



Red Flag Warning Today

Critical Fire Weather Danger This Afternoon

Red Flag Warning

• Rockford

• Chicago

Ottawa

• Joliet

Valparaiso

• Pontiac

Rensselaer

What
High risk of wildfire/brush fire spread due to windy and very dry conditions.

Where
Critical Fire Weather Danger: Northern IL & Northwest IN

When
This afternoon & early evening

Actions/Safety

- Be extremely careful with open flames and disposal of smoking materials.
- Postpone any planned burning.

Photo: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

NWS Chicago
weather.gov/Chicago
5/1/2018 4:24 AM CT

Weather Message of the Day:

Very low relative humidity values, strong southwesterly winds and extremely low fuel moisture values will result in the potential for extreme wild fire behavior this afternoon and early this evening.

Important Forecast Changes

The Red Flag Warning has been expanded to include all of WFO Chicago's forecast area, adding north central IL to the original warning for northeast IL and northwest IN.



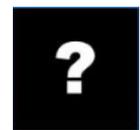
Red Flag Warning



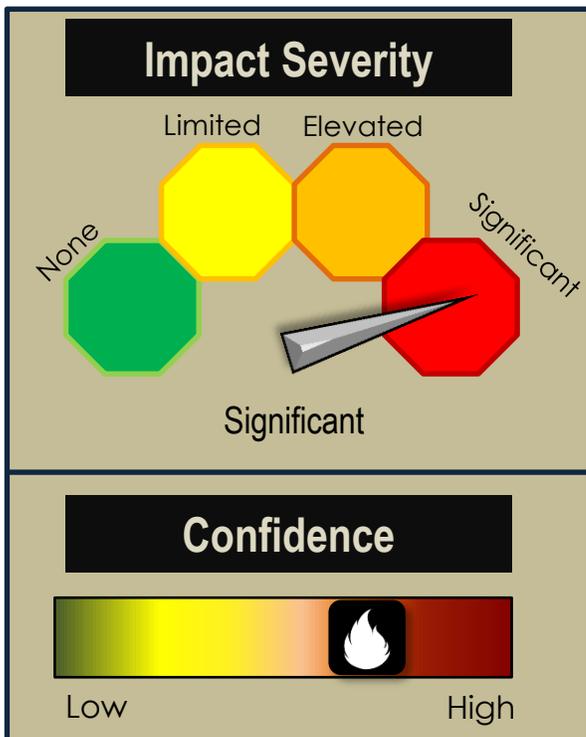
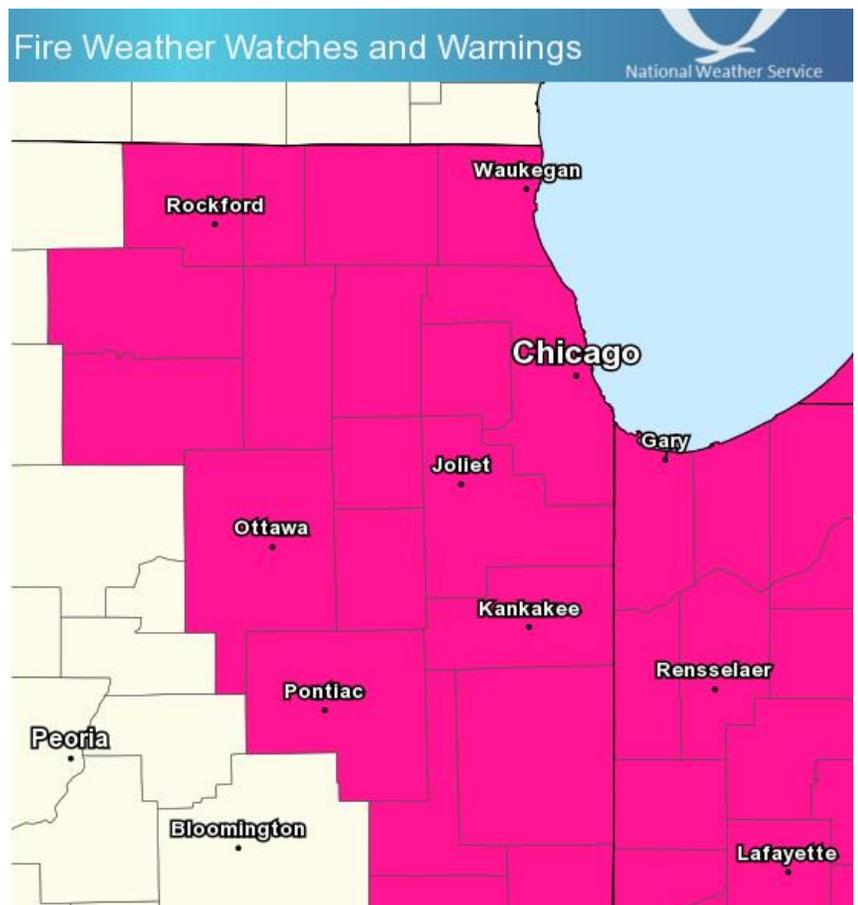
Hazards, Timing and Duration: Strong winds, very low relative humidity values, and extremely dry fuels will result in critical fire weather conditions this afternoon into early this evening.



