

SPC Dry Thunderstorm Fire Weather Outlooks for Days 4-8
Product Description Document (PDD)
October 2014

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description – This product provides a daily categorical forecast of critical fire weather conditions for dry thunderstorms in the 4 through 8 day period.

b. Purpose – The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Storm Prediction Center (SPC) provides Day 1, Day 2 and Day 3-8 Fire Weather Outlooks (narrative and graphical) describing large-scale meteorological conditions in the lower 48 states which, when combined with the antecedent fuel conditions, favor the rapid growth and spread of a wildfire, should a fire ignition occur. These outlooks provide guidance for WFO forecasters and aid land management agencies in determining large-scale areas of fire danger risk.

The operational SPC Fire Weather Outlooks include daily categorical forecasts of critical fire weather conditions from dry thunderstorms for Days 1, 2, and 3, and from strong winds, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures through Day 8. Predictive Services and NWS WFO meteorologists along with users in the fire weather community have expressed interest in longer range outlooks of dry thunderstorm critical fire weather areas for Day 4 through Day 8.

c. Audience - The target audience includes NWS and Predictive Services meteorologists. The product may be useful to anyone in the fire weather community, emergency management, media, and the general public to adequately prepare several days in advance for the potential of critical fire weather conditions.

d. Presentation Format – The SPC Dry Thunderstorm Fire Weather Outlooks will be presented as five web-based graphics and five corresponding NDFD grids. A graphic/grid for each individual day (day 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) will include areas where numerous cloud-to-ground lightning strikes, generally less than one-tenth inch of rain and dry fuels are forecast. The text Day 3-8 Outlook will also include a discussion of the individual fire weather areas and conditions.

Technical and policy questions regarding this product may be addressed to:

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Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – SPC Dry Thunderstorm Fire Weather Outlooks for Days 4-8 will consist of a web graphic for each day (days 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) and a corresponding NDFD grid.

Areas of threat are based on a combination of dry fuel conditions and numerous cloud-to-ground lightning strikes with generally less than one-tenth inch of rain. The area corresponds to a 40% or greater probability of dry thunderstorms with dry fuels within 12 miles of a point during the 24 hour period of the indicated day.

This product can be accessed as part of the operational Day 3-8 Fire Weather Outlooks on the SPC webpage at the following URL: http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/exper/fire_wx/

b. Availability – The dry thunderstorm fire weather outlooks for days 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will be issued daily by 2200 UTC, in conjunction with the issuance of the operational Day 3-8 Fire Weather Outlook graphics and text discussion.

c. Additional Information – None.

NWS Product Definition Document (PDD) for:

Experimental SPC Dry Thunderstorm Fire Weather Outlooks for Days 4-8

Submitted 15 September 2014

Approval:

_____ Director, Storm Prediction Center

_____ OCWWS Fire Weather Program Leader

_____ Director, National Centers for Environmental Prediction