

8100 PROCEDURE 200

Dispatch Levels

(February 2010)

(See 7800 Handbook – Fire Weather)

Dispatch Levels are to be set daily at 0800, 1100, 1400, and 1800 utilizing index outputs from National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) retrieved from the Weather Information System (WIMS). Dispatch level decision thresholds and appropriate indexes used are identified in the Unit's Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan (FDROP). Decision thresholds are defined as the decision point based upon a combination of climatology, fire history, and management decisions (i.e. the point where dispatch levels change from low to medium, medium to high, etc). This information is based upon fire occurrence data and weather history analysis used to develop the Unit's FDROP with experience input from local Unit fire management staff.

Responsibilities and Action

ECC

1. Retrieve weather observations at required interval from selected weather stations. Required intervals are 0800 hrs, 1100 hrs, 1400 hrs, and 1800 hrs daily

*Note: data for these observations may not be available in WIMS for up to an hour after the interval time indicated. Utilize the previous hour's observations as indicated; use 0700 hr observations for 0800 dispatch levels, use 1000 hr observations for 1100 dispatch levels, use 1300 hr observations for 1400 hr dispatch levels and use 1700 hr observations for 1800 hr dispatch levels.
2. Enter weather observation into the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) and retrieve current National Fire Danger Rating System indexes and components from WIMS. Enter the 1300-hour weather observation as an "O"bserved observation. Enter other hours as "S"pecial observations ([See WIMS User Guide June 2009, Chapter 7 – Working with Observations](#)).
3. Use current indexes and or components to set the dispatch levels (low, medium, or high) as defined in the Unit's FDROP.
4. Update dispatch level settings in the computer-aided system of record for each dispatch area.
5. Broadcast dispatch levels to the unit at 0800 hrs, 1100 hrs, 1400 hrs, and 1800hrs.
6. Make notifications of dispatch levels as directed by the Unit's FDROP.

Continue process daily at required intervals during transitional staffing, peak staffing or additionally as directed by the Unit's FDROP.

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