

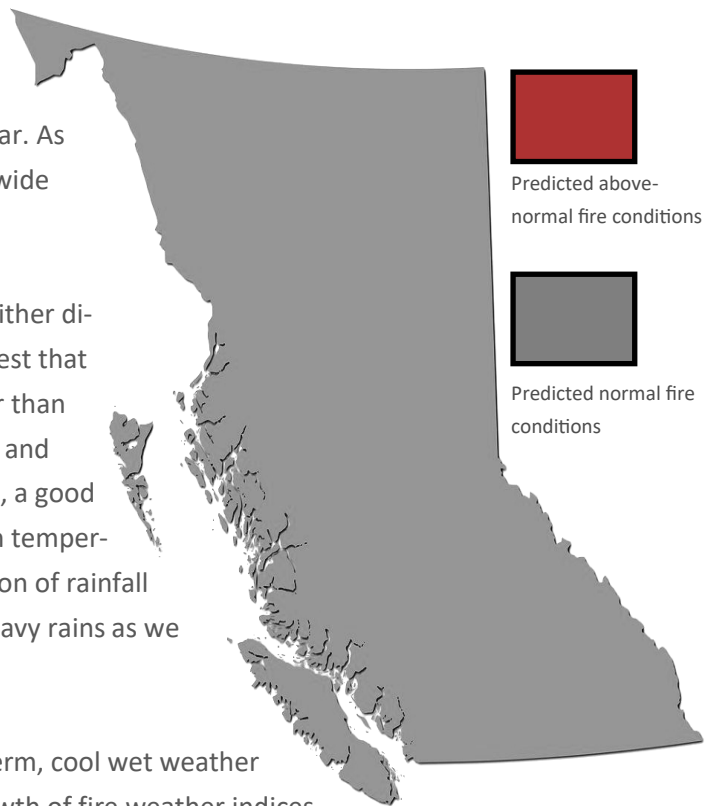


BRITISH COLUMBIA SEASON OUTLOOK

As of July 10, 2020 *Summer Outlook*

British Columbia continues to have a slower start to the 2020 wildfire season with wildfire occurrence being below average for this time of year. As forecasted in the June 5, 2020 Seasonal Outlook the province received wide spread rain which helped reduce wildfire risk.

The July precipitation forecast is not showing any strong indication in either direction for a drier or wetter month. Weather temperature models suggest that large areas in the Northwest of the province are expected to be warmer than normal, whereas smaller areas in the Central Interior, Southern Interior and near the Eastern borders are trending to be cooler than normal. Overall, a good portion of the province is forecast to have near seasonal values for both temperature and precipitation apart from regions in the Northwest. The duration of rainfall events in July will have a greater impact on fire weather indices than heavy rains as we progress into August.



Fire behaviour indicators remain moderate into mid-July. In the short term, cool wet weather conditions are expected. These conditions will continue to slow the growth of fire weather indices with anticipated fire behaviour conditions remaining below normal at this time in the wildfire season. The BC Wildfire Service is expecting good initial attack success in July as fuels remain green with fairly high moisture content. Additionally, there is a low probability of sustained actioned difficulties as Drought Codes (DC) are low across the province. These factors have resulted in the BC Wildfire predicting a 'normal' fire load as reflected in the above map.

Wildfire Season 2020 until July 10 th					
	199 Wildfires		673 Hectares Burned		
Wildfire Season 2019 until July 10 th					
	530 Wildfires		11,788 Hectares Burned		
Average Number of Wildfires until July 10 th					
	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year	25 Year
# of Fires	573	468	561	580	571
Average Hectares Burned until July 10 th					
	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year	25 Year
Hectares	73,996	43,380	41,607	39,891	33,333

To date, there have been 199 wildfires across the province. This number is significantly lower than the 530 wildfires recorded in 2019. Historically, B.C. receives the most lightning in July. Wildfire ignition due to lightning strikes will be heavily dependent on the amount of rain associated with the lightning and number of days without rain prior to lightning events.

How can you determine if there is a fire ban or restriction in your area?

Fire bans and restrictions are implemented as local fire hazards, weather conditions and fire activity demand. Bans and prohibitions are put into effect to help protect the citizens, lands and values in B.C. Bans and restrictions apply on both public land and private land in B.C., including within provincial parks, with the exception of lands under local government or municipal jurisdiction.

To view details on the bans and restrictions in each fire centre, visit the [B.C. Wildfire Dashboard](#). To view current prohibitions, use the layers function on the top right side of the map. From the drop-down menu, select the **BC Wildfire Bans and Prohibition Area** option. If bans and restrictions are in place, the map will display coloured shading in the affected areas. More information on bans and restrictions is available on the [Fire Bans and Restrictions](#) webpage.





