

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
September 20, 1930.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed September 13, 1930.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

FIRE-WEATHER SERVICES

Protecting the forests from fire is a gigantic task--actually far beyond the power of the agencies that now attempt to cope with it--and advance notice of fire weather--i.e., of atmospheric conditions favorable to the occurrence and spread of fires--enables these agencies to concentrate their efforts at the right times and places. It permits loggers and sawmill operators to take special precautions when the fire danger is greatest, and it guides the fire-fighting units in mobilizing and distributing their men. After a fire is in progress information of coming weather changes affecting the progress of the fire is almost equally valuable to those combating it.

The fire-weather predictions now issued, during the seasons of fire danger, in the principal forested areas of the United States and Canada are based partly on the general weather situation, as shown on the daily weather map, and partly on telegraphic reports from special weather stations scattered through forests. In some cases the forecasts indicate not merely that fire weather is at hand but also the degree of danger expected. Predictions are also issued of periods when the forests are safe from fire, on account of rain or high atmospheric humidity, and when, therefore, it is prudent to burn slash and perform other operations that would be hazardous in dry weather.

Radio broadcasts are extensively used in distributing these announcements, and the forest telephone lines are pressed into service for the same purpose.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.