

National Fire Weather Web Page
Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The ability of the NWS to provide digital and graphic fire weather products and services over the internet continues to increase. Concurrently, the need for improved fire weather information on the internet by land management and fire suppression agencies also continues to increase. Multiple federal fire weather user agencies have expressed a need for an improved national fire weather web page that includes more interactive graphics.

OS/22 Fire and Public Weather Branch will test a new, highly interactive national fire weather web page from October 2, 2009 to March 1, 2010. Because existing fire weather information is bundled and/or presented in new formats, the national fire weather web page is considered a new experimental service.

On October 2, 2009, the experimental web page will be implemented for user evaluation and can be accessed via <http://www.weather.gov/fire>.

b. Purpose – Based on customer requests over the past several years, a new web page layout is provided that allows quick and easy access to all regional and local fire weather information, including digital information for the United States.

c. Audience – All land management and fire agencies in the United States, from the local to the state and federal level. Limited use by emergency management, media and the public is also anticipated.

d. Presentation Format – The new national fire weather web page will utilize increased dynamic map interfaces with users, similar to the “point and click” forecast options that have been in use across the NWS for several years.

e. Feedback Method – Focused feedback will be obtained via a link to comment on the new page at the top of the page. Functionality of the pages will be adjusted through the test period based on user comments and suggestions. Upon fire agency concurrence, the new fire weather web page will be made official March 1, 2010.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the revised national fire weather web page may be addressed to:

NOAA National Weather Service
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Or via e-mail to: Larry.VanBussum@noaa.gov.

Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – This experimental product was developed to provide fire weather users consistent and easy access to fire weather forecasts and products, both operational and documented experimental. Users can select and request various products from a clickable GUI. Standard NWS coding requirements are used for this page. It is Section 508 and DOC security compliant.

b. Availability – The National Fire Weather web page is available consistently 24/7 as a standard NWS web site. Underlying forecast products are updated according to established procedures.

URL: <http://www.weather.gov/fire>

c. Additional Information – Information regarding the availability and details of NWS fire weather products and services via the internet is included in all Fire Weather Annual Operating Plans (AOP), produced by Weather Forecast Offices nationwide.