

Western Interconnection Wildfire Assessment

This is a high-level summary of the wildfire risk to the bulk power system. The information is for general purposes only and should not be relied on as accurate, because fires are dynamic, and circumstances may change quickly.

Active Wildfires (U.S. and Canada)

In the Western U.S., the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) reports 22 large (>1,000 acres) wildfires burning in eight states. Alberta has eight and B.C. 162 wildfires listed as *out of control*. Alberta and the U.S. had a small increase in fires while B.C. had 70 new fires start over the past week.

Active Wildfires U.S. and Canada July-August 2024 U.S. Alberta BC Total 3-Jul 10-Jul ■ 17-Jul 24-Jul ■ 31-Jul ■7-Aug ■ 14-Aug

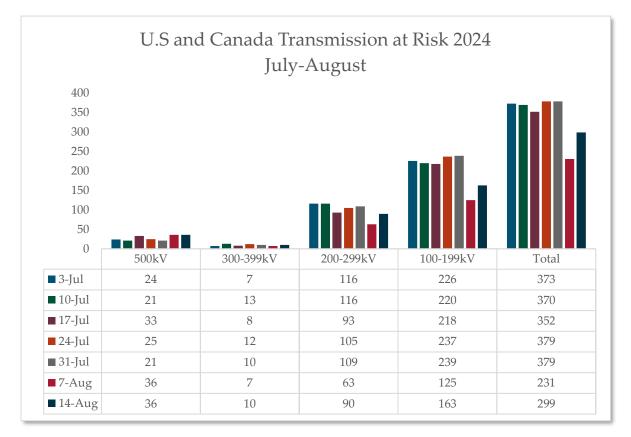
Active fires in the Western Interconnection— August 14, 2024

Western Interconnection Transmission Lines at Risk (U.S.)

An at-risk transmission line is any line within three miles of an active wildfire, a new incident discovered in the past 24 hours, or a hotspot detected by NOAA satellite.

August 14, 2024, Lines at Risk

The interconnection had a slight increase in lines at risk overall. Lower voltage lines at 100 kV to 300 kV accounted for the increase.



Events of Note

U.S. Western interconnection

As of Wednesday, there are 46 large or notable new fires burning across the Western United States and Canada, fueled by hot, dry, and windy conditions in many areas.

Several outbreaks in recent weeks have become notably destructive, destroying homes and forcing evacuations.

And as several states experience record-breaking heat, fires have been igniting and spreading quickly, prompting officials to warn about the potential for more to break out in the coming days.



Wildfires of Note (Canada)

British Columbia is reporting four fires of note: all are out of control and expected to spread beyond their current perimeters or control lines.

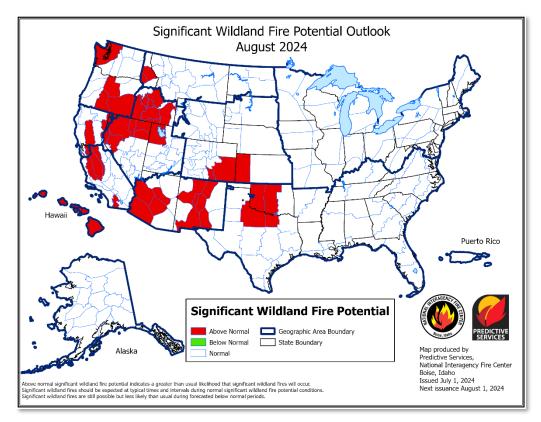
- 1. Komonko Creek, Out of Control
- 2. Calcite Creek, 1 evacuation order
- 3. Dogtooth FSR, 1 evacuation order
- 4. Dogtooth Creek, 3 evacuation orders

A wildfire of note is determined to be of significant public interest and may pose a threat to public safety, communities, or critical infrastructure.

Alberta has 20 wildfires listed as out of control, 18% of the total fires in the province.

Wildfire Outlook—July 2024

Wildfire potential for August will remain high throughout much of the interconnection, with extreme high temperatures and continued drought drying out abundant wildfire fuel.



Red Flag warnings are expected for northeast Oregon and central and northeast Idaho this week.



Fire Weather Conditions

Near-normal temperatures and precipitation are expected in the next 6 to 10 days throughout most of the West with above-normal temperatures forecast for the Desert Southwest.

The Western Interconnection remains stable. High temperatures continue across the western U.S. and British Columbia. The North American Seasonal Fire Assessment and Outlook for August–October 2024 has been published (<u>Outlooks | National Interagency Coordination Center</u>).

