.com/join/704073457>

ID: 704-073-457

Please note: If you are unable to access GOTO Meeting, you can access the .PDF file from our web site:

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/riw/firewx_briefing.pdf

Red Flag Criteria

These are Red Flag events when they occur with Very High, or Extreme Fire Dangers.

1. Scattered dry thunderstorms. (A lightning storm accompanied by less than a wetting rain, 0.10 inch precipitation or less, often with very gusty winds).
2. Increased thunderstorm activity, wet or dry, during an extremely dry period.
3. A combination of low RH's and increasing strong or gusty surface winds, or abrupt change in direction due to the approach and passage of a cold front, squall line, or other weather phenomena other than isolated thunderstorms.
4. Anytime the forecaster foresees a change in weather that would result in a significant increase in fire danger.

Red Flag Verification

Red Flag Warnings for Winds and RH will be considered verified when sustained winds or frequent gusts of 25 mph or higher are observed, combined with an RH of 15 percent or lower for any three hr observations within a given zone. The three observations can be from one sensor or multiple sensors, but must encompass 3 separate hours out of a consecutive 8 hour period.

Agencies Served

The Riverton National Weather Service Office serves Yellowstone National Park in the Northern Rockies Area.

Fire Weather Zones

The Riverton Fire Weather District covers Zone 140, Yellowstone National Park in extreme northwest Wyoming.

List of Reference RAWS Stations by Fire Weather Zone: (This list may be subject to change, please check periodically for updates.)

Zone	Station	WIMS #	County	Lat	Long	Elev
140	Cabin Creek	480114	Teton	44.32	-110.15	8680'
140	Quadrant	480115	Park	44.93	-110.99	7926'