






Fire Danger Ratings

Rating	Definition
 Low	Fire does not ignite readily from small firebrands, although a more intense heat source, such as lightning, flares, grenades, and firecrackers, may start fires. Fires in open cured grassland may burn freely, but woods fires spread slowly by creeping or smoldering and burn in irregular fingers. There is little danger of spotting.
 Moderate	Fire will start from most accidental causes, but except for lightning fires, the number of starts is generally low. Fires in open cured grasslands will burn briskly and spread rapidly on windy days. Timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. The average fire is of moderate intensity, although heavy concentrations of fuel may burn hot. Short distance spotting may occur. Fires are not likely to become serious, and control is relatively easy.
 High	Fine dead fuels ignite readily, and fires start easily from most causes. Unattended brush and campfires are likely to escape. Fires spread rapidly, and short distance spotting is common. High-intensity burning may develop on slopes or in concentrations of fine fuels. Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small.
 Very High	Fire starts easily from all causes, and immediately after ignition, spreads rapidly, increasing in intensity. Spot fires are a constant danger. Fires burning in light fuels may quickly develop high-intensity characteristics, such as long-distance spotting and fire whirlwinds when they burn into heavier fuels.
 Extreme	Fire starts quickly, spreads furiously, and burns intensely. All fires are potentially serious. Development into high-intensity burning is usually faster and occurs from smaller fires than in the Fire Danger Rating Very High (Orange) class. Direct attack is rarely possible and may be dangerous except immediately after ignition. Fires that develop headway in heavy slash or in conifer stands may be unmanageable while extreme burning conditions last. Under these conditions, the only effective and safe control action is on the flanks until the weather changes or the fuel supply lessens.

Restrictions

(Low and Moderate):

Smoke grenades, flares, and simulators are extremely hazardous and easily start wood and grass fires, even after rains. Special precautions shall be exercised in their use, and they shall not be used in areas of highly flammable grass and leaves. An area shall be cleared for their use and a responsible individual detailed to watch all devices to ensure they are totally burned out.

A written request will be submitted to Range Control for warming / open fires. Caution will be exercised. The area shall be cleared of all flammable materials for a distance of at least 10 feet, and fires shall be smothered with water, covered with dirt, and completely extinguished before being abandoned. Fires shall not be left burning in drums or open areas.

Open fires are prohibited in the cantonment areas.

When an open fire is necessary in the range area (north of Route 26), follow these guidelines:

- Use only dry wood. Do not burn treated wood. Do not cut live trees or vegetation.
- Do not use petroleum products to start fires.
- The fire must be contained, such as in a clean 55-gallon drum or campsite fire ring.
- An approved fire extinguisher must be available.
- The fire must be attended at all times.
- The fire shall be extinguished when not attended.
- Fires shall not be located within 50 feet of any combustible structure, vehicle or tent.
- Burning trash, debris, leaves, pine needles, grass, etc. or burning off of any area on the installation is prohibited.
- Individuals must ensure all matches, cigarettes, cigars, etc., and ashes are completely extinguished before disposal.

(High):

The above restrictions apply, except that units scheduled to use fireworks, pyrotechnics, or fires of any description in organized training shall notify Range Division and provide unit designation, area to be used, and what activities are proposed.

(Very High and Extreme):

Anything that has the potential of starting fires – i.e. tracers, explosives, booby traps, simulators, warming fires, flares, blanks (except for M-16 / M4) – shall not be used. Exception: For the conduct of essential and specific firing exercises, and only with the prior approval of the installation fire chief. Approval shall be granted only when firefighting equipment and personnel are immediately available. Open fires of any type shall not be permitted.