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Extension Agronomy

eUpdate

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These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy e-Update Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Kathy Gehl, 785-532-3354 kgehl@ksu.edu, or Curtis Thompson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-3444 cthompso@ksu.edu.

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1. Increased wildfire risk across Kansas - Take necessary precautions

High winds and low humidity have increased the danger of wildfire events for the next several days. For today, March 5, almost all of Kansas is under a “Red Flag” warning, as indicated by the dark pink on today’s hazards map (Figure 1). A red flag warning is issued for critical fire danger, and signifies that those weather conditions are occurring, or will occur shortly. The areas of western Kansas with the tan color have high wind warnings in addition to the red flag warnings. More information on red flag warnings can be found in the previous eUpdate article from Issue 672, [“Learn the difference between fire weather watches and red flag warnings”](#).

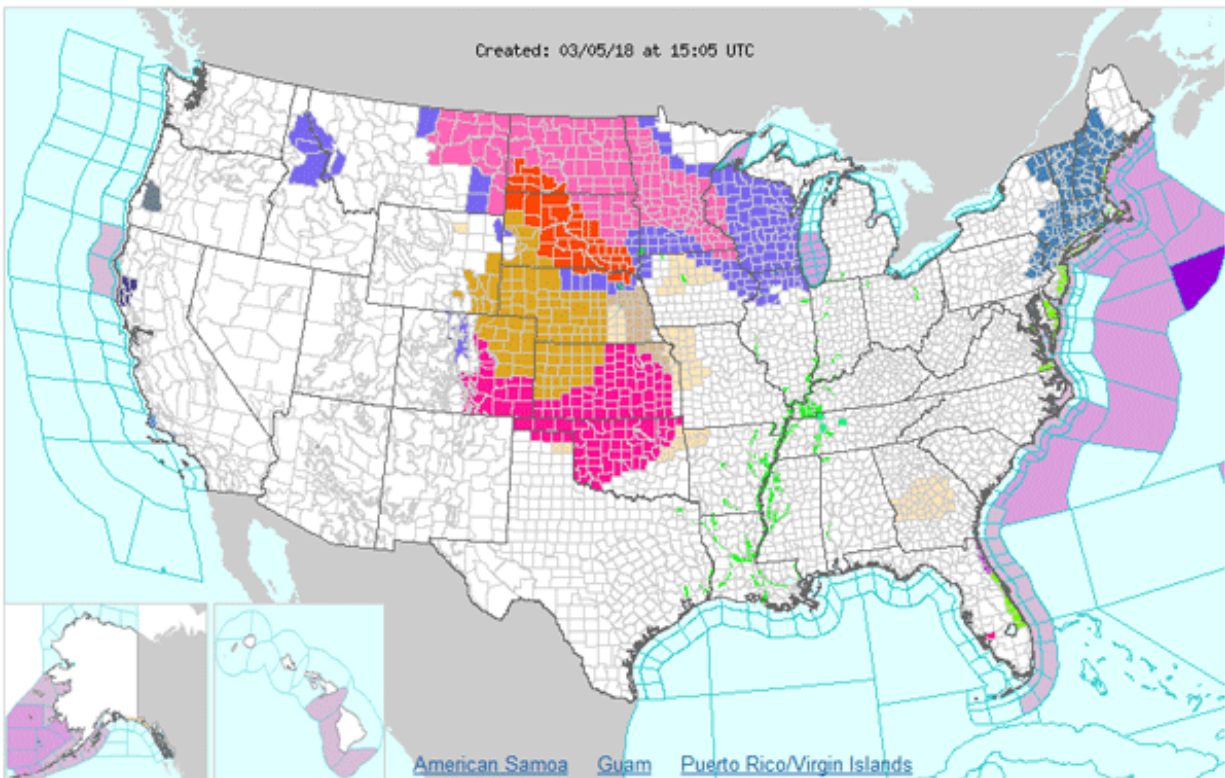


Figure 1. Hazards Map for March 5, 2018. Map from National Weather Service.

The 1,000-acre fire that burned in Riley and Geary counties on Friday, March 2, serves as an important reminder that an out-of-control burn isn’t the only source for wildfires. The Riley/Geary fire is believed to have been started by a discarded cigarette along I-70.

Other potential sources of ignition include sparks from welding, cutting, or trimming. A hot muffler on an all-terrain vehicle or off-road truck can also serve as a starting point. The National Weather Service and the Kansas Fire Marshall encourage anyone doing outdoor work to take appropriate precautions (Figure 2). Planning ahead can keep your task on schedule and prevent a wildfire.

Working outside on **RED FLAG DAYS**

If you are cutting, welding, or grinding during elevated fire danger conditions, take extra precautions.

Check for fire weather warnings. Clear the project area of vegetation. Have water and help on hand. A little prep will keep your day on track and wildfire free.

Firemarshal.ks.gov
Weather.gov



Figure 2. Hot works on Red Flag days. Graphic by Kansas Fire Marshall/NWS.

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