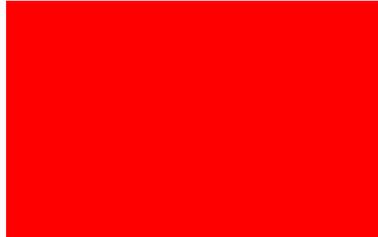




Fire Danger Notice 01 of 2018
Issue date: 25 FEBRUARY 2018@1200hrs

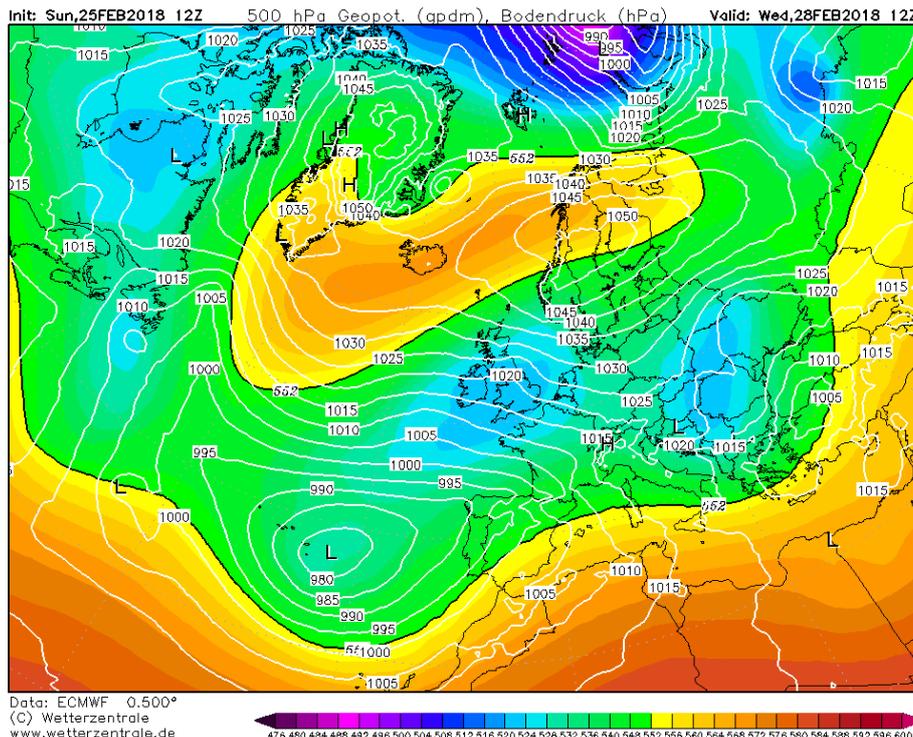
Forest Fire Danger Rating



**Condition RED – Extreme Fire Risk
Take Immediate Action**

Warning Effective From 1200hrs 25/02/2018
Effective Period Expires 1200hrs 27/02/2018

An anticyclone system consistent with 'Type A' characteristics and centred over central Scandinavia is inducing moderate Easterly airflows, low temperatures and very low air humidity levels over Ireland. Where these conditions persist, and in the absence of significant precipitation they are likely to produce an **Extreme Fire Danger Risk** in Westernmost coastal areas where hazardous fuels exist, and where precipitation and humidity levels are likely to be lowest. These western locations are also associated with a strong human ignitions risk. Fine Fuel Moisture Code levels are currently indicated above the upper threshold limit of **80** and are forecast to rise beyond this level further in coming days.



