

### **Weekly Wildfire Update**

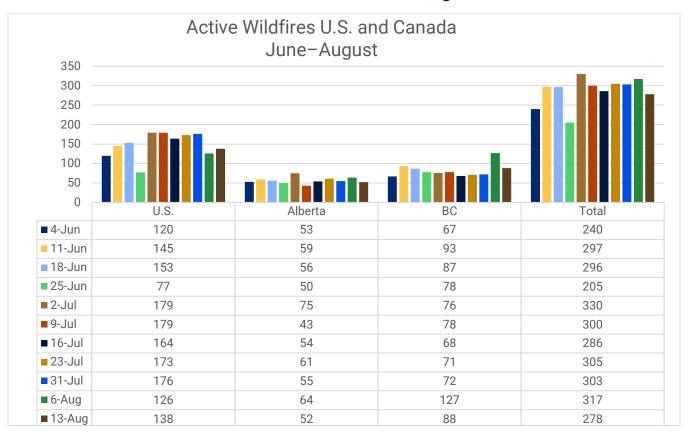
WECCSA August 13, 2025

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 28 large (>1,000 acres) wildfires in 10 states. Alberta and British Columbia have 20 wildfires burning out of control. Overall, active wildfires (<10 acres) decreased.

#### Active fires in the Western Interconnection-August 13, 2025



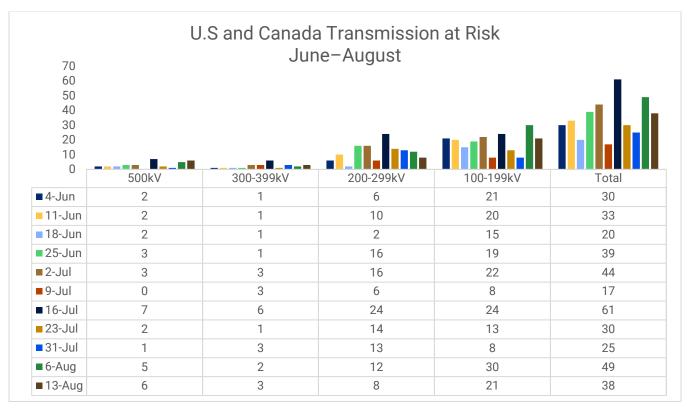
#### Western Interconnection Transmission Lines at Risk (U.S.)

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.

#### Lines at Risk-August 13, 2025

The number of interconnection lines at risk decreased from last week. Fire conditions continue to change due to a warming trend throughout much of the interconnection. Although the lines at risk decreased, the interconnection is at a greater risk heading into the next week.



#### **Events of Note**

The Gifford Fire near San Luis Obispo, California, ignited August 1 and burned 130,000 acres with 37% containment. The fire burned through a major 500 kV transmission corridor resulting in the removal of two lines that remain out of service with no estimated time of return.

The Lee Fire Complex (multiple fires) near Meeker Colorado, ignited August 2 and burned 112,000 acres with only 4% containment. Hot, dry, and windy conditions have made fighting the fire extremely difficult. The fire complex has burned through several 345 kV, 230 kV and 138 kV transmission corridors, resulting in several lines going in and out of service leaving several lines with damage that could take weeks to repair. The line outages have caused congestion on a couple of paths. So far, system operators have been able to operate without firm load shed in the local area.

### Wildfires of Note (Canada)

**British Columbia**—BC has two 500 kV and one 230 kV line at risk due to a single fire and eight fires burning out of control.

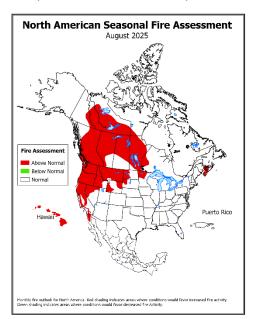
Alberta—Alberta has 20 fires burning out of control with no transmission currently at risk.

