

## NWS Fire Weather Services

- Red Flag Warning** - issued when a combination of strong winds (25+ mph), low humidity (15% or less), and dry fuels create an explosive fire growth potential in the next 24 hours.
- Fire Weather Watch** - issued 12 to 72 hours in advance of when critical fire weather conditions are forecast to occur.
- Fire Weather Planning Forecast** - issued daily during fire weather season to give land management personnel an array of weather parameters including relative humidity, winds, and smoke dispersal for input to their decision-making process for pre-suppression (prescribed burns) and other planning. The forecasts also impact resource allocation for expected fire weather conditions.
- Spot Forecast** - issued for a specific location in support of wildfire suppression or natural resource management (prescribed burns). These forecasts impact firefighter safety and aid the land management and fire control agencies in protecting life and property during fires.
- National Fire Danger Rating System Forecasts (NFDRS)** - a site forecast issued daily during fire season to predict the next day's fire danger. This helps in resource allocation.
- NOAA Weather Radio** - there are three NOAA Weather Radio products used to alert the public about impending wildfires. They are Evacuation Immediate, Fire Warning, and a Local Area Emergency. These products are issued at the request of local Emergency Managers and/or fire officials. If there is an alert feature on your NOAA Weather Radio, then you will be alerted day or night of impending threats from wildfires and other hazards. You can also access these alerts through our website at [www.weather.gov/riverton/](http://www.weather.gov/riverton/).



## NOAA Weather Radio

The quickest way to get weather information!

NOAA Weather Radio provides broadcasts of the latest weather information from the National Weather Service office in Riverton 24 hours a day. These radios are either battery-operated portable units or AC-powered desktop models with battery back-up. While NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts will not be found on the standard AM/FM radio bands, some CB radios and scanners are capable of receiving the weather band frequencies. Also, many weather radios are small enough to take along on the road or on outdoor activities and can keep you informed of the latest weather changes. NOAA Weather Radio also serves as an "all hazards" alert system. This allows emergency management officials to inform the public of emergencies and other incidents that require the public to take action to protect themselves. This includes threats from wildfires. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert day or night to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation. NOAA Weather Radio operates as an "all hazards" radio network, making it the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public.

### Wyoming NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies

<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Afton	162.425	Kemmerer	162.525
Casper	162.400	Lander	162.475
Cheyenne	162.550	Lead, SD	162.525
Cody	162.400	Mammoth	162.425
Dubois	162.450	Newcastle	162.475
Evanston	162.450	Pinedale	162.500
Gillette	162.500	Rawlins	162.425
Glendo	162.450	Rock Springs	162.550
Grant Village	162.450	Sheridan	162.475
Jackson	162.525	Thermopolis	162.500
Kaycee	162.550	Worland	162.525

**National Weather Service**  
12744 West U.S. Highway 26  
Riverton, WY 82501  
(307) 857-3898 / (800) 211-1448  
[www.weather.gov/riverton](http://www.weather.gov/riverton)

Are YOU ready  
for Fire Season?



### A Basic Fire Weather Safety and Informational Guide



Working Together... To Save Lives

# Safety Tips to Help Make Your Home Firewise



1

## HOME IGNITION ZONE

The Home Ignition Zone begins with at least 30 feet of space immediately around the home and extending out as far as 100 to 200 feet depending on the characteristics of the surrounding forests or grasslands. Creating and maintaining the Home Ignition Zone reduces or eliminates ignition hazards presented by vegetation (by thinning or spacing, removing dead leaves and needles and pruning shrubs and tree branches) and combustible construction (wooden porches, decks, storage sheds, outbuildings, swing sets and fences).

2

## LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

With Firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Prune large trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the Home Ignition Zone, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils, and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, paupon, holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less-flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry office, county extension office, or landscape specialist.

3

## FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise roof construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile, and concrete products. The inclusion of a fire-resistant subroof adds protection. Make a periodic inspection looking for deterioration such as breaks and spaces between roof tiles. Keep the roof, gutters, and eaves clear of leaves and other debris. Make sure under-eave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. Box in eaves, but be sure to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew.

4

## FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If these items attached to a home are *not* fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is vulnerable to ignition.

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## FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. For more information, see the Firewise Construction Checklist on the other side.

6

## A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take time to discuss with your family what actions you will take. Post emergency telephone numbers in a visible place. Leave before it is too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Have tools available (shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, or chain saw). Maintain an emergency water source. Have a plan for your pets. Practice family fire drills.

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## EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.

For more information visit: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

## Other Weather Events Impacting Fire and the Land

Dry lightning and even heavy rain after the fire are key weather elements that greatly impact fire weather. Dry lightning occurs when little or no rain falls during a thunderstorm. Therefore, lightning reaches the ground but the rain does not, allowing the lightning bolt to possibly ignite a fire. The risk is elevated if it strikes some dry fuels. Even after the fire has been put out, there is still a hazard related to the fire burn area, especially for large fires. Heavy rain at the burn scar area, even for a few years after the fire, could cause some flash flooding and possibly mud slides. This can occur because vegetation is slow to regrow in the area. In 2006, there were 703 wildland fires burning more than 202,000 acres across Wyoming. The latest fire conditions and restrictions in Wyoming can be found at the BLM's website at [www.wy.blm.gov/wy\\_fire\\_restrictions/](http://www.wy.blm.gov/wy_fire_restrictions/).

## NWS Personnel Serve During Wildfires



National Weather Service Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) are dispatched to major wildfires across the entire country. They work closely with Fire Behavior Analysts from various land management agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and Wyoming State Forestry, to help predict fire behavior.



The IMET weather forecasts greatly impact decisions on how to fight the fire. IMETs also provide briefings at numerous planning meetings, including all fire crews, and answer any weather-related questions. In this picture, an NWS IMET sets up portable weather equipment at the Jackson Canyon Fire on Casper Mountain.

## Call Before You Light



Before you begin burning, please give your local police and/or fire department a call to inform them of your plans. Also, give the National Weather Service a call to find out the expected weather conditions. **Are the winds going to pick up in the afternoon?** Calm or light winds in the morning could abruptly change by late morning into the afternoon when an inversion lifts resulting in gusty winds at the surface. An inversion is a layer of stable air which usually occurs near the surface during the early morning hours. **Is there a front coming through?** Winds will quickly change direction behind the front and it could be very windy both ahead and behind the front. **Are thunderstorms forecast?** Thunderstorms can produce microbursts, which are very strong winds associated with thunderstorms. These winds can reach up to 100 mph, but are more typically 30 to 50 mph. These winds can abruptly change the fire direction and speed with little notice, and are sometimes far away from the parent thunderstorm.

Give the NWS a call at **(800) 211-1448** for the expected weather conditions over the next couple of days. It could keep a planned fire from getting out of control.