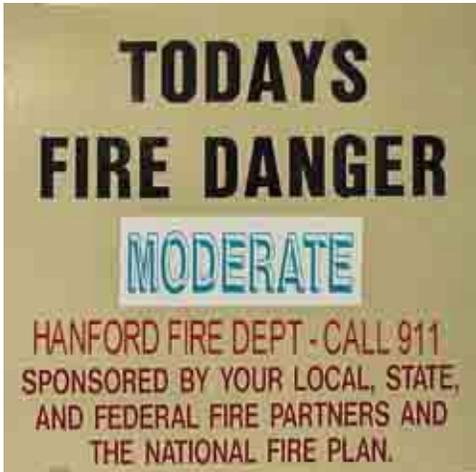


NEW SIGN



The fire-danger rating will notify employees in a manner that is consistent with other fire departments and federal wildland agencies.

OLD SIGN



The old three-level fire-danger reporting signs will be replaced with the new signs pictured at the top of the page.

Hanford's signs for rating fire danger will change

The familiar signs used on the Hanford Site to rate fire danger will soon be changed to be consistent with the fire-danger reporting mechanisms used by other area fire departments and federal wildland fire agencies.

The current three-level system — low, moderate and extreme — will be replaced with the five-level system that has been used in state and national forests for many years. The new fire-danger ratings will include low, moderate, high, very high and extreme.

Within the next few days, the new signs will be placed along high-traffic roadways on site — Route 4S near the 300 Area, Route 10 near the LIGO turnoff, the Rattlesnake Barricade access road, and Route 11A inside the Yakima Barricade.

To determine the wildland fire danger on the Hanford Site, the Hanford Fire Department will take several factors into consideration and use the National Fire Danger Rating System. These factors include current and forecasted weather, weather history, fuel types, terrain, fuel moisture and fire history to scientifically determine the fire-danger rating. The fire-danger status will be evaluated weekly and the signs will be adjusted accordingly.

Because of the light, fast-burning fuels that are prevalent in this area, the ratings will remain at high or above between June and October. The restrictions on off-road travel and high-fire-danger activities that took effect when the rating reaches "extreme" under the old system will now take effect when the fire danger is at "high" or above under the new system.

Contact the Hanford Fire Department at 373-1311 for more information on this new fire-danger rating system. ■