



NWCG Standard: Fire Danger PocketCard for Firefighter Safety

Standards Checklist February 2011

Authority: PocketCards are intended for local wildland fire agency use. If an agency with the fire protection authority elects to implement the PocketCard on its jurisdiction, it is responsible for producing the cards. For the purposes of this document such agencies will be referred to as the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Compliance: Compliance with this standard, including content quality, currency, and application of the PocketCard, is the responsibility of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The minimum skill level for the individual producing the PocketCard is successful completion of the S491 course.

Area: The PocketCard applies to an area of uniform fire danger rating, known as a Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). If FDRA's have not been determined, the following may be used: administrative unit, sub-geographical region, watershed, fire weather forecast zone, protection zone, fire climate zone, or predictive service area.

- Text or a map depicts the area represented by the card.
- At least one responsible Authority Having Jurisdiction is identified.

Weather Station(s) and Data: The number of weather stations depends on the size of the area represented by the PocketCard, the length and quality of the station record, and operational constraints at the local unit. [Weather Station\(s\) must comply with the Interagency Wildland Fire Weather Station Standards and Guidelines \(PMS 426-3\).](#)

- At least one representative weather station is listed by name (and/or number).
 - The data for the selected station(s) has received a through quality control and data consistency check.
 - The selected station(s) are use in daily NFDRS operations and the NFDRS outputs are readily available (announced via radio, posted on the intranet/internet) at the local unit.
 - Only active stations are included on the PocketCard.
- For each station, the number of years of weather data is disclosed. If multiple weather stations are used, the PocketCard uses the same range of years for all the stations.
- At least 10 years of data are used. If less than 10 years of data, the card contains text stating that the card is based on limited years of data and may not represent the most serious conditions the area could experience.
- Text on card states that "station(s) comply with NWCG weather station standards."

NFDRS Fuel Model and Index/Component: FireFamilyPlus should be used to determine the appropriate fuel model and index or component to use on the PocketCard. This is done through analyses of weather, fuel, and fire occurrence data for the area. The fuel model and the fire danger rating index or component must be the same as what is referred to in routine daily local briefings and communications of fire weather/fire danger.

The selection of the appropriate fuel model should be linked back to the Fire Danger Rating Operating Plan, Agency Fire Management Plan, or similar local operating plans. The selected fuel model is used for daily operational NFDRS processes such as the setting of “staffing levels” or “dispatch response levels”.

- A brief explanation of the fuel model appears on the PocketCard.
- A brief explanation of the index or component appears on the PocketCard
 - The selected NFDRS component/index is utilized in the daily operational NFDRS process(s) such as the setting of “staffing levels” or “dispatch response levels.”

Seasonal Trends:

- Graph of the average value for the chosen index or component through the typical local fire season(s).
- Graph of the all-time worst (usually the maximum) value for the index or component through the typical fire season(s).
- Graph of the index during one or two recent fire seasons.
- A description appears on the card referencing the timing and NFDRS value(s) for one or two significant fire events that happened in the area.
- Graph describes a NFDRS value corresponding to either a fire business threshold or agency specific critical percentile (80th and 95th or 90th and 97th).
- A brief explanation is provided for average, worst, specific fire seasons, and the critical percentile or fire business threshold.

Fire Danger Interpretation: One successful method utilizes bands of color displayed in the background of each graph. These colors serve to interpret what type of burning conditions are generally possible given a value of the fire danger index within that band. The meaning of each color is briefly explained. Other methods may also be useful for this purpose.

- The PocketCard displays an interpretation of burning conditions that are generally possible, given a value of the fire danger index.

Critical Threshold Values: Critical threshold values (for measures such as wind speed, relative humidity, temperature, live fuel moisture) are related to what? Firefighter safety? Large Fires? Problematic Fires? Related to particular fuel types? Needs to be stated. Should be determined through analysis of each observation with fire occurrence data using FireFamilyPlus.

Critical threshold values for temperature, relative humidity, wind, and fuel moisture conditions are displayed on the PocketCard.

Supplemental Information: This text entry is a very important part of the card. The intent of this section is to supplement information shown on “Years to Remember” chart and to highlight unique local events that influence fire danger and large fire potential (sundowners, east winds, etc).

Information (in text format) is provided about significant fire events described above.

Information (in text format) is provided about unique local events that influence fire danger and large fire potential (e.g. sundowners, east winds).

Currency: Cards can be updated as frequently as needed by downloading the additional weather observations, updating the Fire FamilyPlus database, and updating existing cards. PocketCards based on stations with a dataset of 10 years or less should be updated annually, while cards with more data (10 years or more) should be updated every other year.

The date when the PocketCard was developed/approved is clearly visible.

PocketCard is current (see above).