

A firefighter in silhouette is working in a forest at sunset. The firefighter is wearing a helmet and using a tool, possibly a chainsaw or axe, to clear vegetation. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The firefighter is positioned in the center-left of the frame, leaning forward and working on the ground. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees, with some branches in the foreground on the right side. The overall mood is one of focused activity in a natural setting.

2025 Wildfire Preparedness

BC Wildfire Service



BC Wildfire
Service

Following B.C.'s worst wildfire season on record, the BC Wildfire Service and its partners began preparing for the 2024 wildfire season by strengthening planning, prevention, and preparedness as well as response and recovery efforts throughout the province. Although fire activity was not as widespread as in 2023, it was still an impactful season.

819,877

Number of hectares burned in the
Prince George Fire Centre
(of 1,081,146 province-wide)

449

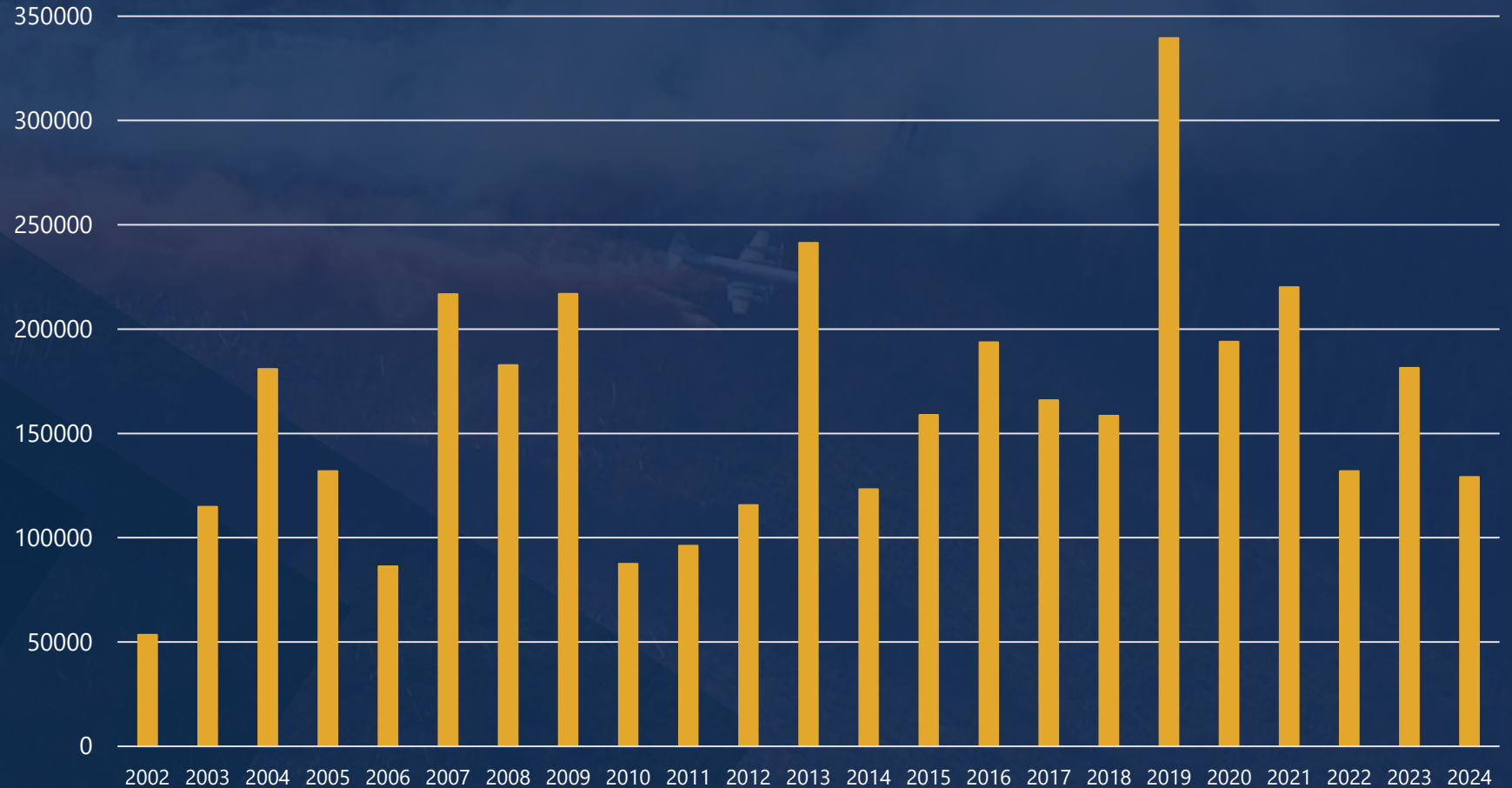
Number of wildfires in the
Prince George Fire Centre
(of 1,695 province-wide)

