



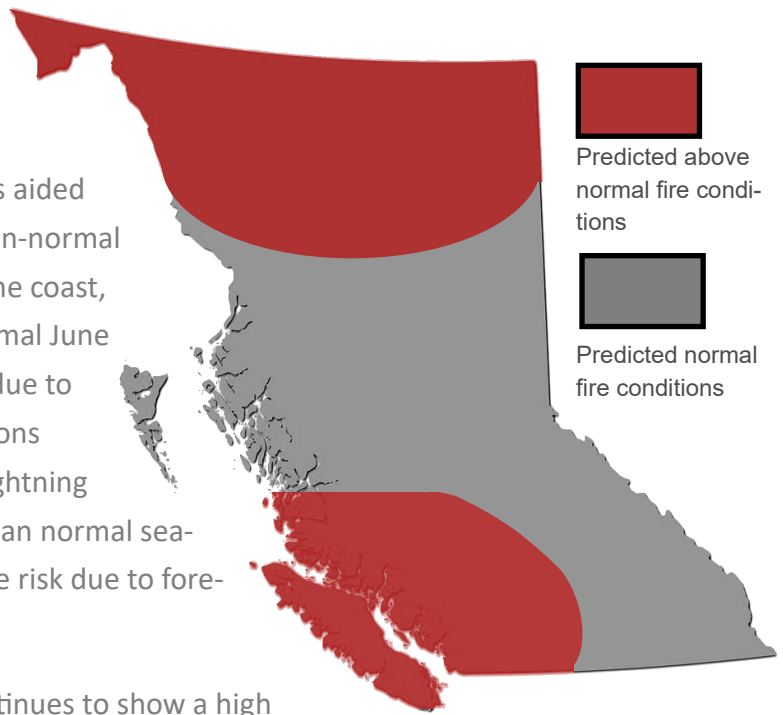
BRITISH COLUMBIA SEASON OUTLOOK

As of June 4, 2019

Summer Outlook (June - August) Drought indicators are above seasonal and forecasts are predicting above average temperatures for the entire province.

Snow pack levels are also significantly lower-than-average for this time of year, which may affect vegetative growth as well as water availability for wildfire suppression. A warmer-than-normal trend is expected to be most prominent in June and then scale back to near normal levels in July and August for the northern half of the province. The south, however, is expected to remain consistently warmer-than-normal.

In the short term, rainfall has improved conditions, which has aided firefighting efforts. However, forecasts are predicting less-than-normal rainfall over the next few months in most regions including the coast, southwest, southern interior, and far north. A drier-than-normal June could result in a greater total of area-burned for the season due to earlier availability of dry fuels. Although the number of ignitions across the province will strongly depend on the number of lightning strikes, fuel and weather conditions are indicating a busier than normal season. The adjacent map indicates areas that are at a higher fire risk due to forecasted information above, particularly below-normal rainfall.



Extended Outlook (September - November) This period continues to show a high probability of above seasonal temperatures. Areas of note are the coast and the southern and central interiors.

How does the BCWS predict a fire season?

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

What factors influence this prediction?

The severity of a fire season is highly dependent on local weather patterns such as timing and amount of precipitation, length of dry periods, thunderstorms, and wind events. Long term weather models are useful to indicate trends and patterns over time, however daily weather cannot reliably forecast much beyond a few days in advance. The BC Wildfire Service maintains its levels of preparedness by studying forecasts, using experience from previous seasons and analyzing trends to give us a good indication of what to expect in the upcoming season. We will produce monthly updates of our season forecast, as we continue to collect data and utilize forecasting models.

What can we do to prepare for an upcoming fire season?

Much of the fire starts at this time of year are human-caused and therefore preventable. This is a good time to review how we can all prevent wildfires heading into the 2019 season. For more information including resources on wildfire resiliency within our forests and communities, visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention or www.FireSmartBC.ca

