



CANADIAN INTERAGENCY FOREST FIRE CENTRE  
CENTRE INTERSERVICES DES FEUX DE FORÊTS DU CANADA

# CANADA REPORT

**2023  
FIRE SEASON**

[WWW.CIFFFC.CA](http://WWW.CIFFFC.CA)



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# INTRODUCTION

In 2023, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) faced its busiest fire season since its establishment in 1982, marking an unprecedented challenge in its history. The extent of devastation surpassed all previous records, with the total area burned (17,203,625 million hectares) far exceeding the 10-year average. The urgency of the situation was evident from the very beginning, as the first request for assistance was received on April 30th, a notably early occurrence by CIFFC standards, reflecting the severity and early onset of the fire season.

Notably, it became the year collaboration. Domestically, every Canadian agency played a crucial role in the firefighting efforts, emphasizing the collective commitment to combat the unprecedented scale of wildfires. Internationally, 12 countries from six out of seven continents extended their assistance to Canada. While pre-existing agreements were in place with the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Costa Rica, and Mexico, no such agreements had been established with Chile, France, Portugal, Spain, South Korea, or Brazil until 2023. This global collaboration showcased the magnitude of the crisis and highlighted the need for enhanced international partnerships.





## 2023 SEASONAL SUMMARY

The 2023 wildland fire season started early and progressed rapidly. On April 26, the first Situation Report (SitRep) was published, with subsequent reports released until September 27.

**Throughout the season, CIFFC experienced a prolonged stay at National Preparedness Level (NPL) 5, which lasted a record 120 days, far surpassing the previous record of 55 days set in 2017.**

The start of the 2023 season saw Alberta facing a rapid escalation in fire activity and issuing the first Resource Order (RO) on April 30, which is exceptionally early according to CIFFC standards. By May 6, the province had declared a state of emergency which prompted the first domestic mobilizations from ON (79 firefighters, 4 TFLDs) and Quebec (32 firefighters). Subsequently, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Yukon Territory, and Canadian Fire Service (CFS) sent support in the form of crews and overhead personnel (OH), while Saskatchewan, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Northwest Territories contributed with equipment and Quebec and Manitoba dispatched air tankers.

The influx of resources intensified, with the arrival of the first international resources—firefighters, Incident Management Teams (IMT), and overhead personnel from the United States (US) into Alberta. The US would prove to be Canada’s largest supplier of resources during the 2023 season, with 2,450 personnel and assorted equipment deploying to various provinces over the course of 5 months. Later in May, Australia (AU) and New Zealand (NZ) would also send their first resources to Alberta.

During this time, the challenges intensified in several other parts of the country as Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and British Columbia also experienced heightened fire activity. In mid-May, Quebec airtankers were dispatched to Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories received their first out-of-agency resources from Ontario, Parks Canada, and Nova Scotia.

In late May, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia also began to see heightened fire activity, leading to evacuations, and Nova Scotia declaring a state of emergency on June 1st. Concurrently, evacuation efforts were underway in Manitoba as escalated fire activity began to migrate towards the central parts of the country.



As the calendar turned to June, Quebec faced numerous fires throughout the province, causing the Agency's Preparedness level (APL) to spike from 1 to 5 within seven days, where it would remain until July 17th when conditions gradually eased.

By this time, most domestic resources in Canada were actively engaged in fire response, prompting the first international deployment outside of Alberta to Quebec on June 8th in the form of firefighters and overhead staff from France. This same month would see the arrival of international resources from Portugal, Spain, and the US into Quebec, personnel from the US into BC, and firefighters from Mexico into Ontario. Quebec would also receive domestic support from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and CFS in June.

During this time, Alberta's challenging fire season would continue, leading to the arrival of personnel from Chile and Costa Rica, and the first South African crews in early June. South Africa would also send firefighters to Northwest Territories and British Columbia later in the season, totaling 861 South African personnel deployed to Canada in 2023.

As June turned to July, Canada had already surpassed its previous record for annual area burned of 7.6 million ha set in 1989, even though the fire season was far from over. British Columbia joined the growing list of agencies at APL 5 on July 10th. Competition for resources within Canada was steep, and CIFFC continued to rely heavily on its international partners for support. In addition to the 10 countries with resources already in Canada, firefighters from Brazil and Korea were deployed to British Columbia and Quebec, respectively. Fortunately, conditions in the east began to stabilize in mid-July.

In the latter parts of July and early August, fire activity along the 60th parallel would climb sharply, leading to further challenges in Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alberta, British Columbia, and Parks Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Multiple evacuation alerts and orders would come into effect in these jurisdictions as communities were threatened, prompting further requests for resources. On August 14th, Northwest Territories declared a state of emergency as approximately 70% of the territory's population was evacuated, including its 3 largest communities, Yellowknife, Hay River, and Fort Smith.

International resources continued to deploy to the agencies in need, and by this time, fire activity had calmed enough in the east for Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador to provide personnel, equipment, and airtanker support to their neighbours to the west.



## AGENCY SEASONAL SUMMARIES

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### YUKON

Canada saw an explosive 2023 fire season. While early records were set in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and the Maritimes, the Yukon had a slow start to the season. However, by the end of the season, Yukon had experienced an above average fire season with 214 fires including several notable fires that triggered evacuations of the Victoria Gold mine, Old Crow and the Village of Mayo.

Early in the season, a lull in fire activity allowed for spring prescribed burning, extensive training, and crew exports to other jurisdictions. The Yukon saw very little fire activity between April and the end of June. In total, over 125 exported personnel helped manage challenging situations outside of the territory. Most of these resources travelled to Alberta and Quebec, but others were sent to British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

In early July, Yukon Wildland Fire Management (WFM) began to limit exports to other agencies while concentrating resources in the Yukon as conditions became hot and dry at home. The July 8 Takhini Bridge fire (XY-019), a human-caused fire, resulted in an evacuation alert for the Ibex Valley and was the first sign of things to come later in the season.

Rain in southern Yukon eventually helped control XY-019, but warm and dry temperatures persisted elsewhere and brought extensive lightning to the Klondike, Tatchun and Northern Tutchone regions.

In August, territorial resources were focused on managing fires in central and northern Yukon, while the lack of resources available nationally limited WFM's ability to import crews and hire helicopters. The East McQuesten fire (MA-011) threatened a major mine site, while the Talbot Creek fire (MA-033) quickly threatened the Village of Mayo. Old Crow experienced persistent smoke resulting in a decision to evacuate the community by air.

With help from firefighters across Canada, the fires threatening Mayo and Victoria Gold were eventually contained allowing evacuation orders to lift. Nevertheless, record-breaking August temperatures kept regions on alert while officers continued to monitor notable fires until late September.

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### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The 2023 fire season in the NWT started early with person-caused fires causing the evacuation of two communities in May. Throughout the rest of season, nine communities were evacuated and the NWT and experienced the first structural losses within communities due to wildfire. This occurred in three communities at the start, middle, and end of the fire season.