PGFC Lightning Statistics

2002-2024





A total of **129,096** strokes were recorded between April to October.

July alone contributed **101,021** strokes across the Fire Centre.



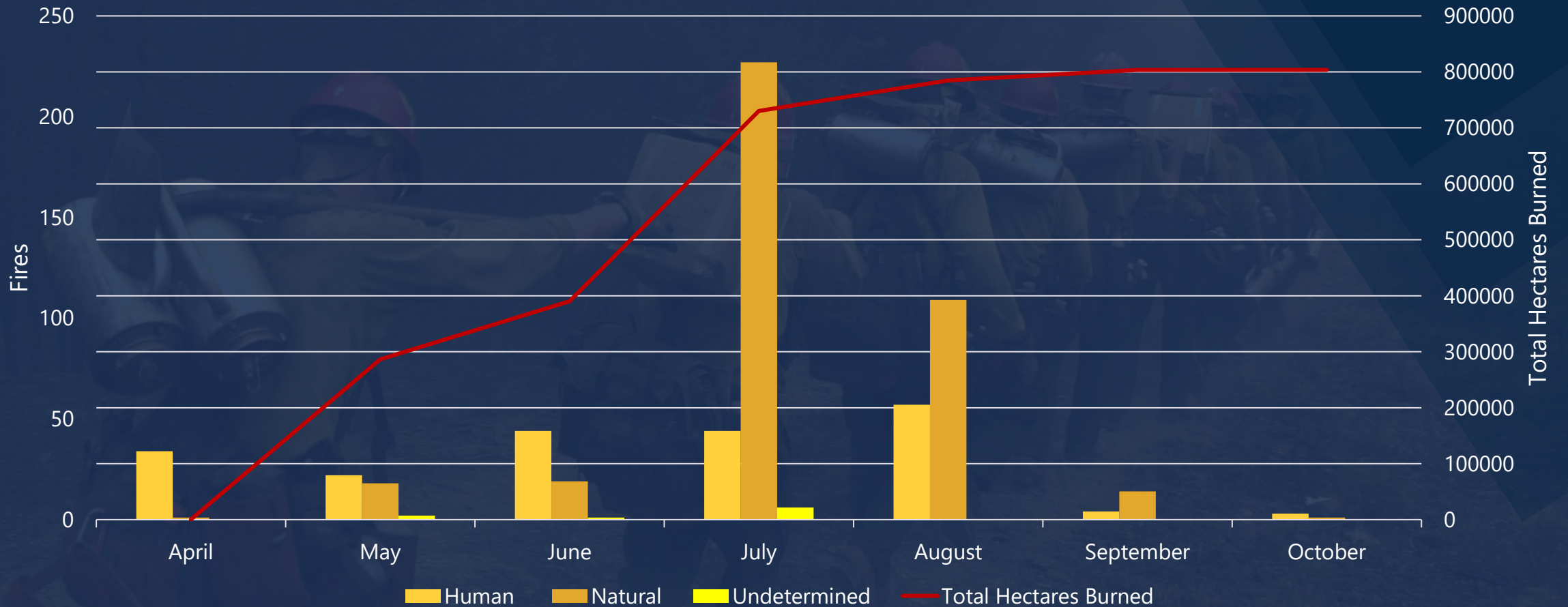
Local Lightning Statistics

Locally, it was not as busy of a lightning season, however the biggest “bust” in 2023 saw **38,672** lightning flashes/strokes over a seven-day period, while 2024 saw **63,095** over the same (with nearly half (**30,560**) of those recorded July 22).

