

WHAT'S CHANGED FOR 2020

The BC Wildfire Service has made some changes to the [B.C. Wildfire Dashboard](#) based on feedback from clients throughout the 2019 wildfire season. These changes include the following:

- A newly discovered or newly reported wildfire will continue to be displayed on the map as “new” for 24 hours unless the fire has been declared “out”.
- If a “new” fire is declared “out” within the first 24 hours of discovery, it will be moved from the “BC Wildfires - Active” layer to the “BC Wildfires– Out” layer.
- Fires will be displayed on the map by their stage of control. The symbology has changed for the 2020 fire season as follows:

Previous symbology (2019)	Current symbology
<p>BC Wildfires - Active</p> <p>Stage of Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Fires of Note  New Fires (less than 24hrs old - not fires of note)  Active Fires (not fires of note) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Fire of Note  New  Out of Control  Being Held
<p>BC Wildfires - Not Active</p> <p>Stage of Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Not Active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Under Control  Out

How does the BC Wildfire Service classify the “stage of control” of a wildfire?

- An **out of control** wildfire is not responding (or only responding on a limited basis) to suppression action. When a wildfire is out of control, the perimeter spread is not being contained.
- When a wildfire is **being held**, it indicates that, with the resources that are currently committed to the fire, sufficient suppression action has been taken that the fire is not likely to spread beyond existing or predetermined boundaries under prevailing and forecasted conditions.
- A wildfire is declared **under control** once the fire has received sufficient suppression action to ensure no further spread of fire.
- A wildfire is considered **out** only when the fire has been completely extinguished.

The B.C. Wildfire Dashboard will continue to offer the following features:

Multiple dashboards that expand on yearly wildfire statistics and current fire activity.

- Additional layers that you can use to modify the map’s features (e.g. Bans and Prohibitions, BC Park Closures, Area Restrictions, Fire Danger Rating).
- Hyperlinks to external resources that provide information about stages of control, Fires of Note, Bans and Prohibitions, Fire Danger Rating, etc.

UPDATE CYCLES FOR LAYERS:

- Every two hours, the following information is updated (if new information is available): the stage of control of current wildfires; fire perimeters; bans and prohibitions; and area restrictions.
- The layer indicating current evacuation orders and evacuation alerts is updated when relevant information from regional districts and local authorities (e.g. First Nations) is received.
- All other information on the map that is not directly related to wildfires is updated by the custodians of that data. Once this data is received, it is reflected on the map.

DASHBOARD #1 – ALL CURRENT YEAR FIRES

This dashboard displays the rolling total of all wildfires for the current fire season (which runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year). It also displays the number of fires that started in the last seven days, the suspected causes of those fires, and a breakdown of the stage of control for those fires.

HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD

- To navigate between the tabs, click on the tabs at the bottom of this dashboard (Number of Fires, Suspected Cause, Stage of Control).
- The update cycle is displayed in the bottom right corner of the dashboard (i.e. every two hours).
- To expand the view of the dashboard, click the “four arrows” icon in the top right corner of this dashboard. To return to a condensed viewing window, click this icon again.



DASHBOARD #2 – ACTIVE FIRES

This dashboard displays the rolling total of Active Fires (i.e. any wildfires in the current fire season that have not been declared “out”). It displays the number of fires that are active in all of the province’s six fire centres, the number of fires detected in the last two days, the suspected causes, and the stages of control. If you click on the bar graph for a specific fire centre in Dashboard 3 (see below), the numbers in Dashboard #2 will reflect the fire activity just in the selected fire centre.

HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD

- To navigate between the tabs, click on the tabs at the bottom of this dashboard (Number of Fires, Suspected Cause, Stage of Control).
- The update cycle is displayed in the bottom right corner of the dashboard (every two hours).

- To expand the view of the dashboard, click the “four arrows” icon in the top right corner of this dashboard. To return to a condensed viewing window, click this icon again.

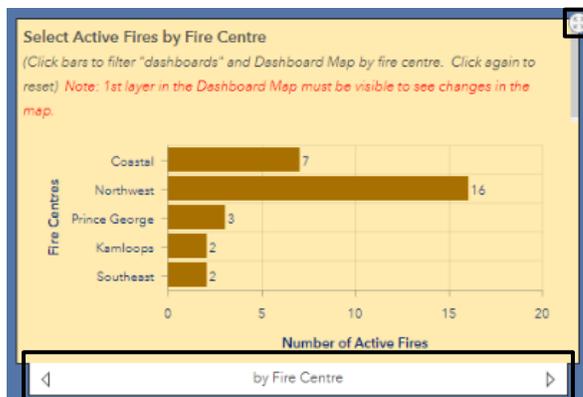


DASHBOARD #3 – SELECT ACTIVE FIRES BY FIRE CENTRE

This dashboard displays the number of Active Fires by fire centre. It also displays Fires of Note, Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts (displayed, but not managed by BCWS), Bans and Prohibitions, and Area Restrictions.

HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD

- To navigate between the tabs, click on the triangles at the bottom of the dashboard.
- To highlight a specific fire centre, click on the bar graph relevant to that fire centre. The information in Dashboard #2 will then only reflect the statistics for the selected fire centre.
- To stop viewing details for a specific fire centre, click the bar graph relevant to the selected fire centre again. (However, if you click on the bar graph for a different fire centre, that new fire centre’s data will be displayed instead.)
- To expand the view of the dashboard, click the “four arrows” icon in the top right corner of this dashboard. To return to a condensed viewing window, click this icon again.



HOW TO LOAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYERS SO THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE MAP

You can personalize the information that’s displayed on the map by turning on or turning off data layers, and by choosing which geographical features are shown.

FROM THE “DASHBOARD MAP” VIEW (the default view, indicated by the tab at the bottom of the map):

- Choose the “layers” button in the top right corner:  Select the layers you wish to see.
- Choose the “basemaps” button in the top right corner:  Select the basemap you wish to see.

FROM THE “PROVINCIAL CURRENT YEAR FIRES APP” VIEW (this tab can be selected at the bottom of the map):

- Choose the “layers” (legend) button in the top left corner:  Select the layers you wish to see.
- Choose the “basemaps” button in the top left corner:  Select the base map you wish to see.

ADDITIONAL MAPS

The following maps can be accessed through the B.C. Wildfire Dashboard via the drop-down menu in the very top right corner:

- The [BC Wildfire Service Provincial Current Year Fires Map](#). All current year fire perimeters can be found on this map, as well as a measurement tool.
- The [Post Harvest Hazard Abatement Map](#). This map is a tool to help commercial and industry operators determine fire risk. Fire hazard assessments and hazard abatement activities are crucial for reducing the potential threat of wildfires arising from fuels left on the land base following industrial activities.
- The [Open Fire Tracking System \(OFTS\) Registered Burns and Prescribed Fire Map](#). The Open Fire Tracking System allows the BC Wildfire Service to track regulated Category 3 burning throughout B.C., help manage firefighting resources and minimize the number of false reports of wildfires. Note: the “Prescribed Fire” layer, previously housed on the B.C. Wildfire Dashboard, can now be found on this map.
- The [BC Wildfire Service Weather Station Map](#). The BC Wildfire Service operates about 260 weather stations that automatically submit weather data every hour. This map shows the locations of all BC Wildfire Service weather stations with their map coordinates and elevation.

DISCLAIMER

The wildfire incident data described below is updated when practicable and the occurrence of individual fire updates will vary. The information is intended for general purposes only and should not be relied on as accurate, because fires are dynamic and circumstances may change quickly.

Wildfire perimeters for the current fire season, including both active fires and fires that have been declared out, are obtained from various sources. The data is refreshed from operational systems **every two hours** to the public map. The levels of current fire activity within the mapped fire perimeters can vary widely, so therefore the data may not reflect the current fire situation. This information should only be used for reference purposes. In the event that the fire perimeters overlay areas where private property or infrastructure is present, the perimeters do not indicate what level of damage (if any) may have occurred.

The Province receives Evacuation Orders and Alerts information from local governments and First Nations when it becomes available. The BC Wildfire Service and GeoBC make no warranties or guarantees, either expressed or implied, as to the completeness, accuracy or correctness of the data, nor accept any liability arising from any

incorrect, incomplete or misleading information contained therein. Emergency data may not reflect the current emergency situation, and therefore should only be used for reference purposes. **For the latest Evacuation Orders and Alerts information, please consult the appropriate local government. For further information regarding the Evacuation Orders and Alerts data, please contact the individual(s) identified in the [data catalogue](#).**

Fire prohibitions and restrictions apply to all public and private land, unless specified otherwise (in a local government bylaw, for example). Please check with local government authorities for any other restrictions before lighting any fire. The “Fire Danger Rating” layer on this map is intended for general information only and should not be relied on as accurate for a specific location due to variability in local site and weather conditions. Information is updated on a daily basis as soon as is practicable. Where discrepancies exist between this layer and the source information located on the [Fire Danger Rating](#) webpage, the source information shall take precedence. For regulated forest operations, the danger class value must be derived from weather data representative of the site on which operations are being conducted. Where discrepancies exist between the colour display on the weather maps and the numerical values posted for the weather stations, the posted numerical values shall take precedence .

More information regarding the [Open Fire Tracking System](#) (OFTS), [Fuel Hazard Assessment and Abatement](#), [Prescribed Burning](#), and [Weather Stations](#) can be found on the corresponding webpages.

Coordinates provided within the datasets are approximate (based on information provided by outside sources and agencies) and are updated when practicable. The actual extent of wildfires and treatment areas may be different than what is indicated by the provided coordinates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Fires of Note](#)
- Data Catalogue:
 - [Fire Points](#)
 - [Fire Perimeters](#)
- [DriveBC](#)
- [EmergencyInfoBC](#)
- [B.C. Map Hub Terms of Use](#)



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>



<https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo/>



<https://twitter.com/BCGovFireInfo>



<https://firesmartbc.ca/>

To report a wildfire, call **1 800 663-5555** toll-free OR ***5555** on most cellular networks.

Please also refer to the following:

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Changes Made	Author(s)	Effective
1	Creation of document	Erika Berg	July 17, 2019
2	2020 edits	Hannah Swift; Devona Hay	April 8, 2020
3	Edits for distribution	Hannah Swift	April 8, 2020