The weather was extremely dry for the entire fire season for almost the entire NWT, which resulted in fires continuing to burn well into the winter. Drought codes were over 1000 in the Southern NWT, and BUI's were close to 200 in some areas. This resulted in the NWT importing any CIFFC resource they were able from crews to air tankers to equipment.

The NWT Fire program also experienced a fatality in the 2023 fire season, which was the result of a tree falling on a firefighter.

At the end of the season, there were 304 fires in the NWT, which burnt a total of 4.16 million hectares.

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### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Elevated drought conditions from the previous fall carried into spring 2023, setting the stage for an immensely challenging wildfire season in British Columbia. Early summer-like conditions in May accelerated snow melt and the drying of fuels, making high-elevation areas snow-free and therefore receptive to ignition two to four weeks earlier than normal. In June and July, temperatures were significantly above historical averages, and rainfall remained limited. Hot and dry conditions fuelled extreme wildfire activity throughout the season, and several strong wind events led to some intense periods of significant spread. These persistent conditions extended the 2023 wildfire season well into the fall.

More than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned during B.C.'s 2023 wildfire season. This amount is 10 times the 20-year average annual area burned and is what would historically be expected over a decade. Of the 2,245 wildfires this season, 72 per cent were natural-caused and 25 per cent were human-caused.

In addition to about 2,000 BC Wildfire Service firefighting and support personnel, upwards of 1,100 personnel were contracted across B.C. to provide various fire-related



functions, including fire suppression, tree falling, first aid, catering and security.

The BC Wildfire Service also worked in partnership with approximately 135 structural and municipal fire departments to respond to wildfires threatening communities. Imperative, as always, to wildfire response, more than 450 pieces of heavy equipment and their operators worked alongside firefighters to establish fireguard and lend local knowledge and expertise.

As wildfire activity increased in June and July, significant out-of-province resources were also mobilized. In total, about 1,750 personnel were deployed from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon, the Canadian Armed Forces, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica and South Africa. More support came from hundreds of other local partners in First Nations communities and governments, the forest and ranching sectors, local governments and other ministries, all with diverse and valuable skillsets.

The 2023 wildfire season will always be remembered for the tragic loss of six members of B.C.'s wildland firefighting community. Devyn Gale, Zak Muise, Kenneth Patrick, Jaxon Billyboy, Blain Sonnenberg and Damian Dyson, your service and memory will be forever honoured. Our province and our organization will continue to be resilient and adaptable, taking the events and learnings from this wildfire season to better prepare us for future emergencies and disasters.

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**ALBERTA**

Alberta faced a tremendously challenging wildfire season in 2023 with records being broken. As of November 29th, Alberta has had 1119 wildfires which have burned more than 2.2 million hectares of forested land. Significant wildfire activity started at the end of April and continued past the legislated end of wildfire season into November. A number of wildfires of note started both inside and outside the Forest Protection Area of Alberta in April and May. Alberta Wildfire worked with and provided support to mutual aid partners outside the Forest Protection Area.

Of the 1,119 wildfires, 687 wildfires were caused by human activity and 382 wildfires were lightning-caused. There are still a number of wildfires that are under investigation. Seventy-nine per cent of the total area burned was from lightning-caused wildfires. During the 2023 wildfire season, 48 communities were affected resulting in over 38,000 Albertans being evacuated. There was also an influx of evacuees from the Northwest Territories when wildfire activity increased in August.

With the significant demands of this wildfire season, support from other agencies was crucial. Alberta imported more than 4100 personnel in a variety of firefighting and support roles. Canadian provinces and territories exported resources to Alberta as well as Parks Canada, Canadian Forest Service, US Forest Service, State of Washington, State of Montana, State of Idaho, State of Oregon, State of Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Mexico. Two new agreements were signed with Costa Rica and Chile, which also provided assistance. More than 600 personnel from the Canadian Military were deployed across the province.

Alberta mobilized 52 Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to manage the large-scale wildfires. These IMTs came from Alberta as well as supporting agencies in Canada and around the world. Despite the demands of this season, Alberta was able to export some resources as well, deploying airtankers to British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Alaska.

Approaching the winter of 2023 Alberta is facing drought conditions. The northern half of the province is experiencing extreme drought conditions with areas in southern Alberta facing very high to extreme drought. Planning has already begun for the challenges of the next wildfire season.

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**SASKATCHEWAN**

As of October 31, 2023, the Saskatchewan wildfire season has had a total of 462 wildfires. This compares to 447 wildfires last year and is above the 5-year average of 382. Human caused wildfires 258 and lightning caused wildfires 204. There were 120 wildfires in the Primary Area which includes: Community, Primary Timber, Burn Notification Area. The total area burned in the Primary Area was 239,127 hectares. The ten-year average in the Primary Area is 115,319.76 hectares.

The Modified Area includes Secondary Timber Area, Rural/Urban Land Base, Federal Lands Area and Area North of Primary and Secondary Area. There were 342 wildfires which were allowed to play a more natural role on the landscape, with wildfire regenerating 1,611,702 hectares.

The total provincial area burned by wildfires to date, is 1,850,829 hectares which is above last year's 354,376.4 hectares. The total hectares for the 2023 fire season are approximately 4.2 times greater than the ten-year average of 449,773.48 hectares.

SPSA assisted with 19 different request providing support to Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territory, Yukon and Alaska.

2023 was an average year for fire starts but due to early human starts, extended drought conditions and poor availability of resources, the amount of forest consumed was over 4 times the 10 year average.

13 communities were evacuated either due to threat of wildfires or smoke.

Fuel Management areas around communities were challenged in 3 areas, reports back indicate a high success rate to mitigate extreme fire behavior and rates of spread. A case study was completed on one of the areas.

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## MANITOBA

The fire season in Manitoba started off slow with a steady increase in fire numbers in June, which gradually decreased from July to season end. The total of 300 wildfires this season was under our 20-year average (407), and resulted in a total of 198,633 hectares burned. Our first recorded fire was on April 4 and last fire on September 29. We had three fires of note during the season causing communities to be on alert and some being evacuated: North #007 -Cross Lake, North #029 -Leaf Rapids, and West #027 -Grand Rapids. West #027 was Manitoba's largest fire of the season burning 22,055 hectares. All three of these fires required the deployment of Incident Management Teams.

West fire #027 was detected on June 29th, an Incident Management Team was dispatched days later along with multiple Initial Attack crews, emergency fire fighters & contractors. We received assistance through our Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact for 3 deployments of 20 person crews from the State of Minnesota and 1 individual from Michigan. West fire #027 was extinguished on September 9th.

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## ONTARIO

In the 2023 season, Ontario had a total of 741 confirmed wildland fires in Ontario, having affected a total of 441,473 hectares across the province. The Northeast Region saw 265 fires and 116,953 hectares burned, while the Northwest Region saw 476 fires and 324,250 hectares burned.

