



Photo courtesy of Leo Jarzomb, Sept. 2002

NWS Web Sites- These contain a wealth of weather information, including real-time forecasts, warnings, observations, Doppler radar, and satellite imagery.

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard
www.weather.gov/losangeles

California Fire Weather Page
www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/catw

Spot Forecast Page
<http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-in/spot/spotmon?site=lox>

Interactive Weather Planner
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi/Wx_Rx_index.php?wfo=lox

ROMAN Observation 24-Hour Trend Monitor
<http://raws.wrh.noaa.gov/roman>

NATIONAL DIGITAL FORECAST

DATABASE

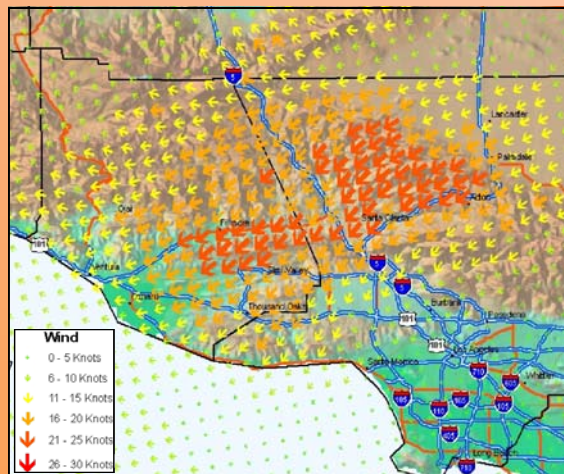
Gridded forecasts are made up of unique values at every 5 km, or roughly boxes 3 miles on each side. Fire Weather Forecast elements, such as wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and temperature are available out to 7 days at a time. Each NWS office maintains a set of digital forecast grids that are then blended to produce a single forecast mosaic covering the contiguous United States. The mosaic set of forecast grids make up the National Digital Forecast Database, or NDFD.

The digital forecast database is available to all customers and partners for creating a wide range of text, graphic, and image products. NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard has promoted GIS applications that incorporate our gridded forecast database, helping our local customers and partners to better monitor weather forecasts and visualize potential impacts from various weather hazards. In specific, both shapefile and image services are available at the following links.

GIS Links

GIS Shapefiles: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/gis/shape.php>

Image Service: http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/CSP_SoCal/



Satellite Image of 2007 Fires

Photo courtesy of NOAA NESDIS 2007

NWS MISSION

The NWS mission is to provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.



The National Weather Service (NWS) is a federal agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is part of the Department of Commerce (DOC).

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**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
FORECAST OFFICE
LOS ANGELES/OXNARD**

**FIRE
WEATHER**



www.weather.gov/losangeles



Cover photo courtesy of William Reid, Simi Fire, Oct. 2003

Fire Weather



FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

NWS Los Angeles/ Oxnard provides daily fire weather forecasts and close coordination with local fire agencies, helping them make critical decisions regarding resource allocation for fire suppression and prescribed burns. In addition, there are additional services during wildfire episodes in the form of spot forecasts, coordination calls, and IMET support, which help fire agencies protect life and property.

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST

The Fire Weather Planning Forecast is a routine product that assists fire agencies in making decisions about resource allocation for fire suppression and prescribed burns. Each Planning Forecast provides a general weather discussion, a detailed 48-hour forecast for each fire weather zone, and a 3-5 day extended forecast.

SPOT FORECASTS

Spot Forecasts are issued to support wildfire suppression, prescribed burns, search and rescue operations, and hazmat incidents. These forecasts are highly detailed and updated as necessary. During wildfire support, spot forecasts have the highest priority, with an average turn-around time of 20 minutes.
<http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/spot/spotmon?site=lox>

NFDRS TREND FORECAST

The NFDRS Trend Forecast is issued once daily (by 3:30pm PDT and 2:30pm PST) during high fire season. The NWS provides 24 hour trend forecasts of various meteorological variables at specific NFDRS locations. These trend forecasts are inputted into the NFDRS model, producing a fire danger forecast at each NFDRS forecast point, giving agencies guidance on where to position fire suppression resources.



FIRE WEATHER WATCH AND RED FLAG WARNING PROGRAM

Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings alert land management agencies of weather that, when coupled with critically dry fuels, could lead to dangerous wildfires and extreme fire behavior. Timely and accurate watches and warnings enable fire fighting agencies to manage critical resources and prepare appropriate suppression responses for protecting life and property. Fire Weather Watches are typically issued 24 to 72 hours in advance of potential critical fire weather conditions. Red Flag Warnings are typically issued within 24 hours of an impending critical fire weather event.

RED FLAG WARNING CRITERIA

- 1) Relative Humidity is 15% or less with either sustained winds of 25mph or greater or frequent gusts of 35mph or greater (Duration of 6 hours or more)
- 2) Relative Humidity is 10% or less for an extended period of time (Duration of 10 hours or more)
- 3) Widespread and/or significant dry lightning (where there is little or no rainfall associated with the lightning activity)

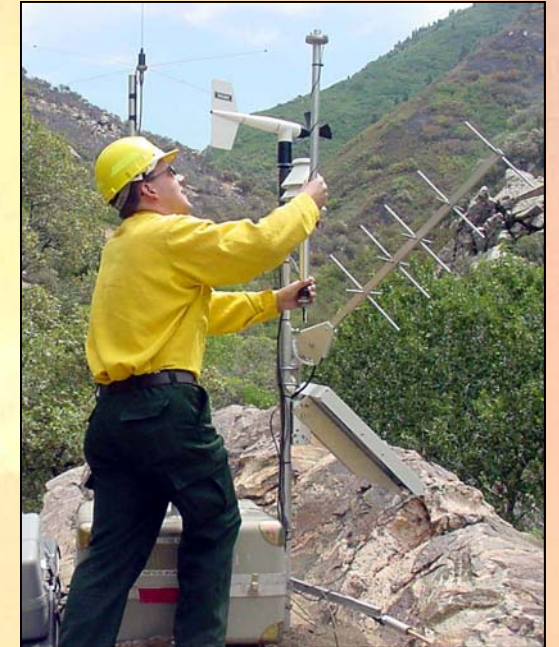


Photo courtesy of Chuck Redman, NOAA NWS Boise, ID

IMET PROGRAM

The National Weather Service has a team of Incident Meteorologists (IMETs) that are dispatched to remote locations in support of wildfires and other hazardous situations. Once onsite, IMETs become key members of the incident command teams and provide continuous meteorological support. IMETs help fire control specialists from various agencies by interpreting weather information, assessing its impact on the fire, and helping develop strategies to best fight the fires, while keeping both fire fighters and the general public safe.