




Fire Weather and Red Flags? Please Explain....

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So there is lots of dry air filtering in. I was on air today talking about Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather. What is that? Here's little [weather history](#) about fire forecasting:

It was 1916: Fire Weather Service established, with all district forecast centers authorized to issue fire weather forecasts; the Bureau's fire district forecast center started at Medford, Oregon.

Then in 1967: Responsibility for issuing air pollution advisories is assigned to the Weather Bureau, National Meteorological Center; fire weather forecasts extended to cover contiguous U.S.

A Red Flag Warning (Watch) is a forecast warning issued by the NWS to inform area firefighters and management agencies that conditions are ideal for a fire to start. To the public, a Red Flag Warning means high fire danger with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire in the area within about 24 hours.

Fire Weather Weather consists of the variables that are needed to issue a Red Flag Watch or Warning especially the speed of the wind, the temperature, relative humidity and dew point, and precipitation— or lack thereof that could cause a wildfire to start, spread and be contained and possibly difficult to extinguish.

The criteria for issuing the Fire Weather alert varies from NWS office to office. So what triggers an alert in say [Amarillo](#) may not be the same in Orlando.