

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-4
OCTOBER 18, 2002**

Operations and Services

FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: OS22 (J. Lee)

Certified by: OS (G. Mandt)

Type of Issuance: Emergency.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-4, “Fire Weather Services,” dated October 3, 2002.

1. Fire, in a natural or prescribed form, is important to the maintenance and health of most ecosystems. Timely and accurate fire weather forecasts and warnings spanning minutes out to months in the future are used by land and fire management agencies for planning and fire suppression purposes. This directive governs National Weather Service’s (NWS) provision of fire weather services to its customers and partners.

2. The objective of the National Weather Service Fire Weather Services Program is to provide fire weather products and services to the fire and land management community for the protection of life and property, promotion of firefighter safety, and stewardship of America’s public wildlands.

3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will:

- a. Establish national policies and procedures for the provision of consistent fire weather forecast and warning services.
- b. Consolidate, analyze, and oversee national performance and effectiveness indicators of fire weather services.
- c. Provide outreach to national customers to promote fire weather services.
- d. Dispatch and provide operational support to incident meteorologists.
- e. Configure and manage all-hazard meteorological response systems.

3.2 The Office of Science and Technology will:

- a. Plan, develop, demonstrate, and integrate scientific techniques and system capabilities for the Fire Weather Services Program.
- b. Formulate and maintain a fire weather services research and development plan.

3.3 NWS Regional Headquarters offices will:

- a. Ensure Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) are organized, trained, and equipped to fulfill the Fire Weather Services Program obligations.
- b. Provide fire weather requirements to OCWWS.
- c. Develop supplements to procedural directives for the Fire Weather Services Program.
- d. Provide technical and operational assistance to WFOs.
- e. Oversee fire weather service outreach efforts.
- f. Evaluate performance and effectiveness of the fire weather services.
- g. Ensure WFOs and IMETs comply with Fire Weather Services Program directives and regional supplements.

3.4 WFOs will:

- a. Provide fire weather forecasts, statements, summaries, and related products for local service areas.
- b. Provide customer outreach to promote and assess the success of their Fire Weather Services Program.
- c. Ensure specific fire weather products and services supplied by the WFO to the fire and land management agencies are documented in an appropriate state or regional Fire Weather Annual Operating Plan.

3.5 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction produce centralized guidance to support the Fire Weather Services Program.

4. The NWS measures the effectiveness of the Fire Weather Services Program using: Red Flag Warning lead time and probability of detection.

5. This Policy Directive is supported by the procedural directives listed in Attachment 1.

<u>signed</u>	<u>10/18/02</u>
John J. Kelly, Jr.	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Procedural Directives

Instruction 10-401, *Fire Weather Services Product Specification*

Instruction 10-402, *Fire Weather Services On-Site Services*

Instruction 10-403, *Fire Weather Services Outreach and Coordination*

Instruction 10-404, *Fire Weather Services Annual Operating Plan*

Instruction 10-405, *Fire Weather Services Training, Certification, and Professional Development*

Instruction 10-406, *Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services Among the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of Interior; the U.S. Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the National Weather Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce*