

National Fire Database - Agency provided fire locations (point data)

Description

The Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB) fire point data is a collection of forest fire locations as provided by Canadian fire management agencies including provinces, territories, and Parks Canada.

The CNFDB can be used for spatial and temporal analyses of landscape-scale fire impacts.

Note that the data contained in the CNFDB are not complete nor are they without error. Not all fires have been mapped, and data accuracy varies due to different mapping techniques. This collection includes only data that has been contributed by the agencies. Data completeness and quality vary among agencies and between years.

Geographic ExtentSW:-141.003 41.676, NE:-52.617 83.114

Time PeriodFrom:1959 - To:2024

Data Resources

Name	Resource Type	Language	Format
<a href="#">National Fire Database fire point data</a>	Dataset	English, French	SHP
<a href="#">National Fire Database fire point data (large fires only # 200 hectares)</a>	Dataset	English, French	SHP
<a href="#">Canadian Wildland Fire Information System</a>	Supporting Document	English, French	HTML
<a href="#">NFDB point shapefile metadata (Available only in English)</a>	Supporting Document	English, French	PDF
<a href="#">National Fire Database fire point data – Summary Stats</a>	Dataset	English, French	XLS
<a href="#">NFDB point</a>	Web Service	English	WMS
<a href="#">NFDB point</a>	Web Service	French	WMS

Additional Information

Dataset Identification	
Date	2025-05-19 (Creation)
Date	2025-05-19 (Publication)
Status	On going
Maintenance and Update Frequency	Annually
Use Limitation	Open Government Licence - Canada ( <a href="http://open.canada.ca/en/open-government-licence-canada">http://open.canada.ca/en/open-government-licence-canada</a> )
Access Constraints	License
Spatial representation type	Vector
Metadata language	English

Data Classification

GC Core Subject Thesaurus	Forest fires
Topic category	Environment

Metadata Contact

Individual Name	John Little
Organization Name	Government of Canada; Natural Resources Canada; Canadian Forest Service / Northern Forestry Centre
Position Name	Spatial Data Analyst
Telephone Number (Voice)	825-510-1166
Delivery Point (Civic Address)	5320-122nd Street
City	Edmonton
Province/State	Alberta
Postal Code / ZIP Code	T6H 3S5
Country	Canada
Electronic Mail Address	<a href="mailto:john.little@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca">john.little@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca</a>
URL	<a href="http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/">http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/</a>
Role	Point of contact

Data Contact

Individual Name	John Little
Organization Name	Government of Canada; Natural Resources Canada; Canadian Forest Service / Northern Forestry Centre
Position Name	Spatial Data Analyst
Telephone Number (Voice)	825-510-1166
Delivery Point (Civic Address)	5320-122nd Street
City	Edmonton
Province/State	Alberta
Postal Code / ZIP Code	T6H 3S5
Country	Canada

The CNFDB fire point and polygon data are collected from Canadian fire management agencies including provinces, territories, and Parks Canada. To create the Canada-wide product, the data collected from each agency are projected into a common format and combined with data from other agencies; attribute fields are standardized; agency specific attribute fields are removed; and polygon areas are calculated using GIS.

Note that the data contained in the CNFDB are not complete nor are they without error. Locations are approximate. Not all fires have been mapped, and data accuracy varies due to different mapping techniques. This collection includes only data that has been contributed by the agencies. Data completeness and quality vary among agencies and between years.

For analyses for a single province or territory or for Parks Canada, we suggest you contact the appropriate agency. Links to the agency web sites can be found at <http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/ha/nfdb>, or can be found through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) website at <http://www.cifffc.ca>

The database is a large collaborative effort by all Canadian fire agencies. We thank the many individuals who contributed to this effort, including fire crews, field personnel, photo interpreters, pilots, digitizers, and analysts. Compilation of the Canada-wide database was partially supported by the Canadian government programs of ENFOR (ENergy from the FORest), the Program on Energy Research and Development, the Climate Change Action Fund, and Action Plan 2000.

