



Red Flag Warning Program What Does It Mean?



WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

A Red Flag Warning is issued by National Weather Service (NWS) to call attention to critical weather conditions that may result in extreme fire behavior. A Red Flag Warning is issued hours to a full day in advance of the critical fire weather event. A Fire Weather Watch is issued when conditions are possible 1-3 days in advance.

Critical weather conditions include: sustained winds at or above 20 mph, low relative humidity below 15%, above average temperatures and high or extreme fire danger. A combination of any of these conditions must occur simultaneously for three or more hours across any portion of a fire weather zone. <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/?n=forecasts-fireweather>

WHEN AND WHY IS THE RED FLAG FLYING AT NATIONAL FOREST AND OTHER AGENCIES OFFICES?

A red flag is flown only when the NWS has issued a Red Flag Warning for the area. The flag will forewarn the public on the day that actual weather conditions are favorable to wildfires, extreme burning conditions, and/or exceptional fire behavior.

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A RED FLAG WARNING?

Always observe local fire restrictions and closures - they are put into effect to protect lives and property during dry, fire-prone periods. And, as always but especially during Red Flag Warning periods, be extremely careful with activities that:

1. Involve open flames (smoking, campfires, ditch burning, etc)
2. Generate sparks (welding, weed-whacking, lawn mowing, etc), or
3. Create intense heat (Don't park on dry grass - your catalytic converter is hot, etc)

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT RED FLAG WARNINGS IN MY AREA?

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/>
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/?n=forecasts-fireweather>

(Zoom in or out on the map, if necessary, to see all of New Mexico.
Official Red Flag Warnings are shown in bright pink)