Canada Outlook

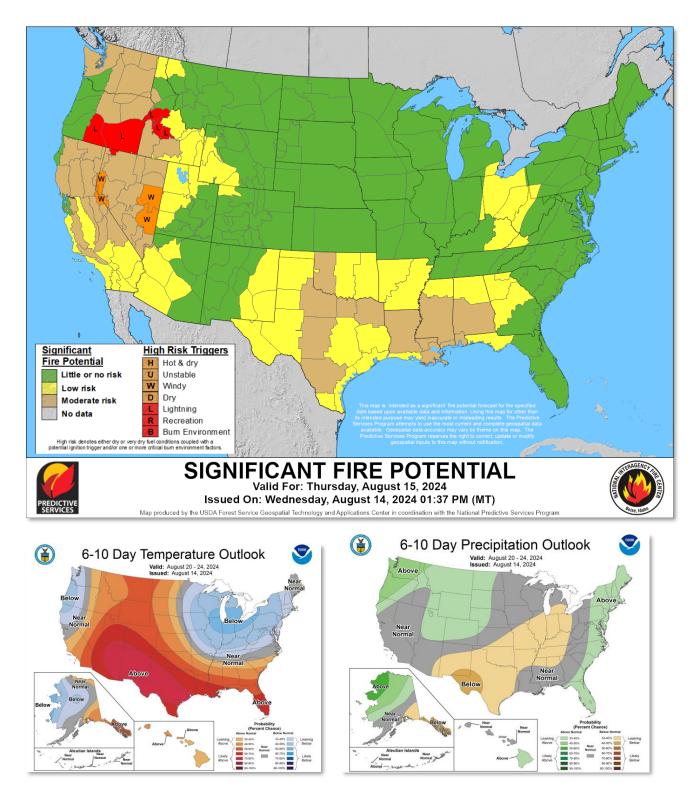
August/September/October: British Columbia and southern Yukon, eastward through the Northwest Territories, and into northern Saskatchewan and extreme western Manitoba appear likely to have above-normal fire activity in August. While dry conditions will cover other regions at times, occasional rainfall will likely help prevent sustained fire activity. With cooler and moister weather pushing into northern Canada during September, the area at highest risk is the south. The area expected to have above-normal fire activity is confined to central and southern British Columbia eastward to western Manitoba. No signs point to significant fire activity in October. Some current large fires will likely continue smoldering over the fall, but activity should have dropped substantially in most regions, especially in the north.

United States Outlook

July/August/September: Climate Prediction Center and Predictive Services outlooks issued in late July depict that above-normal temperatures are likely across much of the U.S. in August, which will continue through October. Precipitation is likely to be above normal along the Gulf and East coasts into the Upper Midwest through October, while precipitation is likely to be below normal for much of the Plains into the southern Intermountain West. Compared to the outlook issued a month ago, larger areas of the West are expected to experience above-normal significant fire potential in August and September. Above-normal significant fire potential is forecast for much of the Northwest, northern Great Basin, and northern California through September. Above-normal significant fire potential is also forecast for portions of the Idaho Panhandle, southwest Montana, and central and southern California in August and September. Most areas of California and the northwestern U.S. will return to normal potential in October, but the southern California coast and mountains will have above-normal potential through November. Normal significant fire potential is forecast for the Southwest in August, with portions of New Mexico and Arizona forecast to have above-normal potential in September and October. Above-normal potential is forecast for northern Texas and western Oklahoma in August and September, expanding to much of central and western Texas by October. Above-normal potential is forecast for Hawaii through October, especially for the lee sides



Weekly Wildfire Update

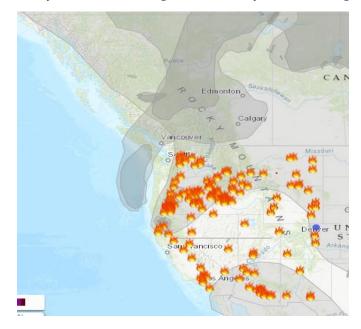




Weekly Wildfire Update

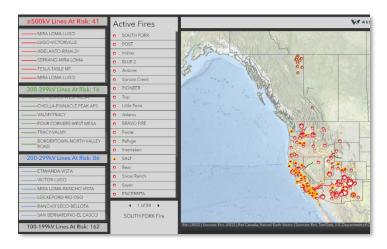
Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality

Wildfire smoke continues to increase and move throughout the Western Interconnection. Large areas of B.C., Alberta, the Pacific Northwest into California, and the Desert Southwest continue to have air quality alerts. As smoke density increases, solar generation may see some degradation.



Current Wildfire Conditions

Current wildfire conditions can be viewed on the <u>WECC Wildfire Dashboard</u> posted on WECC.org. Users new to WECC.org will need to create a user ID and password for access.



Source information:

- Alberta <u>https://www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status</u>
- British Columbia <u>https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map</u>
- National Interagency Fire Center Boise, Idaho <u>https://www.nifc.gov/</u>
- Transmission at risk <u>WECC Wildfire Dashboard</u>

