



Sonoma County Fire District

Fire Danger Rating Signs

The purpose of the **Fire Danger Rating Sign** is to prevent wildfires by increasing awareness of wildfire ignition and spread potential. Wildfire ignition potential is determined by the following factors: 1) size and shape of fuels, 2) compactness or arrangement of fuels, 3) fuel moisture content, and 4) fuel temperature. In general, these factors vary over a geographic area, change each day, and are not practical to continually assess. Therefore, the signs will display the Fire Danger Rating using air temperature. Wind is the most influential factor affecting wildfire spread.

Any reliable weather forecast can be utilized and when in doubt, round up to the next higher rating. Windy periods with low fuel moisture and relative humidity usually result in Red Flag Warnings. Red flags will only be displayed when the National Weather Service declares a “Red Flag Warning” for any portion of Sonoma County. The rating will be “Extreme” when red flags are posted regardless of other weather conditions.



Signs will change to “low” when there is sustained rain (over 4 hours).

May 1 – September 31: Highest predicted air temperature

Rating	Air Temperature
Extreme	Above 100 F
Very High	90-99 F
High	80-89 F
Moderate	70-79 F
Low	Less than 70 F

October 1 – November 31: Highest predicted air temperature

Rating	Air Temperature
Extreme	Above 90 F
Very High	80-89 F
High	70-79 F
Moderate	60-69 F
Low	Less than 60 F

December 1 – April 30

December 1st through April 30th the sign is kept at low unless weather associated with increased wildfire ignition and fuel conditions support changing. This will be a discretionary decision by the fire agencies and will be considered during significant dry periods during the winter months where prescribed burning increases the wildfire ignition potential.

Rating	Precautions
Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities that could cause a fire are highly discouraged. This includes campfires, non-gas grills, any tool or device that produces a flame or embers, mowing or weedeating cured grass, shooting, operating power equipment such as chainsaws, and any type of burning. • Motors, engines, and anything mechanical can overheat and cause a fire. • Routine tasks/events may cause a fire such as a flat tire, dragging a chain, pulling a car into dry grass, and driving a stake into the ground. • Develop and implement plan to be able to report a wildfire as quickly as possible.
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities that could cause a fire are discouraged. If they must be performed, then they are done during cooler morning portions of the day. Inspect work area after work is performed. • Routine tasks/events may cause a fire such as a flat tire, dragging a chain, pulling a car into dry grass, and driving a stake into the ground. • Water, fire extinguishers, and other mitigation efforts in place and, if possible, suppress any wildfire that starts. • Develop and implement plan to be able to report a wildfire as quickly as possible.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities that could cause a fire are discouraged. If they must be performed, then they are done during cooler morning portions of the day. Inspect work area after work is performed. • Water, fire extinguishers, and other mitigation efforts in place to report and if possible, suppress any wildfire that starts. • Develop and implement plan to be able to report a wildfire as quickly as possible.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfires can ignite during the hottest and driest portion of the day. • Water, fire extinguishers, and other mitigation efforts in place to report and if possible, suppress any wildfire that starts.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, fire extinguishers, and other mitigation efforts in place to report and if possible, suppress any wildfire that starts.