

Changes to the National Significant Fire Potential 7-Day Product High-Risk Triggers

The full 7-Day product description is found here:

https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/document-media/7-Day_Product_Description.pdf

Rationale: The change to the triggers in the National Significant Fire Potential 7-Day Product (NPSG) resulted in a motivation to standardize the product more nationally across the ten geographic areas. It was also designed to help alleviate potential confusion due to the number of triggers and potential overlap. The seven triggers previously available have been reduced to four (see image below). The new definitions for the triggers are provided below the image.

OLD	NEW
<div><div>Legend</div><div>Significant Fire Potential</div><div><div>No Data</div><div>Little or no risk</div><div>Low risk</div><div>Moderate risk</div></div><div>High Risk Triggers</div><div><div>H</div><div>U</div><div>W</div><div>D</div><div>L</div><div>R</div><div>R</div><div>BEN</div></div></div>	<div><div>Legend</div><div>Significant Fire Potential</div><div><div>No Data</div><div>Little or no risk</div><div>Low risk</div><div>Moderate risk</div></div><div>High Risk Triggers</div><div><div>W</div><div>L</div><div>R</div><div>BEN</div></div></div>

Image of the old and new high-risk triggers.

New High-Risk Definitions (NPSG – mouse over):

Orange

B – Burn Environment – A elevated chance of significant fires and potential for large fire growth due to either hot temperatures, instability, and wind, or a combination of these factors.

W – Wind - Critical wind speeds and low relative humidity resulting in an elevated chance for significant fires and the potential for significant fire growth on existing fires

Red

L – Lightning – A greater than 20% chance of significant fires due to thunderstorms

R – Recreation – A greater than 20% chance of significant fires due to human activity and very dry background conditions

Expanded Definitions and Reasoning:

B – This definition includes the previous “D – Dry”, “U – Unstable”, and “H – Critically Hot and Dry” triggers. These triggers often overlapped and by highlighting only one of the weather elements, it would not capture the full fire environment. Furthermore, winds that did not meet the wind trigger threshold in a Predictive Service Area combined with an unstable atmosphere or critically hot temperatures could result in significant fire growth or the emergence of new fires. By using the “B” trigger here, we can better capture what is occurring in these environments, with the description of the environment in the weather section of the forecast, below the forecast table.

W – This trigger remains the same and represents where strong, dry winds traditionally result in new significant fires and is not dependent on other fire environment variables.

L – The definition remains the same.

R – This definition is the same. This trigger is rarely used but can be seen when human caused large fires are much higher than normal due to extremely dry background conditions, typically during holiday weekends.