There was minimal fire activity until mid-May where we saw a significant increase in fire occurrences and fire growth before conditions moderated in late July.

Overall, Ontario's Far North saw the most fire activity in 2023. Within the Northeast Region, the busiest sector in the province was the Cochrane sector. (the largest fire sector in Ontario's fire region), it reaches all the way north to the James and Hudson Bay coasts. There were several fires in this sector this fire season in part due to several longer stretches of sustained hot and dry conditions from late May to July, when compared to central and southern portions of the province where precipitation occurred more frequently, relatively speaking. Notable Cochrane fires:

Cochrane 7 was confirmed on June 2 northeast of Abitibi Lake. It exhibited extreme fire behavior later in the month of June and eventually spread eastward across the Quebec border. Implementation Orders remained in place for several weeks limiting travel, use and access to crown land in the area. The status of the fire was changed to being held on July 9th, and under control on July 17th. It created a significant amount of smoke that travelled southwards alongside smoke from several large fires in Northern Quebec, impacting areas as far south as the Greater Toronto Area and the National Capital Region within Canada. It spread across 37,742 hectares and was successfully brought under control due to the hard work of Ontario FireRanger crews with assistance from forest firefighters from Mexico. This fire is out.

Cochrane 11 was confirmed June 17 as temperatures soared to over 30 degrees in Ontario's Far North. It was located south of Big Island, and approximately 5 kilometres west of the community of Fort Albany. This fire spread to a total of 805 hectares and was successfully brought under control the third week of July by Ontario FireRanger crews, in collaboration with local fire officials and with assistance from forest firefighters from Mexico. Residents of Fort Albany were temporarily displaced as a result of the threat of wildland fire, and the evacuation was coordinated by Emergency Management Ontario. This fire was officially called out on September 19.

Ontario deployed a total of 635 personnel this year to assist the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, as well as the Yukon, Northwest Territories and the state of Minnesota. This included 417 FireRangers and 218 overhead staff (includes Incident Management Teams (IMTs)). We also provided support in the form of wildland fire suppression equipment to several other Canadian jurisdictions.

### **A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON FOR SOPFEU**

The year 2023 will mark a milestone in the history of Quebec's wildfire. Over the course of the season, 566 fires burned more than 1.1 million hectares (ha) in the Intensive Protection Zone, and 147 fires razed 3.4 million ha in the Northern Zone, for a total of 4.5 million ha, an all-time record for the province. What's more, the area burned this year, 99.9% of which was caused by lightning, is greater than the sum of the area burned over the last 20 years, all causes combined.

### **WIDESPREAD DROUGHT AND LIGHTNING STRIKE**

Spring was marked by abnormally dry May and June across the province. Some parts of the James Bay territory received not a single drop of rain in June, in addition to a prolonged heat wave, with temperatures well above seasonal normals. At the time, intensity and indices ranged from very high to extreme throughout the region.

By the last week of May, SOPFEU's operational capacities had already been exceeded, with 56 active fires, including one of over 1000 ha in size in the Sept-Îles area. The big overflow came on June 1, when a major lightning strike hit Quebec, igniting 182 forest fires in a single day. Over the following month, 75 new fires were added to the batch.

The drought continued into July, and the precipitation deficit persisted in the northwest until September. As a result, the giant fires in the James Bay area remained active well into the fall.

### **OVERFLOW AND OPERATIONAL CHOICES**

As of June 4, 155 fires were active simultaneously. While in the regular season, the organization rarely experiences more than two or three fires that pass through the "out-of-control" status, last season saw 193 fires classified, for varying lengths of time, as "out-of-control."

In 2023, Quebec experienced 48 large-scale fires, 30 times more than the average. These included the largest-ever fire in Quebec's Intensive Zone, in Lebel-sur-Quévillon area. This large fire, the result of 19 merged fires, burned a total of 481,991 ha of forest.

From June 1 to mid-July, the usual operational objectives were overturned by the prioritization process necessary, based on human lives to be protected, followed by communities and major strategic infrastructures. As a result, a number of fires deemed to be of low priority were kept solely on watch, without any action.

### **CIVIL PROTECTION ISSUES AND EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES**

In addition to the unusual number of large-scale fires this season, there were numerous civil protection issues to contend with. Threatened by fires or dense smoke health issue, nearly 27,000 residents from thirty municipalities and communities had to be evacuated this summer.

Numerous road closures were also necessary, particularly in Lebel-sur-Quévillon area. In the north-western part of the province, in the James Bay region, the Billy-Diamond and Transtaiga highways also experienced several road closures.

To prevent the outbreak of new human-caused fires, on June 2 the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) declared a ban on public forest land access and forest roads closure. Although variable across the affected territories, this exceptional measure lasted 84 days. Combined with a 51-day ban on open fires, the preventive measure paid off, with the number of human-caused fires three times lower than average.

### **RESOURCES SHARING**

To support it in its fight, SOPFEU has benefited from the help of several external, national and international resources. In all, more than 2,070 people from outside regular operations joined the ranks of the organization in June and July.

At the height of its operations, SOPFEU had more than 1,600 resources in the field, including forest firefighters, auxiliary combatants, Canadian Armed Forces personnel and resources from outside Quebec, both from Canada and abroad. This is another assistance record for Quebec.

The organization was nevertheless able to lend a hand in other Canadian provinces. Before the overflow and after normal operations had been restored, more than 150 firefighters and specialized resources were deployed in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.



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## **NEW BRUNSWICK**

The 2023 fire season in New Brunswick started strong with multiple fires pre green up. Several days in a row with multiple fires each day with the largest being the Stein Lake fire totaling 504 ha burned, losses include 1 residence, 2 camps, and an outbuilding. There were 162 fires in April and May accounting for 80% of the entire season. New Brunswick extinguished 202 fires totalling 854 ha this season, which is consistent with the ten-year average of 245 fires and 454 ha. The low number of fires from June - October was due to frequent and regular rain fall.

New Brunswick mobilized aircraft to Nova Scotia and Manitoba, equipment to Alberta, and a record number of personnel, nearly doubling New Brunswick's previous record with 236 firefighters and overhead sent to Alberta, Quebec, Northwest Territories, and British Columbia over the season.

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## **NOVA SCOTIA**

It was a challenging wildfire season in Nova Scotia. This year, there were a total of 220 wildfires suppressed, compared to 152 in 2022. The Shelburne wildfire was the largest fire in Nova Scotia's recorded history, burning a total of 23,379 hectares. The dry winter and early spring, along with other factors contributed to the active season. We are grateful for all the help we received from our partners at CIFFC and NFFPC to support the efforts of our in-province firefighters and supporting agencies and contractors. We are conducting a thorough debrief of the season to gather lessons learned and inform our decision-making in the future.

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## **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

The 2023 fire season in Prince Edward Island was typical compared to recent years. The season experienced above-average rainfall, resulting in lower wildfire risks than anticipated. PEI responded to eight fires, covering a total area of 8 hectares.

In comparison to the twenty-year average, the number of fires (8) was the same as the average but the area burnt (8 hectares) was well below the average of 19 hectares. All incidents occurred before mid-August.

Thanks to the relatively mild season, PEI was able to support CIFFC agencies in neighboring provinces during the fire season. Human resources were provided to Alberta, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and British Columbia.

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## **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

The total number of fires in 2023 in Newfoundland and Labrador was 101, burning 21,883.5 ha. Total number of fires on the Island was 82, 44 in the western region and 38 in eastern region, all fires were human caused totaling 131.3 ha. The fire season started in the early spring in the western portion of the Island with early snow melt and little precipitation. The increased spring fire activity is becoming a trend with human caused fire starts, majority were grass fires that occurred from late March into April. In summer months of the Island had lower fire danger due to regular precipitation and higher humidity.

Labrador had 19 fires, 11 were lighting starts and 8 of human cause. The Labrador portion of the province had 99% of the total area burned for the province. The total area burned in Labrador was 21,752.2 ha, all but 1 ha was a result of lighting. The weather in June and July in Labrador allowed for the lighting starts but in August there was wetter conditions and little fire activity. The majority of these fires were either of monitored or modified response as they were in the interior of Labrador.

Newfoundland deployed resources out of province whenever possible to help with the elevated need that occurred across the country over the fire season.



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## **PARKS CANADA**

Parks Canada (PC) in 2023 experienced a record fire season, with a total of 1,014,742 hectares of lands under its responsibility burned. This is almost nine times the annual average of 118,178 hectares over the previous 10 years (2013-2022), and more than 50% greater than the previous record of 597,000 hectares in 1981. Fires within and adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), Canada's largest national park at 4.48 million hectares, have accounted for much of PC's wildfire management activity in 2023. The park had 31 separate wildfires that burned over 929,500 hectares. As of October 16, PC had been managing wildfire incidents in WBNP continuously for 142 days in a row. The severity and locations of the fires led to evacuation alerts and full evacuations for some communities located within or immediately adjacent to WBNP. Notably, the communities of Fort Smith, Fort Fitzgerald, Thebacha and Smith's Landing were evacuated for 37 days from August 12 to September 18. Unified Command team was established with PC, AB and NT to manage this complex. Earlier in the summer, the community of Garden River spent weeks on evacuation alert with wildfires on both Alberta and PC sides. In addition, the large seasonal cottage community of Pine Lake area within WBNP was under an area closure for most of the summer.

Parks Canada had other significant wildfire incidents in and/or threatening PC sites during the wildfire season in 2023 in Banff, Glacier, Kootenay, Prince Albert and Pukaskwa national parks, Nahanni, Nāáts'ihch'oh and Thaidene Nene national park reserves, and Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site. The consequences for PC of the unprecedented wildfire situation in 2023 were significant. A total of 303 PC fire personnel—accounting for a total of 8,718 person-days—were redeployed from their usual PC sites to help on-site personnel deal with fire incidents at other PC sites. This was almost double the recent typical level of about 160 PC personnel redeployed in each of 2021 and 2022. In addition, PC had to bring in assistance from partners including from Ontario, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and New Zealand.







## CONCLUSION

The 2023 Canadian fire season showcased the diverse challenges faced by different regions, highlighting the importance of collaboration, resource sharing, and proactive measures in mitigating the impact of wildfires. The resilience and adaptability of firefighting teams across the country were evident in their response to this extraordinary season. As winter approached, drought conditions in Alberta and the anticipation of future challenges underscored the ongoing need for preparedness and planning.

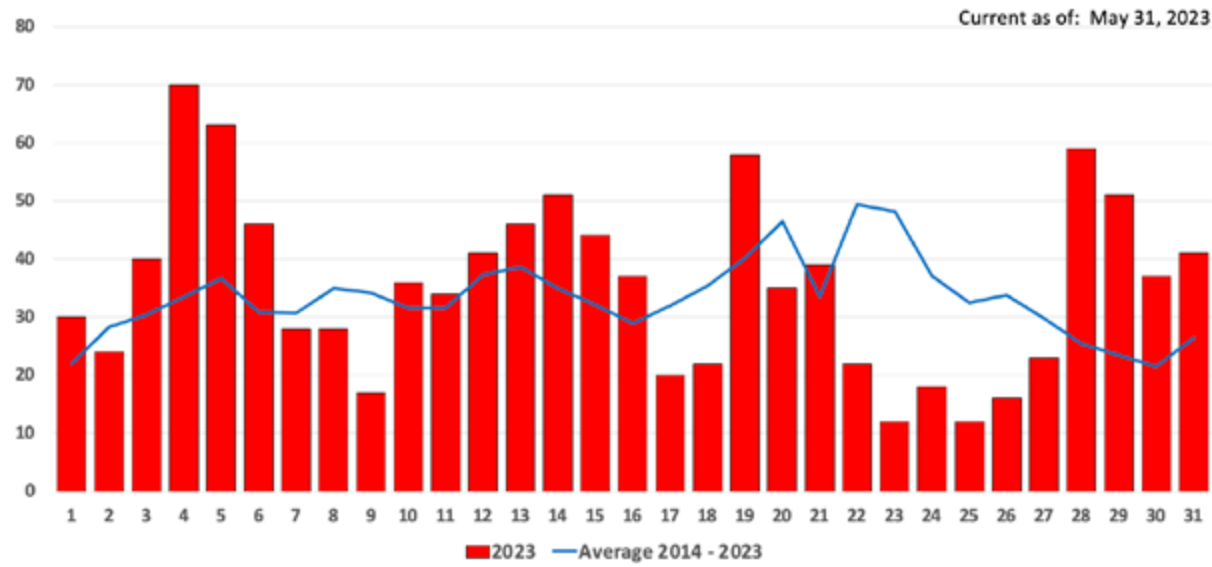
There were 7,131 fires have been recorded nationally in 2023, burning a total of 17,203,625 hectares (ha). According to the Canadian National Fire Database, in terms of area burned, this year was the highest ever recorded with the previous record being set in 1989 (7,597,266 ha). Mobilizations were also very high, with 7,311 international and domestic personnel mobilized, 17,150 lengths of hose, 809 pumps, and 46 aircraft.

Given the extent of the season, CIFFC continues to seek to build relationships with international partners as the needs anticipated will undoubtedly increase with the changing climate.

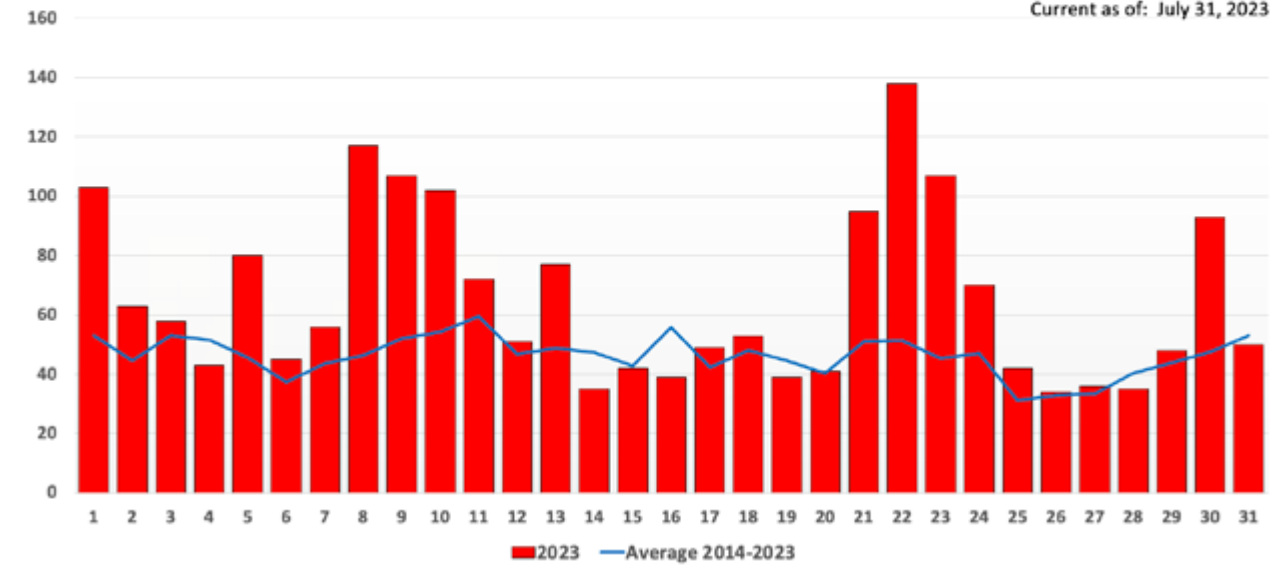




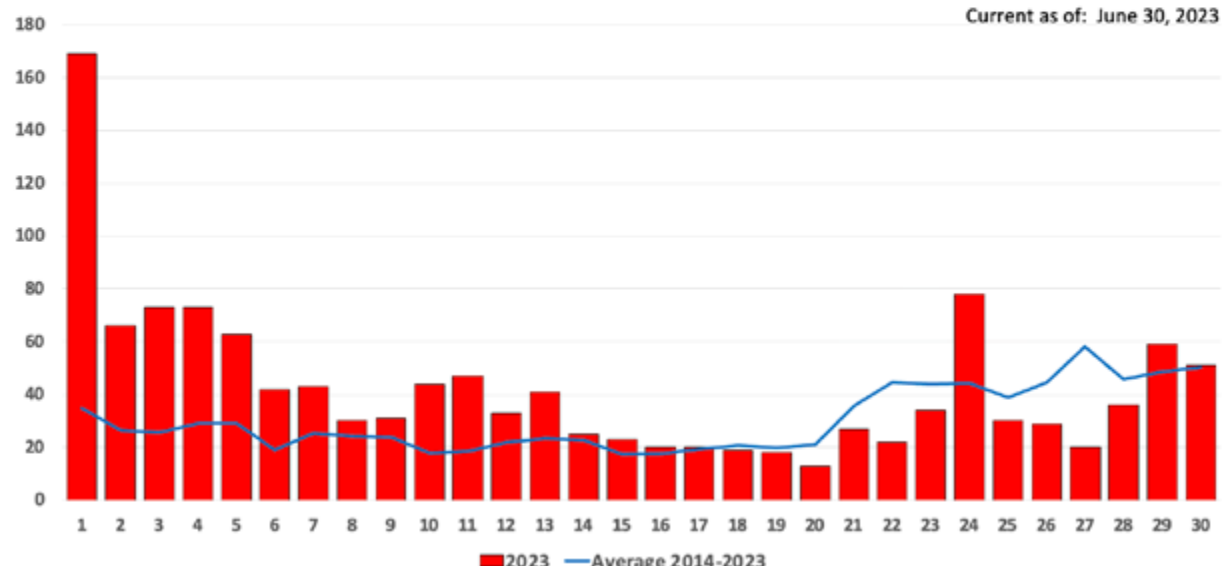
May 2023 Fire Starts  
2023 vs. 10 Year Average



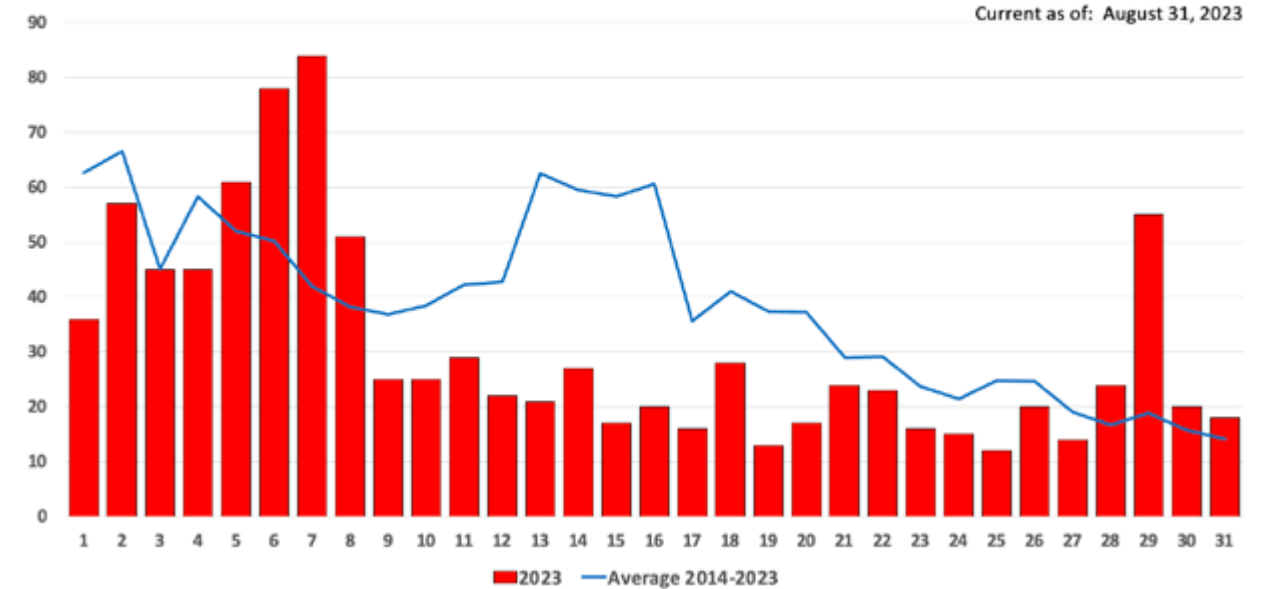
July 2023 Fire Starts  
2023 vs. 10 Year Average



