

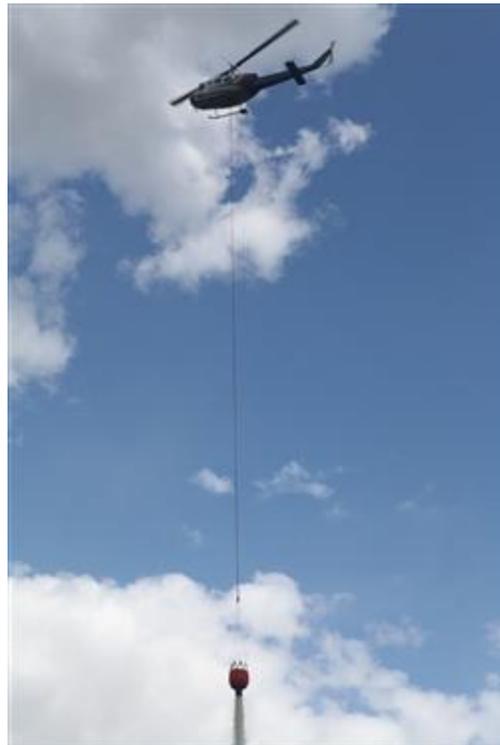
EXTREME

Current wildfires

The Wildfire Hazard Rating in the Fort McMurray area is **extreme**. This means that wildfires can start more easily in these extremely dry and warm conditions and spread very quickly. Please use extra caution in Alberta's forested areas during this period of extreme hazard.

There are currently two fires burning in the Fort McMurray area. MWF-015, burning approximately four kilometres northeast of Fort Chip, is 0.01 hectares in size and classified as being held. MWF-016, burning west of Supertest Hill, is 1.4 hectares in size and is classified as being held. There are no out of control fires in the area and no communities or industrial sites are being threatened.

There are currently 69 firefighters, eleven helicopters, two air tanker groups and two dozer groups prepositioned in locations throughout the Fort McMurray. Since April 1, 2012, the Fort McMurray area has recorded 16 wildfires which have burned 25.22 hectares. For information on wildfires burning in other areas of Alberta, please visit the [Wildfire Status Map](#).



The wildfire burning in Wood Buffalo National Park is approximately 15,000 hectares. We are actively assessing and constantly monitoring the fire at this time. Winds from the north may push smoke from this fire as far south as Fort McMurray this evening or tomorrow morning. For more information, please contact the **Fire Information Officer** at (867) 872-0107 or visit [Parks Canada](#).

Forecasted weather

Warm and very dry conditions persist across the northern boreal zones. The winds will be much lighter this evening following the passage of a cold front last night. Isolated lightning may occur in the northern part of the region tonight, but little precipitation is expected.

Starting on Saturday it will become cooler, more humid and more unsettled for the next four days. Not much precipitation is expected, but there will be scattered showers across the region.

This will reduce the fire hazard, but because of the current deep dry conditions of the forest fuels the fire hazard is likely to remain high over the weekend.

Especially in the northern part of the region the surface vegetation remains very dry. As a result, vigorous surface fire is experienced in deciduous and mixed-wood forest stands. Fire spread slows down once it reaches these fuel types, but it is not acting as a barrier until the grass and other plants green up.

As the Hazard Rating is expected to remain **extreme** for the next few days, Albertans are encouraged to be especially cautious during these warm and dry periods. For more information, please visit [Environment Canada](#) for the extended forecast. For the complete daily fire weather forecast and maps, please visit [ESRD Fire Danger Forecasts](#). For information on fire weather in general, please visit [Understanding Fire Weather](#)

Fire restrictions

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development will not be issuing any new fire permits in the Fort McMurray area within the Forest Protection Area until further notice. This is due to low humidity values and rising temperatures expected over the next several days. The suspension will be in place until the area receives significant rainfall and enough moisture to lower the fire hazard.

There are currently no fire bans or fire restrictions anywhere in the Waterways area or Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Although the provincial fire ban has been lifted, many municipalities in southern and central Alberta still have fire bans or prevention notices in effect for their jurisdictions. Please visit www.albertafirebans.ca for more information.

Wildfire prevention notices

There have been at least two OHV-related wildfire in the Fort McMurray area in the last two days.

Smouldering debris that falls to the forest floor from a hot OHV exhaust system can ignite a wildfire. Make sure to clean your OHV, inspect the exhaust system regularly for debris, and watch behind you when you ride to ensure you haven't created any hotspots. When riding, avoid areas with tall grass and park your machine on mineral soil or rock. Extinguish any hot debris you see with a collapsible shovel and small fire extinguisher. In these periods of high hazard, please call 310-FIRE and report a wildfire from an OHV even if you think you have extinguished it properly.

In periods of **extreme** hazard, even the smallest spark can ignite a raging wildfire. Albertans are reminded to remain extra cautious when recreating or working in the forest. For provincial wildfire information, like our Facebook page at [Alberta Wildfire Info](#) or follow us on Twitter at [ABGovWildfire](#).



Contact

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