



**Today's discussion is from the
Weather / Fire Behavior Category.**

NFDRS POCKET CARDS

An aid to identifying local fuels conditions that might contribute to severe fire behavior is the NFDRS Pocket Card. The Pocket Card displays a general assessment of the fire potential compared to local fire occurrence and historical fire danger. It is a tool that can be used to track daily outputs of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) throughout the fire season for a local area.

● The Pocket Card provides:

- A general indicator of the potential fire danger for a given rating area.
- A graph to show the trend and status of the current year's fire season.
- A comparison of current year's conditions to historical worst and average conditions.
- Fire danger values related to past large fires.
- Critical local thresholds for temperature, humidity, wind speed, and fuel moistures.

● Discuss the following ways to use the Pocket Card:

- Use it primarily before fires occur, before arriving to a fire, and during initial stages of fire events, such as initial fire size-up, initial attack, and extended attack.
- Use the Pocket Card to track local fire danger and in so doing increase the safety of your firefighters through increased awareness of fire danger conditions. NOTE: If fire danger is running at or above seasonal highs, be alert to those weather conditions that can lead to extreme fire behavior; e.g., low RH, 1-hour fuel moisture less than 5%, high temperatures, moderate to high winds.
- Use it to track daily fire dangers so that there are no surprises when extreme fire behavior occurs.
- Use it to supplement local experience.
- Use the Pocket Card as a point of reference for firefighters not familiar with the area represented by the card.
- When you receive your fire assignment outside your local area, visit the National Pocket Card website at <http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/pocketcards/default.htm/>. Click on the map and locate a Pocket Card for the area to which you are going.
- Put the Card in the Pocket of all your firefighters and keep a copy in your fire vehicle.
- Post the card in dispatch. Use them in briefings. Provide them to incoming crews.
- Do not use the Pocket Card for site specific fire behavior predictions and fireline actions or without an interpretive briefing.
- Review definitions and implications of ERC and BI values.

References:

NFDRS Pocket Cards, NWCG, famweb.nwcg.gov/pocketcards

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

[ONLINE](#) | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

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