

NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM - DECISION SUPPORT

7841

(July 2015)

[\(See Gaining an Understanding National Fire Danger Rating System\)](#)

CAL FIRE has adopted the use of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) as a tool to assist the manager in day to day fire business decisions. NFDRS provides one or more qualitative or numeric indices that reflect an area's protection needs. Fire danger ratings describe conditions that reflect the potential, over a large area, for a fire to ignite, spread and require suppression action.

NFDRS INDEX APPLICATION

7841.1

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The NFDRS is a national standard application that is implemented by CAL FIRE as well as the wildland fire agencies throughout the country. The qualitative value associated with fire danger are reflective numeric indices that are calculated values reflecting potential conditions associated with fuel, weather, and topography. These index values are used as a tool to support short term fire business decisions such as Dispatch Levels ([See HB 8100p200 Dispatch Levels](#)), Staffing Patterns, resource prepositioning, etc. Longer term use of NFDRS can include seasonal preparedness, burning restrictions, etc. The application guide to support making these fire business decisions at the Unit level is the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP). Implementation of NFDRS Indices and fire business decision points/thresholds used at the Unit level shall be identified in the Unit's FDOP.

FORECASTED INDICES AND NOTIFICATIONS

7841.2

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[\(See HB 8100p211 – Fire Weather Adjective Rating\).](#)

The National Weather Service, Weather Forecasting Offices (WFO) generate forecasted NFDRS Indices daily for each Unit during fire season. The forecasted indices are provided to the Unit on the prior day in the Weather Information Management System (WIMS). These forecasted Indices are dependent upon the Unit's entering daily observations into the WIMS. Units shall input Daily Observations into WIMS prior to 1500 hours daily for the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) assigned to them. (See HB 7833.4)

[\(see Next Section\)](#)

[\(see Handbook Table of Content\)](#)

[\(see Forms and Form Samples\)](#)