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CURRENT STATISTICS

Fires to-date: 43

Hectares burned: 198 Ha

Human-caused: 39

Lightning-caused: 4

BANS AND PROHIBITIONS

Campfire: No Ban

Category 2: No Ban

Category 3: No Ban

Resource Management Fires: No Ban

Forest Use Restrictions: No Ban

[Prohibitions section of bcwildfire.ca for full details.](https://bcwildfire.ca/prohibitions)

Fire Centre Update

Crews across the Prince George Fire Centre have been deployed through EMBC to help with flood relief efforts. Over this past weekend, crews worked NE of Prince George and filled approximately 2,000 sandbags in an effort to protect property that was directly threatened by the rising water levels of the Fraser River. For more information on current flood activity and warnings, please visit [EmergencyInfoBC](https://www.emergencyinfo.bc.ca).

Crew members have now completed the [WFX-FIT Test](#) that was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By adhering to stringent sanitation protocols put forth by the Canadian Inter-agency Forest Fire Centre Inc (CIFFC), crews were able to complete the test in a safe environment.

We would like to thank everyone for doing their part to help reduce the risk of human caused wildfires and for continuing to check with your local governments to see if any local burning restrictions are in place before lighting any fire.

Contact Information

Report a Wildfire: *5555 on a cell or 1 800 -663-5555

Wildfire Information Line: 1 888 3FOREST

Burn Registration Number: 1 888 797-1717

Information Officer Phone Number: 250 318-7768

Information Officer Email:

BCWS.PGFCInformationofficer@gov.bc.ca

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Prince George Fire Centre

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Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the week will range from the high teens to low twenty's throughout the entire Prince George Fire Centre. There is chance of lightning today throughout the centre, particularly east of the Rockies and in the Prince George Zone. Wednesday is expected to be partly cloudy with scattered showers and light winds. There is a chance of thunder storms in the north of the centre. A SW trough makes its way into the fire centre on Thursday, bringing with it increasing cloud cover and showers west of the Rockies, with similar patterns carrying on into the weekend.

JULY 2, 2020

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Find the latest seasonal outlook on our BC Wildfire website please [click here](#).



As of July 2, 2019 Summer Outlook (July) The majority of the province is experiencing normal fuel conditions due to the precipitation received during the latter half of June. Despite this rainfall, many weather stations recorded June as drier and warmer than normal. The province still has underlying drought conditions that could rapidly dry fuels once rainfall amounts diminish.

The northwest corner of the province has received the least rainfall and remains an area of concern this summer. As well, forecasts indicate that much of the coast may see below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures (refer to map). The interior is also showing the potential for warmer temperatures, but above-seasonal rainfall (e.g. Nechako Plateau, Bulkley region, northern Rocky Mountains).

The number of wildfires so far for this time of year are near-normal (443). However, the number of hectares burned (11,294 ha) is only a fraction of what we've experienced in the past at this stage in the season.

A reported 66% of fire starts this season have been linked to human activity followed by lightning-caused fires at 32%. Current suppression tactics are successfully holding most wildfires to a small size. As we progress further into summer, suppression may be challenged by an increase in the amount of dry fuels.

Extended Outlook (August - September) This period continues to show a high probability of above-seasonal temperatures in the southern half of the province, particularly on Vancouver Island.

How does the BC Wildfire Service predict the severity of a fire season?

This forecast was assessed by meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists who considered a range of environmental factors and observed weather data. This includes accounting for conditions that affect soil moisture, fine fuel dryness, and vegetation growth, which influence the amount of fuel available to burn.

Seasonal Outlook

During the fire season, the BC Wildfire Service predictive services unit produces seasonal outlooks on a monthly basis. Season forecasts are assessed by meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists who consider a range of environmental factors and observed weather data. For more information regarding fire weather and the seasonal outlooks please [click here](#).

Summer Outlook (July) The majority of the province is experiencing normal fuel conditions due to the precipitation received during the latter half of June. Despite this rainfall, many weather stations recorded June as drier and warmer than normal. The province still has underlying drought conditions that could rapidly dry fuels once rainfall amounts diminish.

How Initial Attack Crews Respond to Fires

In British Columbia the challenging landscape combined with the harsh wildland fire environment requires knowledgeable, prepared personnel. The BC Wildfire Service has 1,100 Type 1 firefighters who annually respond to nearly 2,000 fires on behalf of the province of B.C. The type or types of crew deployed to fight a wildfire depends on a variety of factors including location, terrain, size and fire behavior.

Initial Attack (IA) firefighters operate as three-person crews. These well-trained, physically fit and highly mobile crews may be moved rapidly throughout the province to new fires. Initial attack crews are usually the first on the scene of a new wildfire, and can be dispatched by helicopter or vehicle, depending on access to the fire. IA crews must be able to be deployed by helicopter if needed, and as this is a requirement of the job, they are required to be under 200 pounds in weight.