2024 Lightning Flash/Stroke Detail			Flash: ■	Stroke: ■
Month	Total Flashes	Total Strokes		
Jan	3	4		
Feb	0	0		
Mar	10	12		
Apr	105	135		
May	2,577	3,949		
Jun	9,475	15,629		
Jul	49,298	101,021		
Aug	4,240	6,776		
Sep	912	1,476		
Oct	83	94		
Nov	0	0		
Dec	0	0		

Wildfire Activity by Month

Prince George Fire Centre



**From April 1 to October 31*

Fire Centre Overview

**Prince George Fire Centre and Regional
Wildfire Coordination Office:**
Prince George

Zones:

- (G1) Prince George
- (G3) Robson Valley
- (G4/5) VanJam
- (G6) Mackenzie
- (G7) Dawson Creek
- (G8) Fort St. John
- (G9) Fort Nelson



Centre Resource Overview

Prince George

6 Initial Attack Crews
1 Unit Crew (Firehawks)

Mackenzie

6 Parattack Crews
1 Unit Crew (Mack)

Fort Nelson

4 Initial Attack Crews

Robson Valley (Valemount)

3 Initial Attack Crews

Dawson Creek

3 Initial Attack Crews

VanJam (Vanderhoof/ Fort St. James)

4 Initial Attack Crews
1 Unit Crew (Titans)

Fort St John

13 Parattack Crews
1 Unit Crew (Rhinos)

2025 BCWS Resources

Equipment and Aircraft

Continued work on upgrading aviation fleet to include additional helicopter agreements.

Procured three additional Type-1 Structure Protection Units (SPUs) for a total of 10 and continue work to expand our fleet of Type-2 SPUs.

Four large water moving systems, with contracts in place for added capacity if needed.

Over 100 fire departments have pre-registered personnel and equipment for provincial deployments.

2025 BCWS Resources

Prevention Work

\$90 million has been allocated in 2025 for wildfire prevention initiatives through BCWS, FireSmart initiatives, and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).

FireSmart will continue to expand its program, which has provided funding to 265 First Nations and local governments since 2018.

9,600 hectares are targeted for treatment in 2025/26 under BCWS programs and an additional 2,100+ hectares under FESBC.

88 cultural and prescribed burning projects planned for 2025.



Seasonal Update

BC Wildfire Service Predictive Service Unit

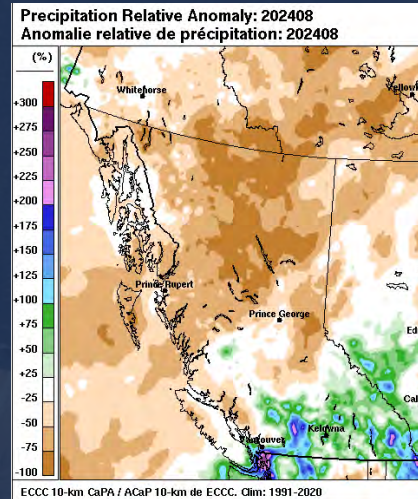


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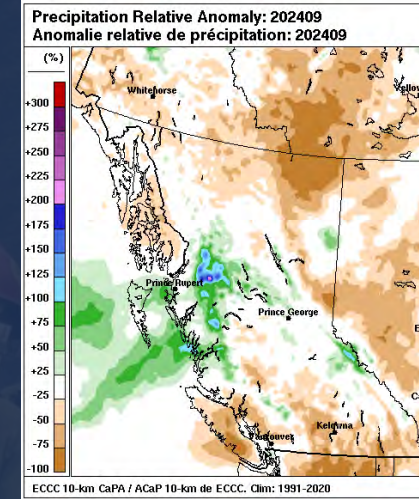
Over-winter precipitation

- Above-normal rainfall in August and again in October over southern B.C. helped relieve drought conditions in the Coastal and Southeast Fire Centres.
- Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions have persisted over the northeast corner and the western half of the Cariboo Fire Centre.
- January was abnormally dry across the entire province.