June 2023 Fire Starts  
2023 vs. 10 Year Average



August 2023 Fire Starts  
2023 vs. 10 Year Average



## FIRE BY MONTH

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
30	169	103	36
24	66	63	57
40	73	58	45
70	73	43	45
63	63	80	61
46	42	45	78
28	43	56	84
28	30	117	51
17	31	107	25
36	44	102	25
34	47	72	29
41	33	51	22
46	41	77	21
51	25	35	27
44	23	42	17
37	20	39	20
20	20	49	16
22	19	53	28
58	18	39	13
35	13	41	17
39	27	95	24
22	22	138	23
12	34	107	16
18	78	70	15
12	30	42	12
16	29	34	20
23	20	36	14
59	36	35	24
51	59	48	55
37	51	93	20
41		50	18

FIRES BY MONTH			
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
1,100	1,279	2,020	958

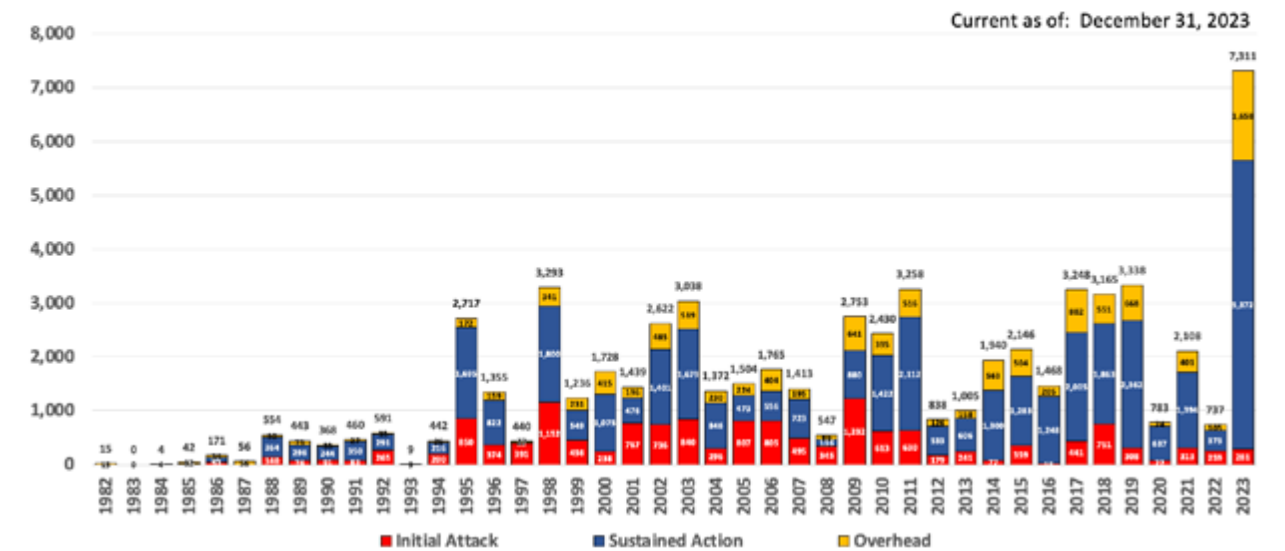
## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEVELS DAYS

NPL					
	1	2	3	4	5
May	3	2	1	4	21
June	0	0	0	0	30
July	0	0	0	0	31
August	0	0	0	0	31
September	0	0	4	19	7

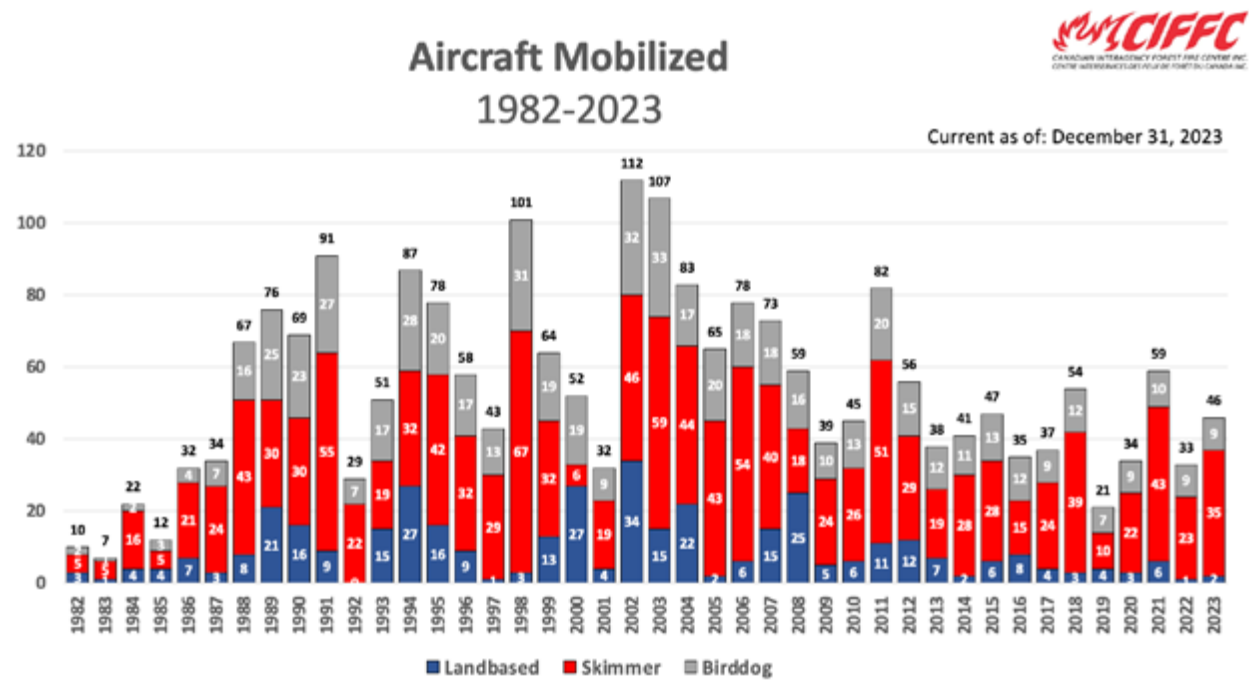
National Preparedness Level Days May 1 - Sept 31					
Levels	1	2	3	4	5
No. of Days	3	2	5	23	120