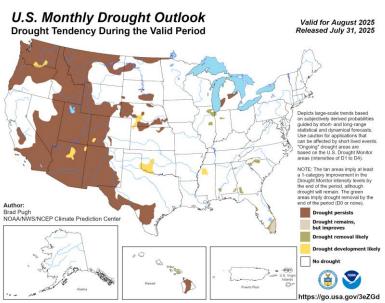


A wildfire of note is determined to be of significant public interest and may pose a threat to public safety, communities, or critical infrastructure.

#### Wildfire and Drought Outlook-August

The forecast for August anticipates well-above-normal fire risk for much of western Canada. Above-normal significant fire potential is anticipated for much of the northwestern U.S. through August, including all of Oregon and Washington, and most of Idaho and Montana. Above-normal potential is forecast for almost all northern California and the central and southern California mountains in August. Drought will persist across the Southwest and southern Great Basin. Extreme drought expanded into the southwestern U.S. and now covers parts of southeastern California, southern Nevada, southern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and the entire Pacific Northwest.





### **Fire Weather Conditions for August**

#### Canada

There will still be an overall drying trend that will enhance fire activity. Additionally, warmer-than-average temperatures will add to the fire potential. Southern British Columbia is expected to have the greatest risk for fire activity, and the rest of the Prairie Provinces are predicted to have higher-than-normal fire weather conditions. Continued dry and warm conditions will maintain a well-above-average fire risk for southern British Columbia and Alberta through August.

#### **United States**

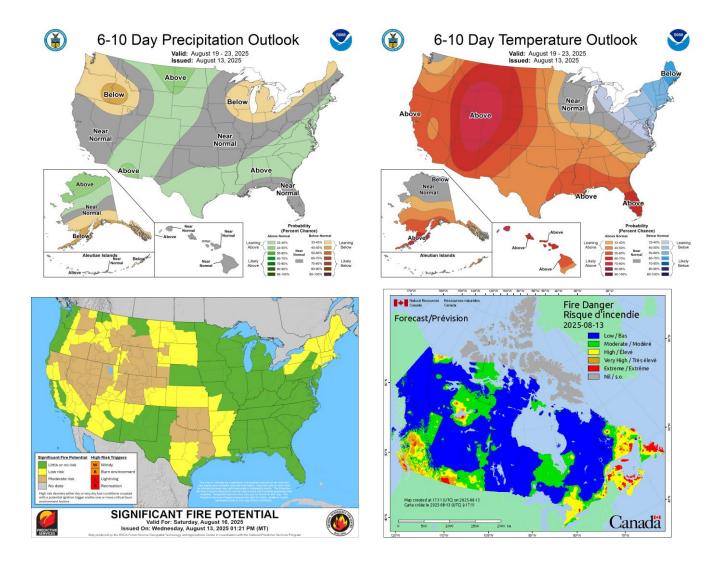
During July, drought expanded and intensified across the Pacific Northwest and Northern Intermountain West. In contrast to those worsening conditions, the wet spring and summer continued to result in a decrease of drought coverage for the Great Plains. Broad-scale persistence is forecast throughout the West along with any lingering Great Plains drought. Development is most likely near the Four Corners area and parts of the central to southern Plains that have drier initial conditions and will be supported



by an increased chance of below-normal precipitation and/or above-normal temperatures during August.

#### Six to Ten Day Outlook

The precipitation outlook for the next week is below normal for northern Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. The rest of the interconnection will be near normal to above normal with flooding possible in southeastern Arizona and New Mexico. Conditions are forecast to be hot and dry through the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regions. Fire potential remains moderate in most regions with lightning and wind increasing the risk in extremely dry areas of the Great Basin Rocky Mountains. Fire danger risk will be moderate to very high in the southern half of BC with a pocket of extreme fire danger along the border of Alberta and the U.S.





## Wildfire Smoke and Air Quality

Smoke has largely decreased over the interconnection.



# **Current Wildfire Conditions**

The WECC Wildfire <u>Dashboard</u> posted on WECC.org shows the current wildfire conditions. Users new to WECC.org must create a user ID and password for access.