

# What's new in the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System — CWFIS 2.0

## Background

The Canadian Wildland Fire Information System (CWFIS) has provided maps and information on wildland fire conditions in Canada for more than 30 years. During intense fire seasons, the system is accessed by more than one million users. CWFIS 2.0 represents the most significant update since its creation and includes improvements to data management, open data standards, and user experience, informed by extensive engagement with users and stakeholders.

Over the last several years, the CFS collaborated with the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) and fire management agencies across Canada to develop the Canadian Wildland Fire Information Framework (CWFIF), which forms the foundation for CWFIS 2.0. This new framework improves the way national fire data is managed and ensures the availability of quality, interoperable, accessible, and usable fire data. It offers improved fire statistics, including information on fire danger conditions, active and reported fires, satellite-detected-hotspots, and includes upgraded fire modelling tools such as the Seasonal Forecast and the Fire Weather Index 2025 (FWI2025). The framework also delivers more reliable system performance and support, strengthens collaboration with partners to integrate new fire models, and enables the continuous release of new modelling capabilities.

## Key Features and Functionality

### *Features of the NEW Landing Page*

- **Clear overview of wildland fire status across Canada:** Provides the current conditions and wildland fire activity across Canada in a single view designed for the public.
- **Map carousel:** View of agency-reported active fires, fire weather index (fire danger), satellite-detected hotspots, and smoke.
- **Today's numbers and year-to-date statistics:** A statistics panel highlights current-day and cumulative activity.
- **Links to additional information and resources:** Quick links guide you to additional resources, including fire management agency websites across Canada, wildfire response from Public Safety Canada, and resources about smoke and air quality.
- **Explore and learn:** Featuring links to resources explaining wildland fire, fire history, data sources and methods, publications, frequently asked questions, and information on Indigenous fire stewardship through the Reciprocity, Ecology and Diversity in Fire Lab (REDFire Lab).
- **Service tools and applications:** Provides a data catalogue to easily find, access and use interoperable data, including “how-to” resources providing help to use the CWFIS data services.

## Interactive Map

- **Faster more flexible mapping:** Rebuilt using OpenLayers, a modern open-source web mapping library for a faster, more flexible experience for exploring map layers focused on wildland fire.
- **New intuitive tools:**
  - Measure distance and areas,
  - Use the key map for orientation,
  - Search by location to zoom quickly to regions of interest, and
  - Create and export a custom map layout in your chosen format.
- **Calendar-based date selector:** An improved date controller lets you flip between current conditions, previous dates, and 14-day forecasts for fire weather index (FWI), fire behaviour prediction (FBP), and weather.
- **Standard vs. advanced layer controls:** Choose a simplified **standard** controller with commonly used layers like active fires, hotspots, perimeter estimates, fire weather, and forecast smoke; or switch to the **advanced** controller to browse more layers like fire behaviour, fire impacts, and forest and fuels characterization.
- **See the details behind the data.** Expand any layer to view timestamps, legends, and direct links to the layer description, the data catalogue (for quick links to find and access data), and options to view the data in table format for select map feature layers.

## National Wildland Fire Summary

- **Always current:** The summary page now provides the most current conditions with hourly updates based on agency fire reports.
- **Expert interpretation:** A narrative summary will be prepared weekly by the Wildfire Information and Predictive Services meteorology team at the Canadian Forest Service with the intent to add context and a near-term outlook.
- **Year-round reporting:** Information about wildland fire conditions is displayed throughout the year, but when fire season finishes, an end-of-season report summarizes the most recent fire season.
- **Executive summary visuals:** The *Wildfire Pulse* and end of season summary infographics provide a one-page snapshot for both the current conditions and end of year review, including maps, charts and statistics with historical averages.

## Forecast Conditions

- **Short- and extended-term outlooks.** View fire weather index (FWI) and head fire intensity forecast maps for the next 14 days.
- **Monthly and seasonal outlooks:** The new and improved seasonal forecast modelling process provides monthly and seasonal forecast maps updated monthly throughout the fire season.

## Static Maps Viewer

- **Side-by-side comparisons:** Browse and compare current, historical, and forecast maps, load up to 10 maps at once, and export what you see.

## Data and Services Catalogue

- **Searchable:** The new catalogue replaces the legacy Datamart. It enables search and discovery across all publicly available datasets managed within the CWFIF.
- **More data:** All maps, map layers and data you see on the website are available through web services and downloadable datasets, served via Open Government Consortium (OGC)-compliant endpoints using GeoServer.
- **Improved data management:** The new catalogue uses GeoNetwork, supporting the goal of making CWFIF data sets available on the Government of Canada Open Government Portal

## What this means for you

- This fire season, you and your colleagues will be able to use the new and improved CWFIS 2.0 and the CWFIF. The official public launch is on April 1, 2026.
  - The URL for the system after April 1, 2026 will be: <https://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>
- If you need support, we are here for you. Email us anytime, and we will ensure you are connected with the help you need.
  - Support email: [cwfisitnotify-scifvtinotification@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:cwfisitnotify-scifvtinotification@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)
- Note: *Updates to services and notifications about changes to legacy services will continue as the platform evolves.*