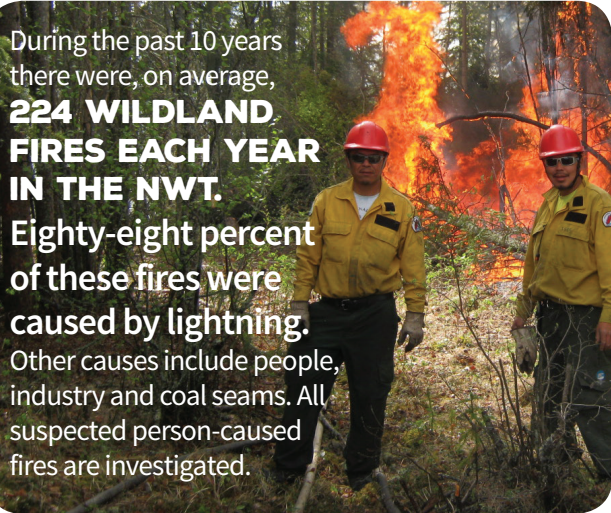


NWT WILDLAND FIRE HISTORY 2005-2014

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIRES	TOTAL AREA AFFECTED (KM2)
2005	261	218,132
2006	166	53,397
2007	184	440,713
2008	240	308,788
2009	42	2,056
2010	224	333,434
2011	207	366,618
2012	279	297,617
2013	248	546,770
2014	385	3,418,291
Average	224	598,582

A FORCE OF NATURE

Most of the Northwest Territories is covered by boreal forest, where wildland fire is a natural part of life. Plants and animals have adapted to seasonal wildland fires. Some have even become dependent upon them. For example, many trees in the boreal forest require intense heat from fires to release their seeds. Most wildland fires are caused by lightning.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED?

When figuring out what needs to be protected, ENR considers the following to be most important, in the order that they appear below. These are referred to as “values at risk”.

-  **HUMAN LIFE**
-  **PROPERTY**
Such as communities and other infrastructure
-  **NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES**
Such as primary wildlife harvesting areas, commercial timber areas, endangered species areas
-  **CULTURAL RESOURCE VALUES**
Such as historic/archaeological sites, culturally significant areas

TO REPORT SMOKE OR FIRE IN THE FOREST

1-877-NWTFIRE (1-877-698-3473)

Or contact your Regional ENR office:

North Slave Regional Office	867-873-7184
South Slave Regional Office	867-872-6400
Deh Cho Regional Office	867-695-7450
Sahtu Regional Office	867-587-3500
Inuvik Regional Office	867-678-6650
NWT Emergency Measures Office	867-920-2303

FOR INFORMATION

Community emergencies or evacuations:

24-hour emergency line	867-920-2303
Office of the Fire Marshal	867-873-7469

NWT highway closures due to wildland fires:

Department of Transportation	1-800-661-0750
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Twitter @GNWT_DOT for regular updates during the wildland fire season

Information and updates on wildland fires:

nwtfire.com
enr.gov.nt.ca
Facebook at Nwtfire

EVERY FIRE IS A
POTENTIAL WILDLAND
FIRE HAZARD. DO NOT
LEAVE ANY FIRE
UNATTENDED.

Environment and Natural Resources

Forest Management Division
P.O. Box 7, 149 McDougal Road
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Phone: 867-872-7700 Fax: 867-872-2077



Northwest Territories
WILDLAND
FIRE
OPERATIONS



THE BOREAL FOREST IS ONE OF THE NORTH'S MOST VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. Its animals and plants have sustained Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

Managing wildland fire is important for protecting the ecological integrity and economic potential of the boreal forest.



The Northwest Territories wildland fire season begins in April/May and ends in September/October. During this time, fires can start, spread, and cause risk to human life, property and important natural and cultural resources.

This requires an organized approach to putting out fires: fire suppression.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Forest Management Division, provides wildland fire management services. These include wildland fire prevention, detection, monitoring, situation assessment and fire suppression action.

NWT WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

PEOPLE

28 FIVE-PERSON TYPE 1 SEASONAL FIREFIGHTER CREWS

75 INCIDENT COMMAND AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL

EFFs (EXTRA FIREFIGHTERS) TRAINED AND HIRED AS REQUIRED

AIRCRAFT

6 AIR TANKERS

4 BIRDDOG AIRCRAFT TO DIRECT AND LEAD TANKERS

5 HELICOPTERS

These resources provide air operation and air tanker support for wildland fire suppression efforts. They are usually located in one place and relocated as required.

3
PRIMARY AIR TANKER BASES IN FORT SMITH, HAY RIVER, AND YELLOWKNIFE

+

3
SUPPLEMENTAL AIR TANKER BASES IN FORT SIMPSON, NORMAN WELLS AND INUVIK

=

6
AIR TANKER BASES IN THE NWT

The Territorial Duty Officer, in consultation with the Regional Duty Officers, makes strategic decisions about air tanker positioning and alerts based on weather, fire occurrence and fire danger.

PROTECTING FOREST HOMES AND CABINS FROM WILDLAND FIRE

If you are living in or running a business in a forested area, you can increase your awareness and level of preparation, and reduce your risk from wildland fire by becoming “FireSmart”.

Be prepared

- Clear ground vegetation, stumps, logs, branches, brush and other flammable materials within 30 feet of your home or cabin.
- Remove overhanging tree limbs, moss and needles from roofs and gutters.
- Keep storage areas clean and tidy and store flammable liquids in unbreakable containers.
- Screen in porches and balconies and enclose crawl spaces.
- Clean chimneys and stoves pipes and check their screens.
- Stack firewood, lumber and deck furniture well away from the house.
- Have an adequately placed water supply.
- Keep a ladder long enough to access the roof.
- Keep a round point shovel and a pickaxe.
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan.

For more information on how to FireSmart your home or community, please contact your regional ENR office or visit:

nwtfire.com/cms/pages/firesmart-program

BURNING PERMITS

In general, permits to burn are required from May 1 to September 30. Some municipalities require permits to burn all year round.

You need a permit to burn if you are lighting a fire outside of municipal limits for anything other than cooking food or warming yourself. The permits are free, available at your local or regional ENR office.

For permits to burn within municipal limits, contact your town or municipality.

HOW ARE FIRES MANAGED?

Every wildland fire is assessed. Depending on the location of the fire, availability of resources, fire behavior, and the potential to affect values at risk, the following actions may be taken:

- monitoring the fire to make sure it does not affect values at risk later in the fire season
- taking action to protect values at risk
- suppressing (fighting) a fire

NATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The NWT has agreements in place to get support from other jurisdictions, and provide support to them when needed. They are:

- MARS (Mutual Aid Resource Sharing) Agreement – with all other provinces and territories in Canada.
- Fire Cooperation Zone (Border) Agreement – with British Columbia, Yukon, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Parks Canada.
- Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement – with the western Canadian provinces and territories and the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

TECHNOLOGY

ENR uses the latest technology to assist in decision making, including:

- meteorological data and analysis (weather)
- lightning location system
- satellite wildland fire detection systems (MODIS)
- geographical information system (GIS)