When using these data for mapping activities and analysis, research, evaluation or display, please acknowledged the source using the following citation: Canadian Forest Service. Canadian National Fire Database – Agency Fire Data. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, Northern Forestry Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. [http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en\\_CA/nfdb](http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/en_CA/nfdb).

The NFDB points include data for the following agencies and years:  
BC 1950-2024;  
AB 1959-2024;  
SK 1959-2024;  
MB 1959-2024;  
ON 1959-2024;

Electronic Mail Address	john.little@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca
URL	<a href="https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/">https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/</a>
Role	Custodian

Distributor Contact	
Individual Name	John Little
Organization Name	Government of Canada; Natural Resources Canada; Canadian Forest Service / Northern Forestry Centre
Position Name	Spatial Data Analyst
Telephone Number (Voice)	825-510-1166
Delivery Point (Civic Address)	5320-122nd Street
City	Edmonton
Province/State	Alberta
Postal Code / ZIP Code	T6H 3S5
Country	Canada
Electronic Mail Address	john.little@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca
Online resource	<a href="https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/">https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/</a>
Role	Distributor

QC 1959-2024;  
NS 1960-2024;  
NB 1980-2024;  
NL 1955-2024;  
YT 1946-2024;  
NT 1959-2024;  
PEI 2018-2024;  
PC 1946-2024;

Publications:  
The following papers present analyses of these data:

Hanes, C.C.; Wang, X.; Jain, P.; Parisien, M.-P.; Little, J.M.; Flannigan, M.D. 2019. Fire-regime changes in Canada over the last half century. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 49: 256-269. doi: 10.1139/cjfr-2018-0293.

Burton, P.J.; Parisien, M.-A.; Hicke, J.A.; Hall, R.J.; Freeburn, J.T. 2008. Large fires as agents of ecological diversity in the North American boreal forest. International Journal of Wildland Fire 17(6): 754-767.

Parisien, M.A.; Peters, V.S; Wang, Y.; Little, J.M.; Bosch, E.M.; Stocks, B.J. 2006. Spatial patterns of forest fires in Canada 1980–1999. International Journal of Wildland Fire 15:361–374.

Stocks, B.J.; Mason, J.A.; Todd, J.B.; Bosch, E.M.; Wotton, B.M.; Amiro, B.D.; Flannigan, M.D.;Hirsch, K.G.; Logan, K.A.; Martell, D.L.; Skinner, W.R. 2003. Large forest fires in Canada, 1959–1997. Journal of Geophysical Research 108, D1: FFR5, 1-12. doi:10.1029/2001 JD000484.

Amiro, B.D.; Todd, J.B.; Wotton, B.M.; Logan, K.A.; Flannigan, M.D.; Stocks, B.J.; Mason, J.A.; Martell, D.L.; Hirsch, K.G. 2001. Direct carbon emissions from Canadian forest fires, 1959 to 1999. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 31:512–525.

Distribution Information	
Distribution format	
Name	SHP
Version	ESRI shapefiles geospatial vector data format
Distribution format	
Name	WMS
Version	PNG, PNG8, JPEG, GIF, TIFF, TIFF8, GeoTIFF, GeoTIFF8, SVG, PDF, GeoRSS, KML, KMZ, OpenLayers

File Identifier	406367be-e939-4c0c-b87b-905a033b0aca
Hierarchy Level	Dataset
Date Stamp	2025-05-19T19:18:57
Metadata language	English (Other language:French)
Character set	UTF8
Metadata standard name	North American Profile of ISO 19115:2003 - Geographic information - Metadata
Metadata standard version	CAN/CGSB-171.100-2009
<b>Reference System Information</b>	
Unique resource identifier	EPSG:3978
Codespace	<a href="http://www.epsg-registry.org">http://www.epsg-registry.org</a>