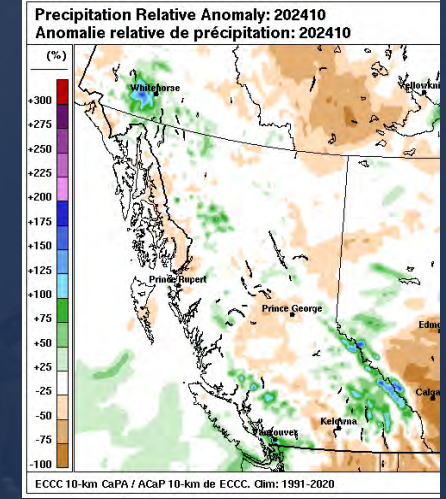
Monthly % of normal precipitation



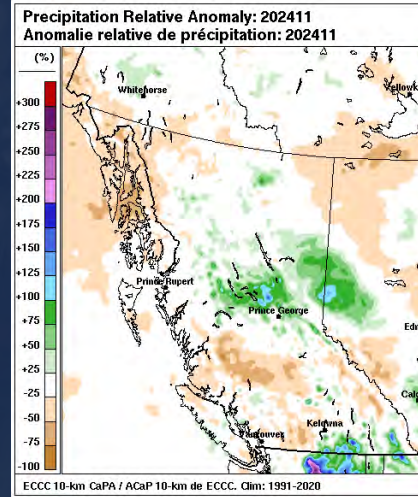
August 2024



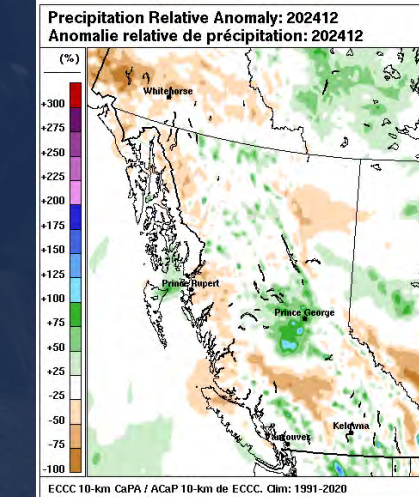
September 2024



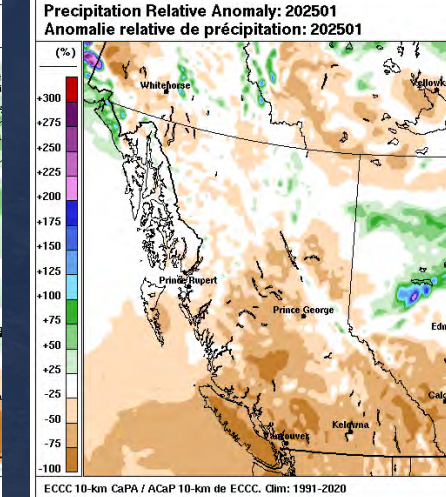
October 2024



November 2024



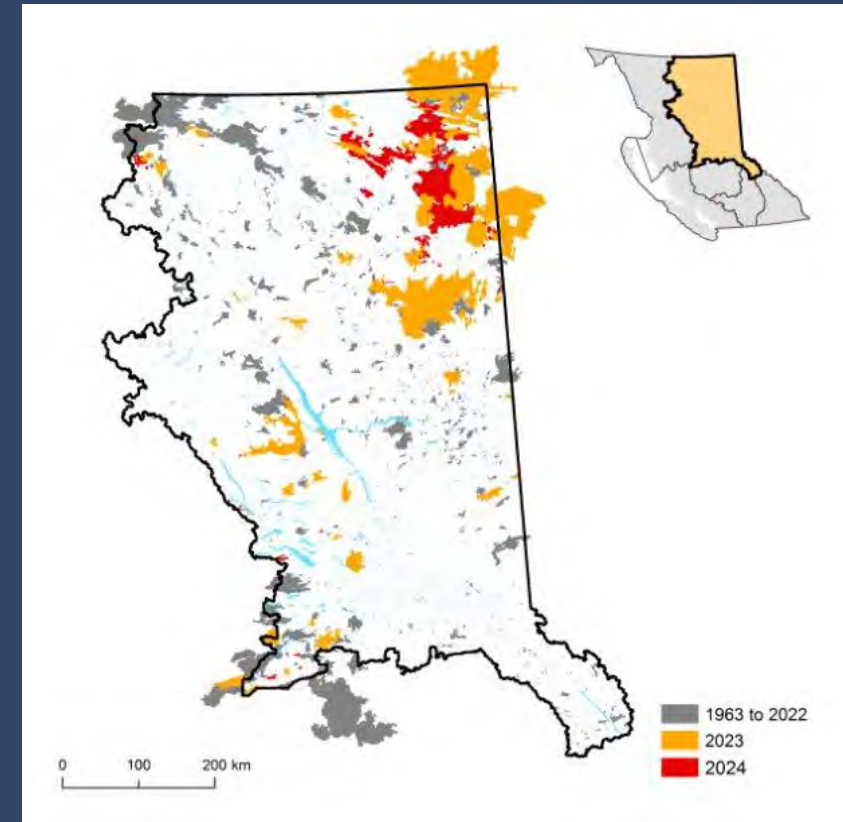
December 2024



