



## North Carolina Interagency Station Network: 2002 - 2004

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (DFR) Fire Environment Working Group has built an interagency network of automated weather stations, including 47 stations owned and operated by state and federal agencies. With NFP funds, the DFR has added 16 new stations and has upgraded six more in the statewide fire danger network. Every day the DFR assesses burning conditions for wildfire or prescribed fire use. The network helps the DFR efficiently and effectively manage a finite suppression resource, expanding protection to North Carolina's forest resources and wildland/urban interface.



The DFR also deploys four portable RAWS units. These portable Remote Automated Weather Stations can be quickly set up on critical burns, wildfires, or research projects.

The stationary DFR stations are in compliance with NWCG NFDRS Weather Station Standards. First Responder training in support of annual and rapid response maintenance has occurred. Thirty responders were trained for same-day response when staffing levels are set for High Fire Danger or above. Additional training is scheduled for the Automated Sorting Collection and Distribution System (ASCADS).

These stations are installed and sited according to the NWCG NFDRS Weather Station standards to sample conditions in the surrounding environment. At a set time each station collects measurements and transmits them to the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, or GOES, operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The GOES satellite relays the data to the Local Readout Ground Station (LRGS) operated by the BLM in Boise, Idaho.



The BLM Remote Sensing Support Unit at the National Interagency Fire Center receives transmitted weather satellite data for fire danger weather stations nationwide. The BLM's ASCADS transfers the data to various sites, and it's uploaded to several websites including WIMS, the Weather Information Management System. WIMS contains the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) model and processor, used by fire managers to obtain fire danger indices for the assessment of burning conditions. The entire transmission process takes just seconds.

For more information:

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