## PERSONNEL MOBILIZED

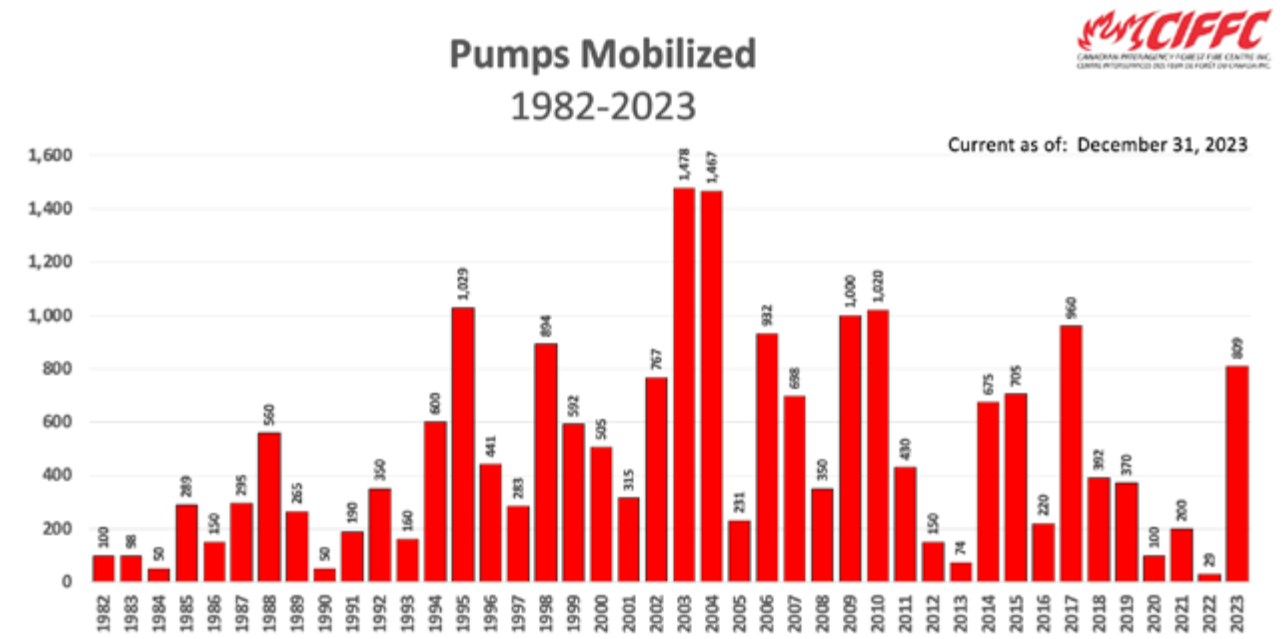
Personnel Mobilized  
1982-2023



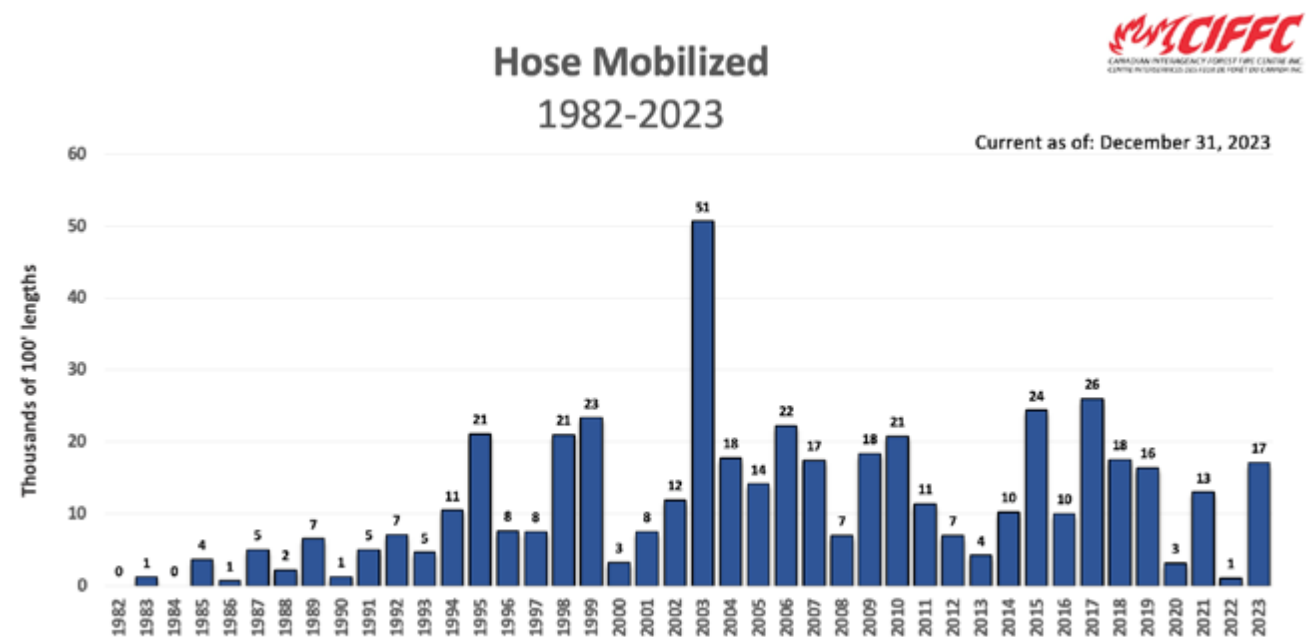
## AIRCRAFT MOBILIZED



## PUMPS MOBILIZED



## HOSE MOBILIZED



## NATIONAL FIRES AND AREA BURNED

<b>7,131</b> Fires	<b>17,203,625</b> Hectares Burned
10-Year Average: <b>5,350</b> Fires	10-Year Average: <b>2,718,762</b> Hectares

Final numbers for 2023



# WILDLAND FIRE STATISTICS

As of Dec 31, 2023

AGENCY	FIRES									HECTARES				PRESCRIBED FIRE	
	Full		Modified		Monitored		Total		Total	Full	Modified	Monitored	Total	Fires	Ha
	Natural	Human	Natural	Human	Natural	Human	Natural	Human							
BC	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,621	572	2,257	-	-	-	2,840,754	-	-
YT	41	9	11	0	151	2	203	11	214	9,966	26,499	336,809	373,274	12	76
AB	390	709	0	0	0	0	390	709	1,149	1,951,299	0	0	1,951,299	4	646
NT	35	19	18	2	222	8	275	29	304	448,219	1,604,501	2,110,717	4,163,438	0	0
SK	65	55	139	203	0	0	204	258	462	239,127	1,611,702	0	1,850,829	0	0
MB	105	91	10	5	82	5	197	101	300	29,508	68,280	91,995	189,782	0	0
ON	480	158	4	2	97	1	582	161	743	186,059	12,426	242,988	441,474	5	131
QC	243	323	37	8	97	5	377	336	713	1,073,436	2,258,696	990,756	4,322,888	0	0
NL	2	90	4	0	5	0	11	90	101	133	14,983	6,797	21,913	0	0
NB	10	192	0	0	0	0	10	192	202	854	0	0	854	0	0
NS	0	220	0	0	0	0	0	0	220	25,093	0	0	25,093	0	0
PE	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	8	0	0	8	0	0
PC	31	30	12	1	4	31	47	62	109	349,239	183,437	481,532	1,014,207	8	535
DND									349				7,812		
Tot.	1,402	1,904	235	221	658	52	3,917	2,529	7,131	4,312,941	5,780,524	4,261,594	17,203,625	29	1,388