Areas Impacted: All of north central and northeast Illinois, and northwest Indiana. Humidity levels will likely be lower east of the Interstate 55 corridor into northwest Indiana, however, areas farther west will likely still experience critical fire danger due to the stronger winds and very dry conditions.

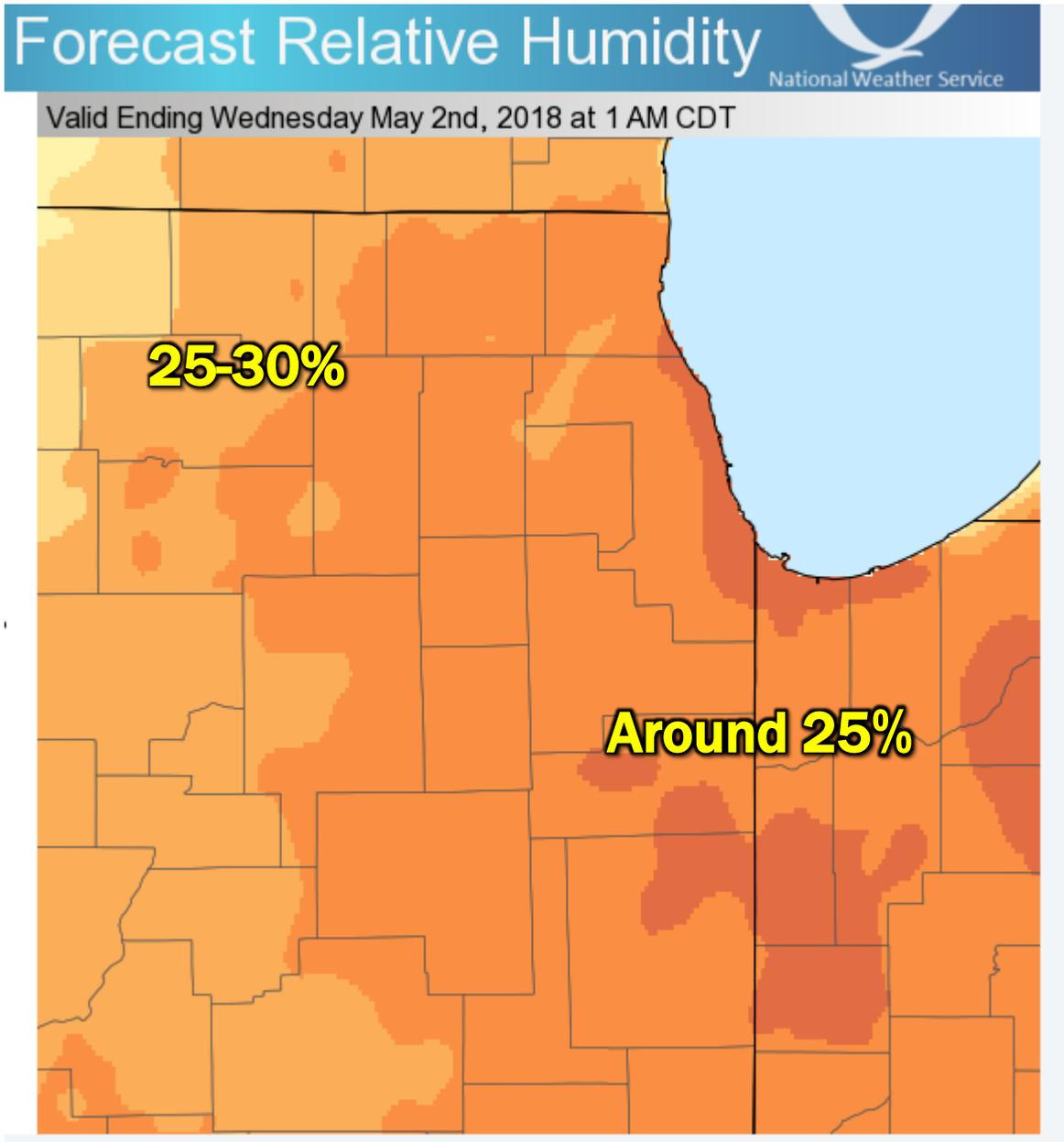


