

**2008 Annual Fire Weather Service Report
National Weather Service Billings, MT**

1. Introduction

The Billings Weather Forecast Office responded to fewer wildfire spot requests than the past few years. 2006 had 440 requests, 2007 had 315, and this past year only had 180. The Cascade fire was the most significant of the season and had a particularly high profile as it had significant potential for urban interface issues near Red Lodge, Montana.

A wet fall and dry spring allowed for a higher than normal level of requests for spot forecasts for Prescribed fire. The 204 forecasts in support of Prescribed fire completed in 2008 is the greatest amount ever done by the NWS Billings office.

For the second straight year, the office only issued synoptic Red Flag Warnings and did not record any Red Flag events based on lightning alone.

2. Spot Forecast Services

Number and classification of spots

Type of Spot	Number of spots
Prescription	204
Wildfire Use	1
Wildfire	180
Search and Rescue/Hazmat	3
Training	0
Total	388

Spot Forecast Trends

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
# of Forecasts	321	277	362	469	331	260	555	497	388

3. Fire Courses Taught and Attended

Courses Taught

S290 – Billings – March 2008 (Held at NWS to provide training for employees, assisted by USFS and BLM employees)

S290 – Buffalo Wyoming – March 2008

S290 – Livingston – April 2008

S390 – Livingston – May 2008

S290 - Billings - December 2008

Courses Attended
IMET Workshop – March 2008

4. Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Event Verification

Fire Weather Watch issued by zone:	38
Total Correct Watches:	32
Total Incorrect Watches:	6
Total Events Not Watched:	58
Followed by Red Flag Warnings	36
POD Fire Weather Watches:	0.36
FAR Fire Weather Watches:	0.16
CSI Fire Weather Watches:	0.33
Lead Time for all Watches:	28 hrs 4 minutes

All Red Flag Warnings

Red Flags Warnings Issued (by zone)	89
Red Flag Events Hit	82
Non verified warnings	7
Undetected events	8
POD Red Flag Warnings:	0.91
FAR Red Flag Warnings:	0.08
CSI Red Flag Warnings:	0.85
Lead time Red Flag Warnings:	12 hrs 59 min

(Note: The office had no Dry Lightning specific events and did not issue any Dry Lightning specific watches or warnings)

Red Flag Warnings Synoptic (Non-Dry Lightning Events)

Red Flags Warnings Issued (by zone)	89
Red Flag Events Hit	82
Non verified warnings	7
Undetected events	8
POD Red Flag Warnings:	0.91
FAR Red Flag Warnings:	0.08
CSI Red Flag Warnings:	0.85
Lead time Red Flag Warnings:	12 hrs 59 min

Red Flag Warnings Dry Lightning Events	
Red Flags Warnings Issued (by zone)	0
Red Flag Events Hit	0
Non verified warnings	0
Undetected events	0
POD Red Flag Warnings:	n/a
FAR Red Flag Warnings:	n/a
CSI Red Flag Warnings:	n/a
Lead time Red Flag Warnings Dry Lightning	n/a

5. IMET Dispatches

BYZ IMET Dispatches

IMET	Dates	Assignment
Dan Borsum	6/1-6/11	FEMA Support, Nebraska Flood and Tornado Recovery – Lincoln Nebraska
Dan Borsum	7/18-8/1	Lime Complex – Northern California, Shasta Trinity N.F.
Dan Borsum	08/05-08/08	Tumblecreek Fire – Southcentral MT – Custer N.F.
Dan Borsum	09/15-09/17	Big Creek RX Burn – South central MT – Gallatin N.F.

Total number of days of IMET service: 32.

Out of area IMET service to the BYZ area:

-Patrick Gilchrist from GGW to the Cascade Fire