

Job Aid 12 Creating a PocketCard

Introduction


This Job Aid describes the process for creating a PocketCard. It does not describe the analysis needed prior to creating the card.

Information Needed for a PocketCard

Prior to creating a PocketCard, obtain the following information.


- **Fire Season:** PocketCards are created for the fire season. Some areas may have two cards representing two different seasons, such as spring and fall.
- **Two years to remember:** Select relatively recent years with large fires or a lot of fires. Make sure these years are relevant to current firefighters.
- **Two or three notable fires:** Select fires that relate well to the fire danger on the PocketCard graphs. They may or may not be the largest fires.
- **Fuel model/NFDRS output:** Base your selection on a Fires Analysis (Job Aid 10).
- **Critical percentile:** This value denotes a fire danger threshold for this fuel model/NFDRS output combination that is particularly meaningful for firefighters working in the area.
- **Local thresholds for 20' Wind Speed, Relative Humidity, Temperature, and optionally, one additional threshold:** These values correspond to a likelihood of significantly increased fire behavior in the area.
- **Past experience:** This section provides supplemental information about unique local events that influence fire danger or large fire potential. Include why you selected the years and the fires. Include any hazards or risk factors that influence fire danger or large fire potential (e.g., abnormal fuel loading, unusual hazards, sundowners, east winds, or other risk factors). Include weather station names if using a SIG.

Generate a PocketCard

1. Confirm that the Working Set matches your fire season and that the correct fuel model is selected.
2. On the FireFamilyPlus toolbar, click on **Weather > Pocket Card** or the PocketCard icon () to open the PocketCard window. **Tip:** You cannot create a PocketCard within Interactive Batch.
3. Enter the name of the **Fire Danger Area**.
4. Select an **Area Locator Bitmap**. Click **Browse** and select a bitmap image file. It can be a map of the area location, a logo, or even a photograph.
5. Determine the **Fire Danger Index** from the Fires Analysis; select the appropriate one from the drop-down menu.
6. Enter the **Critical Percentile**.
7. Select the one or two **Years to Remember**.
8. If desired, click on the **Graph Background** button to edit the graph background and change the ratio of red-yellow-green.
9. To enter the notable fires, click **Find** in the first row of the **Fires** list. **Tip:** The fire occurrence date must be within your Working Set.
 - ◇ Sort fires by Discovery Date (default), Name, or Acres (most common) in the bottom left-hand corner of the **Select a Fire** dialog box.

10. Enter three **Area Locator Bullets**, which provide useful information about the fire danger rating area represented by the card. The three lines should include the following information.
 - ◇ **Line 1:** FDRA/Site Description
 - ◇ **Line 2:** Number and name of NWS Fire Weather Forecast Zone(s) in the area
 - ◇ **Line 3:** The RAWs (and WIMS ID) or SIG used to create the PocketCard

*Tip: If you use a SIG, specify the weather stations in the **Past Experience** section of the PocketCard. This enables firefighters to know which RAWs represent this area well.*
11. Enter **Local Thresholds** (20' Wind Speed, Relative Humidity, Temperature and one optional).

*Tip: Local Thresholds are **NOT** retained with the rest of the information on the PocketCard. Make sure they are correct each time you edit the card.*
12. Enter **Past Experience** for the FDRA.
13. Enter the **Responsible Agency**. This is the agency that “owns” the card and is, thereby, accountable for its accuracy and responsible for updating it.
14. Check the box in the lower left-hand corner if the weather station meets [NWCG Weather Station Standards](#). *Tip: If a station does not meet the station standards, the PocketCard cannot be approved by the NWCG Fire Danger Subcommittee.*
15. Generate the PocketCard by clicking **OK** in the upper right-hand corner. Click **Cancel** to cancel the PocketCard.
16. Use the [Standards Checklist](#) to ensure your PocketCard meets NWCG standards.
17. If desired, save the card by clicking on **File > Save As** or use the icon (). The card is saved as an image. We recommend saving the card as a **PNG File**.