

Safety Alert

From the LEG HSE Department

What is a Red Flag Warning?

A Red Flag Warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) when low humidity, warm temperatures, dry fuels and strong winds could combine to produce extreme fire behavior. The criteria considered:

- Sustained wind speeds averaging 15 mph or greater
- Relative humidity of 25% or less
- Temperatures over 75 degrees F
- Ten hour Fuel (grass, wood, trash) moisture at 8% or less for one day

The NWS has already designated **that our local area may remain under a Red Flag Warning.**

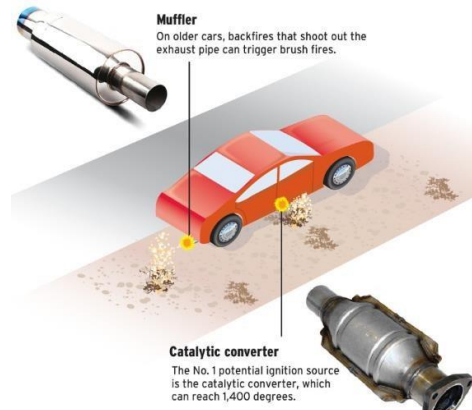
- Our local March average wind speed was 17mph, gusts to 30mph -> **April predictions:** wind gusts 35mph
- Our local March average High Temperature was 81° -> **April predictions:** 90°
- Our local March average lowest Humidity 11% -> **April predictions:** similar

Due to these extreme conditions, caution/steps should be taken to prevent fires:

- ❖ Before you decide to park your vehicle on the side of the road or a grassy ditch bar, be aware that you might “kick off” a fire. For the most part, driving a vehicle is included in all of our daily work activities, so please make sure that your daily activities are not the cause of a vehicle fire and/or wildfire.

What part of the vehicle could start a fire?

- By far, greatest threat is the vehicle’s catalytic converter, which can reach temperatures of **1,200° to 1,400° Fahrenheit.**
 - The catalytic converter and exhaust systems are exposed underneath the vehicle. If a driver were to pull off the side of a highway into an area with high dry grass or weeds, the converter could easily ignite the vegetation.
- Tractor/Trailers can cause fires when their brakes overheat. If drivers pull over because of a problem, the superheated brakes can set fire to parched vegetation.
- Bumper pull trailers that do not have their towing chains secured properly, could send sparks into the adjacent brush off the highway, as they’re being dragged.
- Do not throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Dispose of them properly and make sure they are completely extinguished.



- ❖ Other general out-door or “at location” precautions:
 - Soak ashes and charcoal in water and dispose of them in a metal can. These materials can reignite days after the ribs are BBQ’d.
 - Grass should remain cut short especially around flare stacks; Iron Sulfide should remain covered (when exposed to air, it can ignite); Always keep an awareness of wind direction.
 - Make sure Fire Extinguishers are prepped correctly, in working order, and readily accessible.
- ✓ Report unattended outdoor fires on routes or at lease areas immediately to

Emergency Operations Center 210.384.5000.