<b>Wildland Fire Starts</b>												
<b>Total Numbers of Fires (Natural and Human Caused)</b>												
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>BC</b>	1,854	1,455	1,836	1,049	1,352	2,087	792	649	1,635	1,778	1,449	2,257
<b>YT</b>	177	34	184	53	115	67	117	24	112	295	118	214
<b>AB</b>	1,214	1,451	1,850	1,366	1,217	1,288	1,004	723	1,342	1,281	1,274	1,149
<b>NT</b>	248	385	245	189	262	59	149	71	140	262	201	304
<b>SK</b>	429	403	723	364	353	416	243	145	635	445	416	462
<b>MB</b>	494	245	454	202	545	477	254	149	460	224	350	300
<b>ON</b>	582	303	668	648	776	1,327	537	608	1,198	275	692	743
<b>QC</b>	515	292	384	602	319	593	357	707	625	449	484	713
<b>NL</b>	101	124	128	91	80	132	99	94	82	103	103	101
<b>NB</b>	356	178	222	285	245	282	182	462	180	214	261	202
<b>NS</b>	171	171	247	274	175	190	143	176	113	152	181	220
<b>PE</b>	9	4	5	7	4	10	4	15	1	2	6	8
<b>PC</b>	96	81	122	43	168	140	52	93	73	159	103	109
<b>DND</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	87	87	349
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>5,126</b>	<b>7,068</b>	<b>5,173</b>	<b>5,611</b>	<b>7,068</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>3,916</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>5,726</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>7,131</b>

Wildland Fire Hectares Total Area Consumed (Hectares)												
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg.	2023
<b>BC</b>	17,990	368,785	280,445	100,336	1,215,851	1,353,861	20,966	14,446	869,255	135,032	437,697	2,840,754
<b>YT</b>	179,510	3,160	169,841	21,543	399,280	85,624	279,819	15,491	118,126	171,154	144,355	373,274
<b>AB</b>	21,890	23,120	492,536	741,550	49,118	59,809	883,414	3,275	54,088	137,310	246,611	1,951,299
<b>NT</b>	537,912	3,416,291	646,955	254,980	861,030	15,736	111,108	19,073	156,630	708,916	672,863	4,163,438
<b>SK</b>	312,194	343,430	1,758,376	241,607	399,562	118,984	47,738	42,160	956,084	244,275	446,441	1,850,829
<b>MB</b>	1,115,412	40,333	47,358	38,408	176,677	234,334	64,153	49,527	1,266,777	165,078	319,806	189,782
<b>ON</b>	43,422	5,386	39,311	83,113	112,337	265,587	269,635	15,480	793,326	2,561	163,016	441,474
<b>QC</b>	1,872,842	63,721	5,380	33,371	38,392	62,529	9,604	59,985	49,748	29,638	222,521	4,322,888
<b>NL</b>	43,076	16,816	3,958	10,953	700	396	316	4,178	324	23,886	10,460	21,913
<b>NB</b>	886	112	262	265	568	304	228	1,388	427	176	462	854
<b>NS</b>	301	564	517	755	728	253	155	709	197	3,389	757	25,093
<b>PE</b>	55	4	2	20	7	12	15	13	0	0.0	13	8.0
<b>PC</b>	58,377	282,125	458,336	5,539	117,575	74,840	100,642	1,664	42,538	32,840	117,448	1,014,207
<b>DND</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,249	2,249	7,812
												17,203,625
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,203,867</b>	<b>4,563,847</b>	<b>3,903,277</b>	<b>1,532,440</b>	<b>3,371,825</b>	<b>2,272,269</b>	<b>1,787,793</b>	<b>227,389</b>	<b>4,307,520</b>	<b>1,656,504</b>	<b>2,784,697</b>	<b>17,203,625</b>

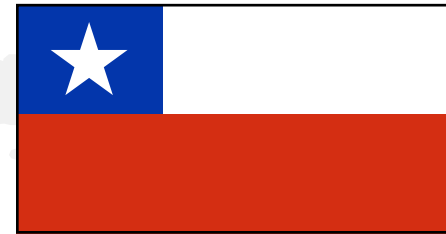


# INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATIONS



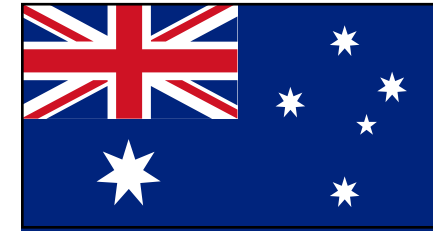
## SPAIN

▶ 100 Personnel



## CHILE

▶ 62 Personnel



## AUSTRALIA

▶ 646 Personnel



## MEXICO

▶ 391 Personnel



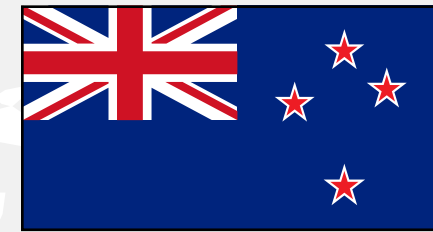
## PORTUGAL

▶ 140 Personnel



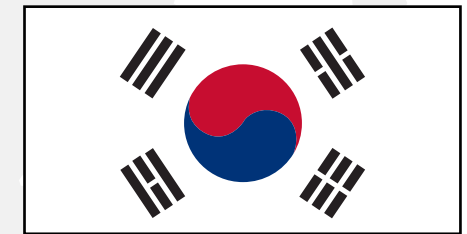
## COSTA RICA

▶ 146 Personnel



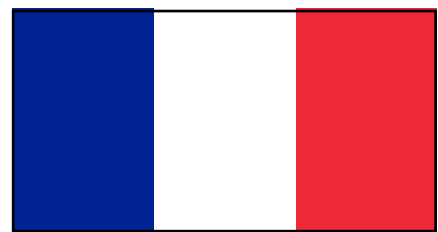
## NEW ZEALAND

▶ 100 Personnel



## KOREA

▶ 150 Personnel



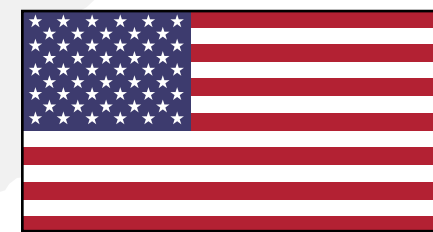
## FRANCE

▶ 353 Personnel



## BRAZIL

▶ 105 Personnel



## UNITED STATES

▶ 2,450 Personnel



## SOUTH AFRICA

▶ 861 Personnel

Final numbers for 2023

Final numbers for 2023



CANADIAN INTERAGENCY FOREST FIRE CENTRE  
CENTRE INTERSERVICES DES FEUX DE FORÊTS DU CANADA



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