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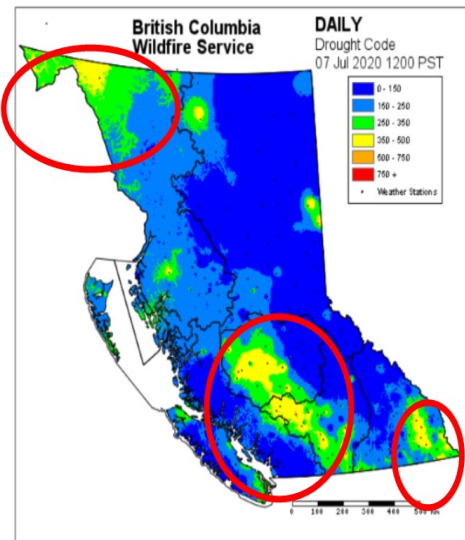
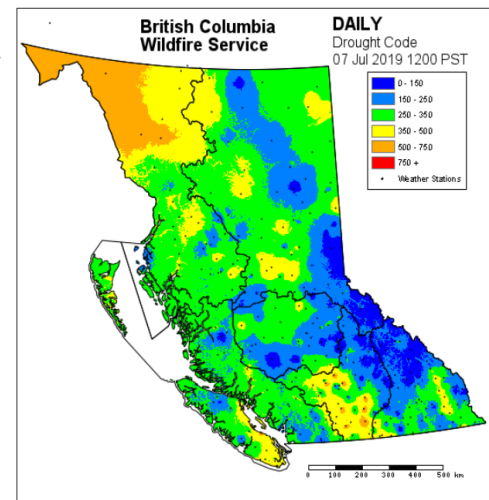
What indicators does the BC Wildfire Service use to develop the July Seasonal Outlook?

BC Wildfire Service meteorologists use a multitude of weather sources to predict what might be expected in July. These weather sources include various global and regional weather models, satellite observations, Environment Canada forecasts, as well as discussions and forecasts from partner agencies. Meteorologists use these data sources and their knowledge of climate conditions this time of year to develop an outlook for fire behaviour specialists to review.

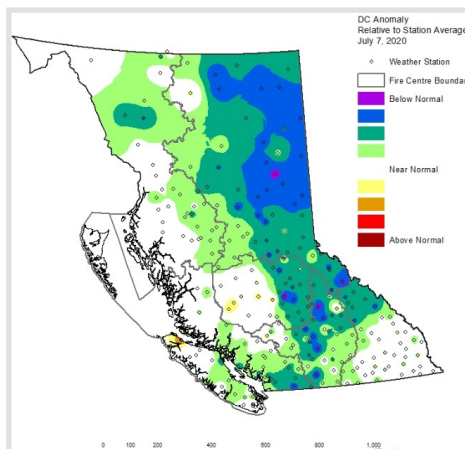
Fire behaviour specialists consult with meteorologists and use various information and data to review trends captured in the Fire Weather Index indices dataset produced from BC Wildfire Service’s network of weather stations. The Fire Weather Index indices dataset is based on daily observations of temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and 24-hour precipitation. This dataset, along with Fire Behaviour Prediction models, helps to predict fire behaviour parameters such as rate of spread, fire intensity and fire size. Fire Weather Indices and Fire Behaviour Prediction models were both developed as components of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System.

The Fire Weather Index has six standard components that provide numerical ratings of relative potential for wildland fire. The Drought Code (DC), a numerical rating of the average moisture content of deep compact organic layers, is one of the six standard components.

The DC takes into account temperature and precipitation to estimate moisture levels deep in the ground. The DC is a good indicator of persistent, deep burning wildfires. On the left is a map of DC values in B.C. as of July 7, 2020. As a result of seasonal spring conditions with wet weather patterns, mixed with drying periods, DC values are not currently of concern. Red Circled areas on the map are possible “hot spots” where drought potential could build later in the summer.



On the right is a map of DC values in B.C. from July 7, 2019. The 2019 map shows high values as a result of a drier spring. It is important to note that fuels will continue to dry and that a ‘seasonal’ spring does not necessarily mean that B.C. will have a benign summer wildfire season. BC Wildfire Service meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists continuously monitor these conditions.



One tool BC Wildfire Services uses to track how a season is trending is the DC Anomaly Map, pictured left. The DC Anomaly Map shows how current DC values compare to the historical DC average. By analyzing these maps, BC Wildfire Service can better predict where challenging wildfires are more likely to occur.

Below normal (blue): The DC value is below the average in that location. Fire holdover conditions are less than average.

Near normal (white): The DC value is close to the average in that location. Fire holdover conditions are comparable to an average year.

Above normal (dark red): The DC value is above the average in that location. Fire holdover conditions are higher than average.