Confidence: Confidence is high in reaching red flag warning criteria in the red flag warning area due to dry fuels and strong winds. Medium-high confidence in RH levels meeting criteria west of I-55 in IL.





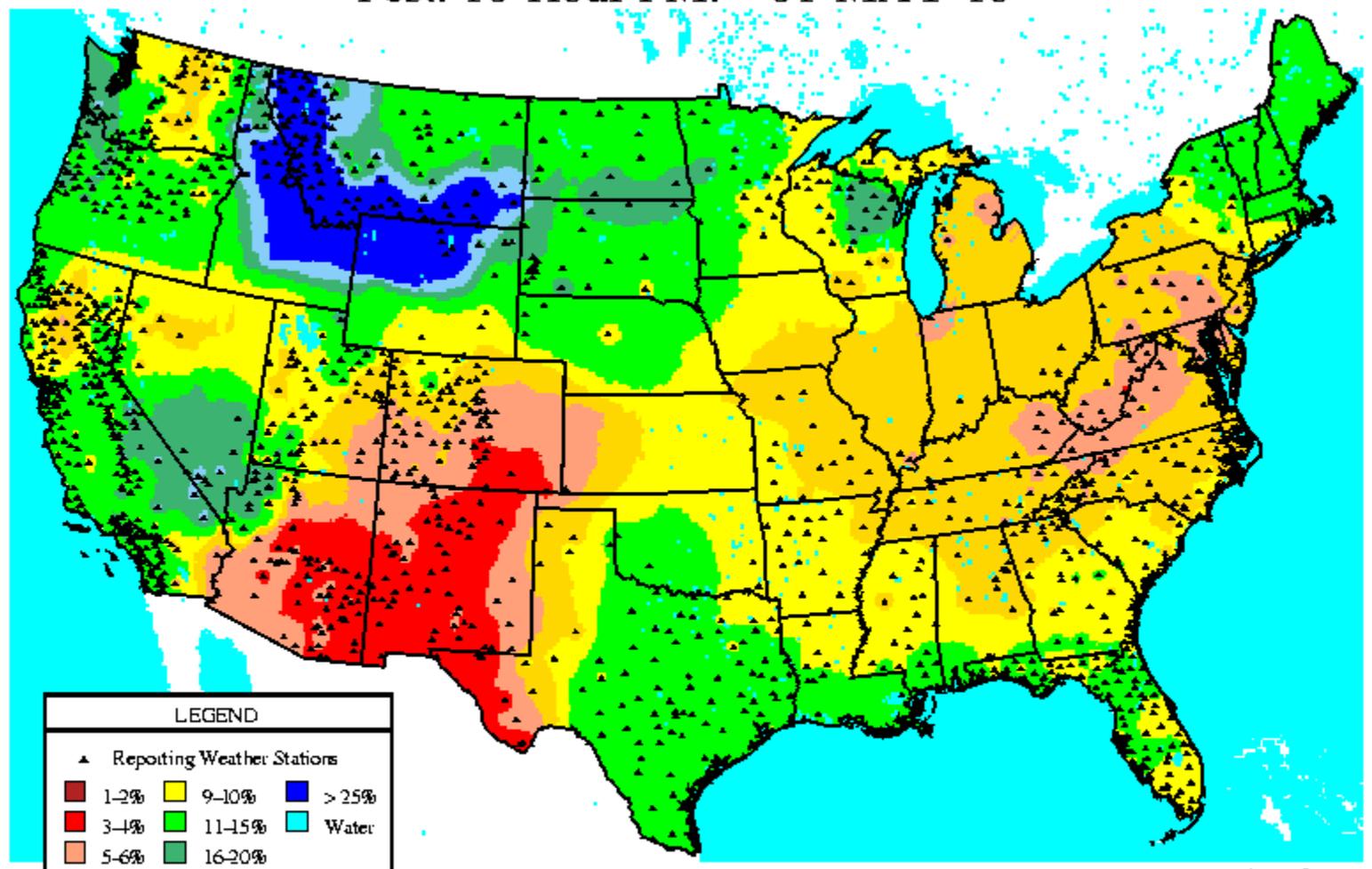
Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity Tuesday May 1st





