

INCIDENT REQUIREMENTS FOR WEATHER FORECASTING

7851

(July 2015)

Fire weather forecasting needs are determined by the wildland fire strategy (initial attack (IA), extended attack (EA), or major attack) condition that exists. During the initial attack stage, daily fire weather forecasts and National Fire Danger Rating Indexes are used in determining fire weather conditions. As wildland fires escalate requiring extended or major attack strategies, additional fire weather forecasting tools may be required. These include spot weather forecasts, activation of Incident Meteorologists (IMET), and daily fire weather coordination conference calls.

The tools used for prescribed fire are the same tools used for incidents, with the exception of the agency/office providing the tools. For all wildland fire incidents the spot weather forecasts will be provided by the National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecast Office (WFO). Prescribed fire spot weather forecasts and IMET services may be provided by either the WFO or the Geographical Area Coordination Center Predictive Services Unit (PSU) within the applicable Region.

FIRE WEATHER SPOT FORECASTS

7851.1

[\(See 7800p502 – Fire Weather Spot Forecast Request\)](#)

[\(See 8100p213 – Spot Forecast – Spot Request\)](#)

A fire weather spot forecast is a special forecast issued to fit the time, topography, and weather of a specific incident. These forecasts are issued upon request of the user agency and are more detailed, timely, and specific than Fire Weather Planning forecasts. To obtain a fire weather spot forecast, a representative (usually on-site) weather observation must be provided to the forecasting office (WFO or PSU).

A spot weather forecast should be considered for complex incidents that exceed IA containment. Incident types include but are not limited to wildfires, HAZMAT, prescribed fires and Search and Rescue. Requests for a spot weather forecast should continue until the confirmed arrival of an IMET to the incident

Incident related spot forecast requests can be completed at the local WFO website or at the National Weather Services, California Fire Weather website.

For prescribed fire spot weather forecasts, requests can be directed to the PSU at the appropriate GACC or to the WFO. For prescribed fires requirements [\(See Policy 7030.3 VMP Operations - Weather\)](#).

Northern Region PSU request forms can be found at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/index.htm> .

Southern Region PSU request forms can be found at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/weather/index.htm>

INCIDENT METEOROLOGISTS (IMET)

7851.2

[\(See HB 8100p386 – Resource Ordering – Incident Meteorologists \(IMET\)\)](#)

Incident Meteorologists are used to provide weather forecast information specific to the incident and to the Unit where the incident exists. Incidents are required to order an IMET for all wildland fires where an Incident Management Team (IMT) is deployed. Use of an IMET should be considered for any complex incident where weather conditions will continue to have an impact upon the decision making process. The procedure to order an IMET for wildland fires can be found in [HB 8100p386 – Resource Ordering – Incident Meteorologists \(IMET\)](#).

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

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

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