January 2025

Drought conditions in Northeast

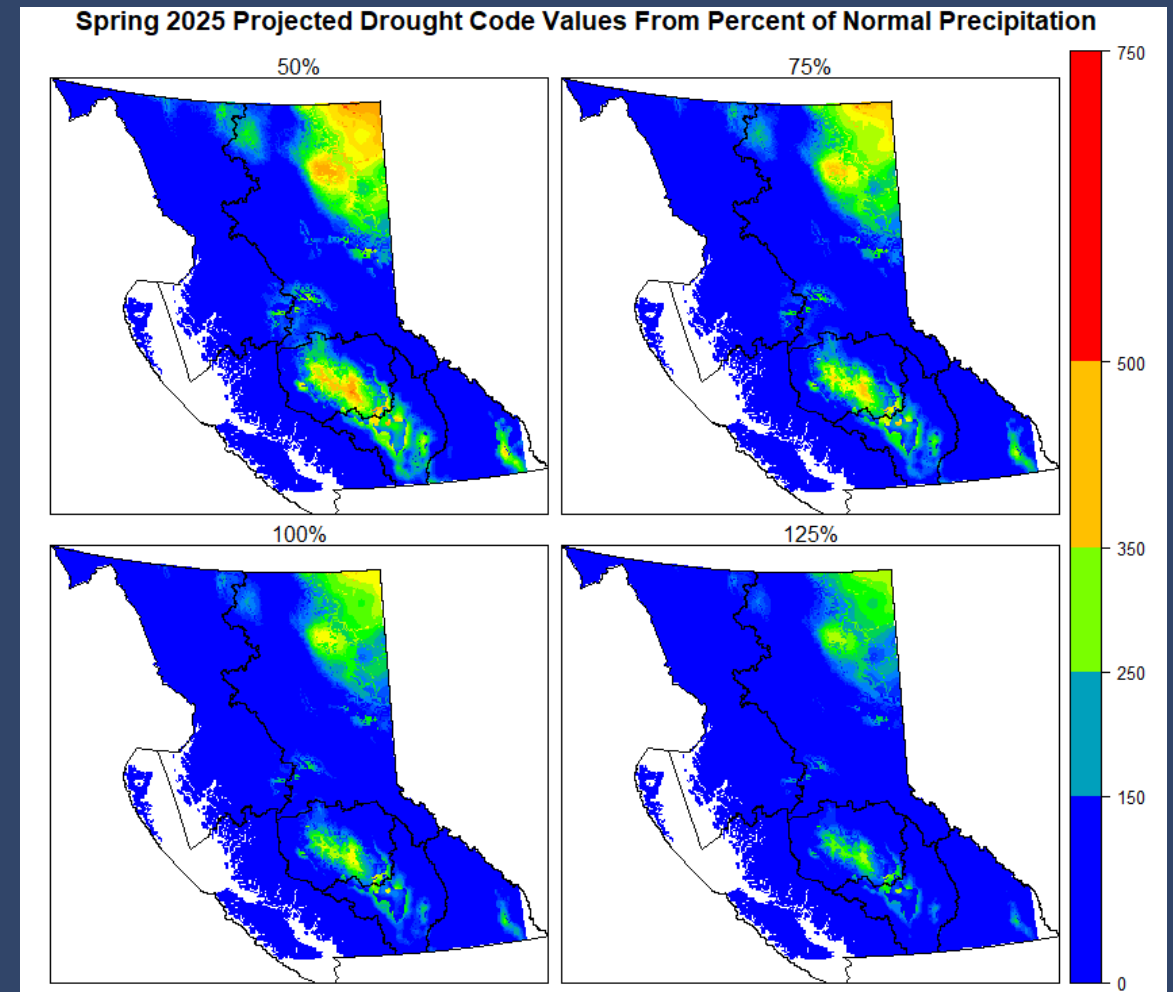
- After two highly impactful fire seasons in the Northeast, the burn disturbance area is significant.
 - This could help to reduce spread of large wildfires.
 - However, significant dead, downed timber remains and fire may return to these areas.