U.S. Forest Service 10-Hour Fuel Moisture Forecast for Tuesday May 1st

Fcst. 10-Hour FM: 01-MAY-18



LEGEND		
▲	Reporting Weather Stations	
■ (Dark Red)	■ (Yellow)	■ (Blue)
1-2%	9-10%	> 25%
■ (Red)	■ (Green)	■ (Light Blue)
3-4%	11-15%	Water
■ (Light Red)	■ (Dark Green)	
5-6%	16-20%	
■ (Orange)	■ (Light Blue)	
7-8%	21-25%	

(Inv. Dist.² Interp.)

WFAS-MAPS Graphics FIRE BEHAVIOR RESEARCH MISSOULA, MT





Weather Message of the Day:

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Fire Quick Facts and Preparedness:



Quick facts you should know about fire:

- Each year, an average of 20,000 agricultural-related fires cause \$102 million in direct property losses and result in 25 fatalities.
- A wildfire moves at speeds up to 14mph, the average human can only run between 10-15 mph in clean air.
- Wildfires have been started by cigarettes, campfires, lightning, arson, sparks from sharpening tools, a dragging chain behind a trailer, hot mufflers from a car or ATV parked in the grass, and even a bird landing wrong on a power line.

Preparedness:

Know your risk: If you are planning on doing an agricultural burn, **call your local NWS office for a forecast!** The professionals do it, so can you! Do not burn on windy and dry days.

- Many counties require a burn permit. Call your local authorities to see if one is required for your area, and to notify them of your burn. This can help prevent false alarm calls to the fire department.
- A **Fire Weather Watch** is issued when the grasses and trees are dry enough to support large fire growth AND the weather elements are expected to encourage it as well.
- A **Red Flag Warning** is issued when the grasses and trees are critically dry and the weather conditions would support a fire growing out of control if started. *Be extra careful with fire on these days! Do not burn!*

Learn Before You Burn - do not burn on dry & windy days, call the NWS for a forecast first!

For more information about this event, please monitor our Fire Weather page here:

<http://www.weather.gov/lot/fire>



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Building a Weather-Ready Nation