

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

April 14, 2023

2023 US Wildfire Forecast

- AccuWeather's team of long-range forecasters, led by veteran meteorologist Paul Pastelok, says that the 2023 fire season is forecast to be near to slightly above the historical averages.
- There will likely be 60,000 to 75,000 wildfires that burn 6.5 million to 8.25 million acres of land, close to the average of 68,707 fires and 7,000,514 acres annually between 2001 and 2020.
- In 2022, over 7.5 million acres of land burned across the country, the 11th-most on record.
- "Predicting wildfire numbers and acreage is very difficult, due to the fact that nearly 90% of fires are caused by humans," Pastelok explained. "Fires started by people are nearly impossible to predict."



California

- A barrage of bomb cyclones and atmospheric rivers resulted in one of the deepest snowpacks in state history, which will delay the onset of wildfire season, but AccuWeather warns that it will not prevent fires from starting.
- Pastelok said that the recent precipitation will lead to "intense growth" during the spring and first part of the summer, resulting in more fuel for fires that ignite later in the summer and into autumn.
- The winter storms also blew down an abundance of branches, limbs and entire trees, which will add to the availability of fuels across the California landscape.
- "Between April and June across California, the wildfire threat statewide is expected to be very low," AccuWeather Meteorologist Brandon Buckingham said. The fire threat will gradually rise as the summer progresses as fuels dry out amid prolonged stretches of warm and dry conditions.
- Peak wildfire season is predicted to occur from August into September in Northern California and September to November in Central and Southern California.

Interior Pacific NW/Rocky Mountains

- The same wintertime weather pattern that sent storms into California also delivered significant rain and mountain snow across Nevada and the Four Corner states. The influx of moisture will hold back fire development throughout the spring, but the risk will gradually increase throughout the summer and into the fall.
- The interior Northwest and the northern Rockies face a high risk of wildfires this year following a winter that was drier than the historical average. The region includes portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Northern California and northern Nevada.
- Significant fires could break out as early as June or the first half of July. Still, this region's peak of wildfire activity is not anticipated until late July into early September.

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Other Regions of U.S.

- Outside of the western U.S., Alaska leads the country in wildfire activity, with 3.08 million acres burned in 2022, nearly twice the amount of land in Delaware.
- AccuWeather meteorologists say there is also an elevated brush fire risk in Florida, especially through late spring.
- "[The] Florida Peninsula is running drier-than-historical averages in 2023," Pastelok explained. "These conditions can lead to brush fires this spring."
- The fire threat will likely end early in the summer as thunderstorm activity increases and there is perhaps even an early-season tropical system that soaks the Sunshine State with rain.

Severe Weather Activity

Georgia (Mar 24-26)

- Georgia had five tornadoes as part of this outbreak, including an EF-0 in Laurens County on March 25, an EF-3 in Troup and Meriweather counties on March 26, an EF-1 in Baldwin County on March 26, an EF-1 in Meriweather County, and an EF-0 in Twiggs County on March 27.
- The EF-3 storm caused five injuries, had wind speeds of 150 mph with a width of 500 yards and a length of 21.7 miles, and was on the ground for 30 minutes.
- According to Troup County EMA, 146 total homes were affected, 23 were destroyed, 26 sustained major damage and 41 sustained minor damage.

Alabama (Mar 24-26)

- The National Weather Service has confirmed at least five tornadoes in central Alabama following severe weather that swept across the state over the weekend, leaving behind debris and damage.
- The NWS says confirmed tornadoes touched down in Autauga, Clarke, Elmore, Macon and Wilcox counties.
- Preliminary NWS damage assessments show an EF2 touched down in Macon County near Milstead.
- Additional areas being investigated include Lake Martin at the Elmore County/Tallapoosa County line and Bear Creek in Marion County from last Friday.
- The town of Camp Hill in Tallapoosa County also saw widespread damage. Residents said their homes were pelted by softball-sized hail. Many windshields were busted. Around 1,000 people live in Camp Hill, and the mayor said nearly everyone was affected.

Missouri (Mar 31-Apr 1)

- The U.S. Small Business Administration will be conducting joint damage assessments in the aftermath of the deadly tornado that ripped through Bollinger County, Missouri.
- The EF2 tornado swept through the Glenn Allen and Grassy areas of Bollinger County early Wednesday, April 5, killing five and injuring five more.
- According to an initial damage report, of 133 area homes surveyed, 87 were damaged and 12 were destroyed by the storm.

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Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

State	Event	Number of Counties for IA		Start-End
		Requested	Completed	
AL	Severe Storms Mar 24-25	5	0	TBD

Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request

State	Event	Date Submitted	Approved/Denied/ Pending	Number of Counties/Tribes
IN	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes & Flooding	4/6/2023	Pending	3 Counties

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4671 PR	Hurricane Fiona	78 Municipalities	203	11/21/2022
4673 FL	Hurricane Ian	26 Counties	194	1/12/2023
4697 MS	Severe Storms & Tornadoes	6 Counties	14	5/25/2023
4701 TN	Severe Storms & Tornadoes	10 Counties	5	6/6/2023

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY



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