Area burned in the Prince George Fire Centre

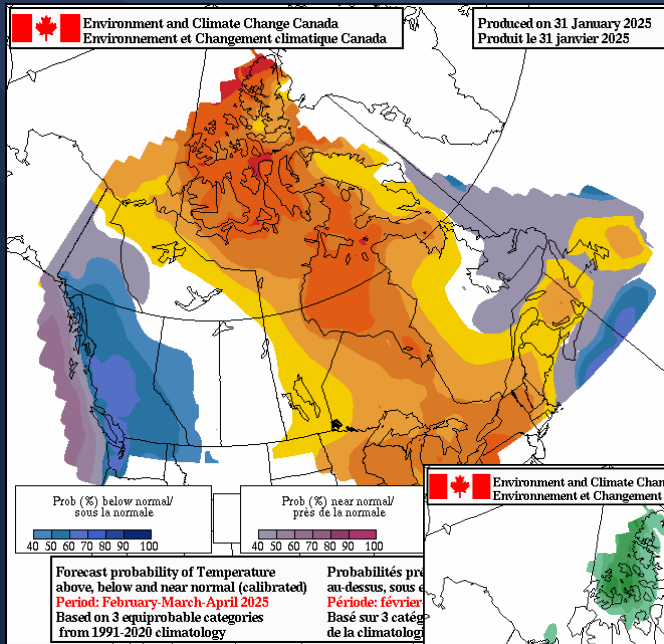
Current situation

- Even with normal winter precipitation, we anticipate that the Northeast and Cariboo will carry elevated Drought Code values into spring 2025.
- With La Niña set to favour ongoing above-normal precipitation over the Northwest, the Coast and the Southern Interior, these areas are expected to see good recovery of their drought codes come spring.

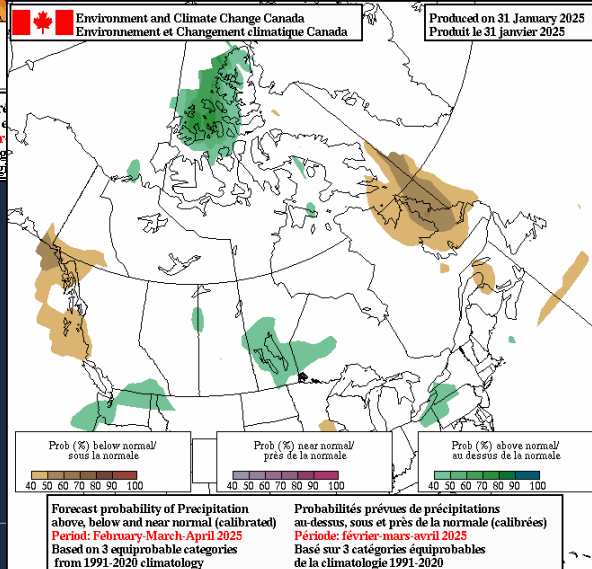


Projected spring DC start up codes
Under various precipitation scenarios

Spring Seasonal Outlook



Precipitation Outlook
Feb-Mar-Apr 2025



- Long-term guidance favours cooler-than-normal temperatures into the spring with the likelihood of a delayed snow melt.
- While La Niña conditions favour above-normal snowfall, precipitation to date has been below normal and it is unlikely that drought-stricken areas will see sufficient precipitation to alleviate the dry, drought stressed vegetation.
- The BC Wildfire Service will provide the Spring Seasonal Outlook in April to help people in B.C. stay informed and be prepared for wildfire activity in 2025

