

## **2009 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 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://fire.boi.noaa.gov>

### **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 is expecting to offer fire weather briefings via conference call for local land managers...beginning summer 2008. The conference call briefings are expected to be held each Tuesday at 0900 Mountain Time through October as conditions warrant. The frequency of calls will 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/824101003>

ID: 824-101-003

### **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 three 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.)

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

## **Product overview**

National Weather Service (NWS) offices provide a suite of scheduled and unscheduled meteorological products to support land management agencies. Scheduled products may include daily planning forecasts, outlooks, discussions, and numerical forecasts. These are generally produced for spring burning, wildfire season and fall burning. Unscheduled products include fire weather watches, red flag warnings, and spot and FARSITE forecasts. These are available upon request 24 hours a day throughout the year.

The Billings, Glasgow, Great Falls, Missoula, **Riverton** and Spokane NWS offices will issue detailed forecasts to fire control agencies in the area encompassing Montana, portions of north central Idaho, northwest South Dakota, and ~~north-central~~ **extreme northwest** Wyoming. The descriptions of the fire weather districts can be found in the individual sections for each office. Agencies served include: USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife in Montana and Idaho, Divisions of Environmental Quality, the States of Montana and Idaho, and county and local agencies.

## **Fire Weather Products**

### OFFICE BACKUP

<b>Office</b>	<b>Primary Backup</b>	<b>Secondary Backup</b>
Billings	Glasgow	Riverton
Missoula	Great Falls	Spokane
Great Falls	Missoula	Glasgow
Glasgow	Billings	Great Falls
Spokane	Pendleton	Missoula

**Riverton** **Cheyenne** **Billings**

Following are the Internet sites for each office:

<http://weather.gov/billings>

<http://weather.gov/glasgow>

<http://weather.gov/greatfalls>

<http://weather.gov/spokane>

<http://weather.gov/missoula>

<http://weather.gov/riverton>

## **FARSITE Forecast Page**

Riverton

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/firewx/farsite/index.php>

## **Red Flag Warnings and Fire Watches**

RH criteria  $\leq$  15%

## **Links**

### **[RIW AFD](#)**

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=RIW&product=AFD&format=CI&version=1&glossary=1>

### **[RIW PFM](#)**

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/fwpfm/fwpfm.php?wfo=riw&header=off>

### **[RIW Weather Planner](#)**

<http://forecast.weather.gov//wxplanner.php?site=riw>

### **[Digital Forecast Products](#)**

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ndfd/graphical/sectors/riwFireDay.php?zoom=OFF#tabs>