Once at the fire, the crew assesses the scene and decides what fire fighting tactic to use depending on the values at risk and what rank the fire is burning at. If applicable, the crew will contact the operations staff in the office, who will refer to the Fire Management Plan, which is a document containing the essential elements of actions necessary to save human life and property and minimize fire danger.



If the fire is deemed beneficial to land management objectives in the area, it is suitable for the crew to modify the goal of immediately extinguishing the fire. This fire would then be referred to as 'modified response', and the fire would be monitored to ensure it continues to benefit the land base and does not threaten life or property, rather than being immediately extinguished.

If the fire is a threat and needs to be immediately extinguished, the crew will begin fighting the fire. Following the initial assessment, crews set up water pumps, remove fuel from the fire's path using chainsaws, Pulaski or shovels, and dig fire guards to contain or extinguish the blaze.

Basic Training: S-100

Before anyone can work in a wildfire environment, they must have a basic understanding of wildfire behaviour, suppression, terminology and, most importantly, safety. This includes not only firefighters, but also support staff, such as medics and pilots. Completion of the S-100 is also mandated by WorkSafeBC for workers involved in forestry operations.

The S-100 course is the minimum level of training required to fight wildfire in the province. A two-day, 16-hour program provides a day of classroom learning followed by a hands-on day in the field, learning the basics of wildland firefighting. The S-100A is a four-hour refresher and is all that is required if you have taken either course within the past five years. Both courses are valid for one year from date of delivery. The BCWS [Wildfire Training](#) page on [bcwildfire.ca](#) has information on these and other courses.

When a wildfire starts, industry and the public can help by prompt and accurate reporting to our fire reporting line (1-800-663-5555 or *5555). The dispatch will guide you through initial fire assessment with questions about the location, size and smoke characteristics of a fire, along with wind, fuel, terrain and values at risk. Crews will reassess these same elements when they arrive on scene.

Fire line workers must understand the basics of fire and all the factors that influence its behaviour. The Fire Triangle lays out the three necessities for a fire to burn: oxygen, heat and fuel. All suppression tactics aim to break the triangle by removing one or more of these factors. For example, dousing a fire with water removes heat; building a control line removes fuel; smothering a fire with soil or foam removes oxygen. Firefighters must be familiar with suppression principles, fire attack methods, and the many techniques and equipment used to break the Fire Triangle.

In B.C., firefighters adhere to what is known as the “10:00 a.m. concept,” whereby crews aim to control any new fire by 10:00 a.m. the morning following discovery. After 10:00 a.m. rising temperatures combine with dropping humidity to increase a fire’s potential to spread. Crews meet this suppression goal more than 90 per cent of the time.

Fighting wildfires is a dangerous activity, but education and communication go a long way towards mitigating the many hazards. The S-100 course provides the basics, but it is only the first of many BC Wildfire Service courses that promote wildfire knowledge, effective suppression and safety. For more information on employment opportunities and wildfire training, visit the BCWS [Employment & Contract Opportunities](#) page.

The BCWS follows the national system of rating fire danger, the [Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System](#) (CFFDRS). The CFFDRS considers a wide array of factors: moisture levels, available fuels, weather conditions and topography to name a few. Using a series of detailed indices, this system helps fire fighters predict how easily a fire will start and how it will behave if it does. The science behind fire ignition and behaviour is fascinating and complex.

Basic Training: S-100 Cont.

The BCWS website contains more detailed information on [wildfire behaviour](#) and the [wildfire ranking scale](#). Understanding the factors that affect fire is essential to worker safety on the fire line.

The first responsibility of all fire fighters is to prevent injury to themselves and others. The S-100 course emphasizes safety in all aspects of wildfire fighting. The many hazards touched on, in addition to fire behaviour, include helicopters, heavy equipment, the physical environment, pumps, chainsaws and other tools. Throughout the course, communication is highlighted as a main strategy to avoid hazardous situations. When on a fire, the BCWS organizes according to the Incident Command System (ICS) which provides common terminology and a clear chain of command. Morning briefings clearly outline the goals for the day as well as channels for communication and potential dangers. Safety zones and escape routes are emphasized. Fighting wildfires is a dangerous activity, but education and communication go a long way towards mitigating the many hazards. The S-100 course provides the basics, but it is only the first of many BC Wildfire Service courses that promote wildfire knowledge, effective suppression and safety.

For more information on employment opportunities and wildfire training, visit the [BCWS Employment & Contract Opportunities](#) page.

RESOURCES

- [BCWS Wildfire Training](#)
- [Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System](#)
- [Wildfire Behaviour](#)
- [Wildfire Ranking Scale](#)
- [Employment & Contract Opportunities](#)