Spring Outlook 2025

BC Wildfire Service Web and Mobile App



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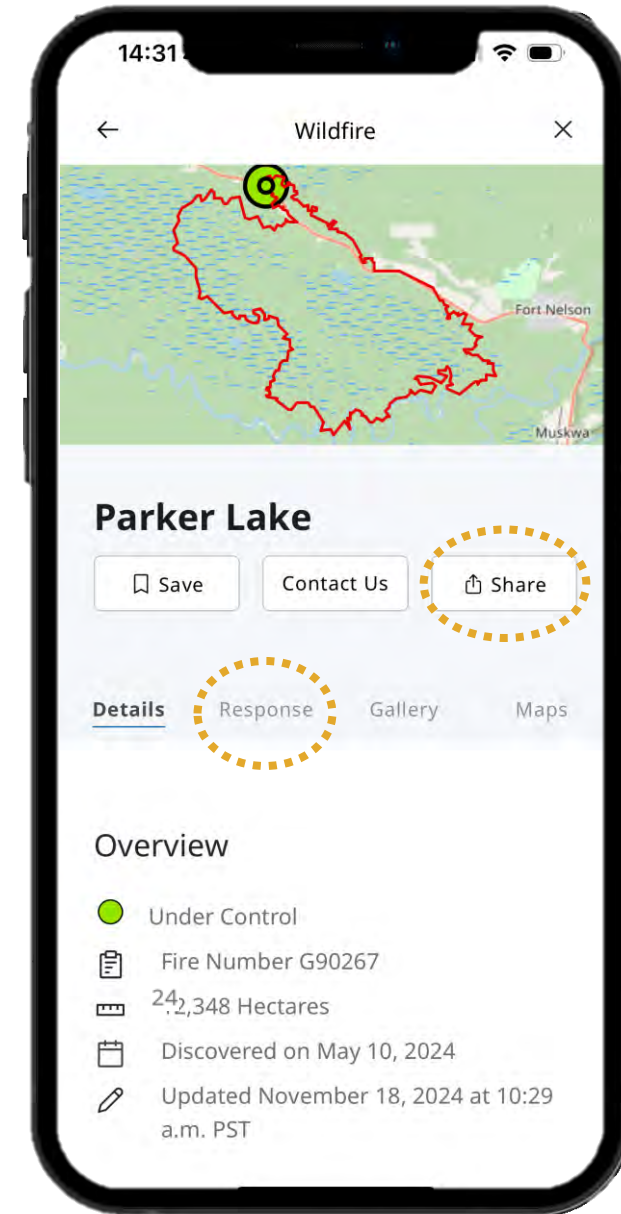


Full details

Explore the four tabs within the full details of a wildfire to learn about fire size and stage of control, evacuation information, response action, photos and maps.

Other features include:

- Saving the wildfire to your Saved list to easily refer to later
- Contact the wildfire information team by email or phone
- Share the wildfire by text message, email, or to a contact in another app



Prevention Funding

The goal of the BCWS Prevention Program is to reduce the negative impacts of wildfire through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program. The two funding streams are:

FireSmart Community Funding & Supports (FCFS)

- Applications are currently being accepted for the 2025 intake of this funding stream.
- Funding permitting, eligible applicants may submit one application between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025.
- Public website: [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports | Union of BC Municipalities](#)
- Email: cri@ubcm.ca

Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CLWRR)

- BCWS, Resource Districts, Parks, Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) responsible for delivering the CLWRR program and must develop an annual operating plan (due February each year).
- Public website: [Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction - Province of British Columbia](#)
- Email: CRIprogram@gov.bc.ca

Putting fire back on the land together



Updates from 2024:

- 48 projects were implemented, treating a total of 3,088 hectares across B.C.
- BCWS and ʔaąam, a Ktunaxa Nation community, co-hosted Kootenay ʔa·kinąuku TREX (prescribed fire training exchange) with support from the First Nations' Emergency Services Society.
- Updated operational guidance and process for burn practitioners

There are 88 burns planned for 2025 in all six Fire Centres. These will move forward based on appropriate site conditions.



THANK YOU.

Questions?



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