Atmospheric humidity levels associated with polar continental air masses have been forecast between **40-60%**. Forecast wind speeds are likely to be in excess of **30kmh** for most areas,

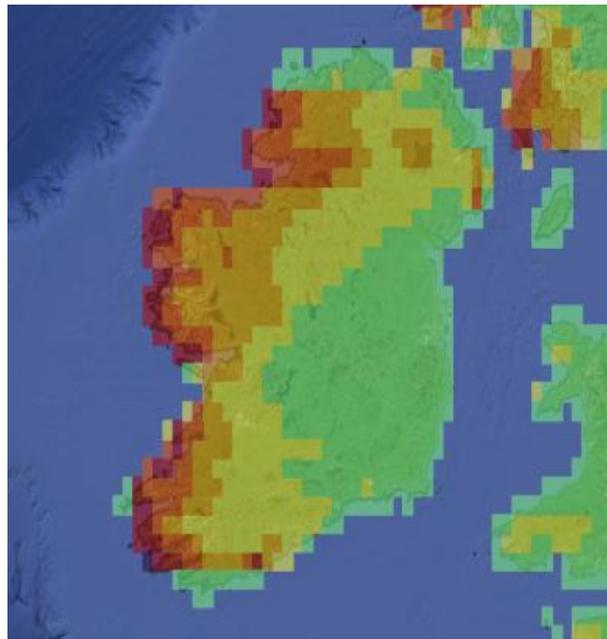


and this may be exceeded further. This type of weather pattern is not usually seen in Ireland this early in season, but is strongly associated with extreme fire behaviour under Irish conditions.

Forecast low temperatures are not expected to influence fire behaviour greatly. Projected Initial Spread Index values are in the very high range, indicating a strong potential for rapid fire propagation and spread where ignitions take place in typical upland fine fuels. Ambient fine fuel moisture levels may be further reduced by effects of deep frost and evaporation.

Meteorological risks are likely to be compounded further by human ignition risks associated with the end of the open burning season, which ends on February 28th. Based on observed fire activity to date, there is a strong risk and likelihood that landowners may try to utilise current dry weather conditions to complete burning operations in advance of the close date. Current weather conditions are outside general prescription limits for safe prescribed burning.

DAFM advise that such operations should not be attempted in these conditions, and during the closed burning period from March 1st to August 31st.



EFFIS Anomaly and Risk Ranking analysis suggests that risks will be most acute in Western Coastal regions. This risk condition is currently forecast to peak between **Wednesday 28/02/2018 and Thursday 01/03/2018.**

Pending further review, this risk condition will remain in place until 1200hrs on Friday, March 2, 2018 and will revert to Condition ORANGE at this point until further notice.



Advisory

Under extreme Fire Risk Conditions any ignition source in hazardous fuels will give rise to rapid and unpredictable wildfire development and spread. Under these conditions, in upland situations fire can be expected to cover extensive areas and pose extreme difficulties to suppression efforts and may potentially likely give rise to Major Emergency scenarios.

Typically, extreme conditions derive from 'Type A' Northern European High Pressure Systems, where air circulates in a clockwise direction over the Northern European and Central European land masses. This circulation across the land mass causes the air to shed moisture and become very dry, which in turn dries out vegetation on the ground very rapidly inducing high levels of combustibility, particularly in fine fuels. Where the edges of these Easterly systems rest over UK/Ireland such cold dry air will be accompanied by strong and often cold very low humidity winds from the South East or North East that will support further drying and rapid fire propagation and spread to produce high intensity fire events, that can be further exacerbated where fuels and topography permit.

The issue of Condition Red Extreme fire risk warnings is a comparatively rare event and implies that recipients should take immediate action to protect resources and property. Such action may involve the mobilisation, assembly and repositioning of resources such as water tankers, machinery, personnel and contract aviation support in high risk areas.

Preliminary notification of Aid to Civil Power / Aid to Civil Authority requests by relevant authorities may also be warranted where extreme conditions are deemed likely to exist, and where emergency response requirements may be likely to exceed the capabilities of civil Authorities.

Forest owners / managers, other land managers, landowners and local authorities should implement fire patrols to exclude all fire activity from the landscape and enforce relevant fire protection legislation.

Rural residents should also implement a high degree of vigilance, and check on elderly or other vulnerable neighbours and assist with preparation and reassurance, and evacuation if this is deemed necessary by the Local Authorities.

Further information on Fire management and wildfire protection is available at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/firemanagement/>

BE PREPARED. BE VIGILANT. STAMP OUT FOREST FIRES.