How does the BC Wildfire Service predict a fire season?

Season forecasts are assessed by meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists who considered a range of environmental factors and observed weather data. This includes accounting for conditions that affect soil moisture, fine fuel dryness, and vegetation growth, which influence the amount of fuel available for wildfires.

The severity of a fire season is highly dependent on local weather patterns such as timing and amount of precipitation, length of dry periods, thunderstorms, and wind events. Long-term weather models are useful to indicate trends and patterns over time. However, daily weather cannot be reliably forecast much beyond a few days in advance. The BC Wildfire Service maintains its levels of preparedness by studying forecasts, using the experience of previous fire seasons, and analyzing trends to give us a good indication of what to expect. As we enter these last few months of the wildfire season, the BC Wildfire Service continues to collect data and utilize forecasting models to produce monthly updates for the Season Outlook.

What does it mean for the wildfire season now that summer is over?

British Columbia does not define the end of a wildfire season by date. As long as new wildfires are being detected, the BC Wildfire Service remains active.

As we move closer to fall and begin thinking about preparing our homes for winter, consider implementing FireSmart homeowner guidelines. Simple measures, such as clearing leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks, prevents embers from igniting your home. Implementing FireSmart guidelines around the structure ignition zones can make a significant difference to the resiliency of homes and communities when faced with a wildfire event.

For more information on how to establish wildfire resiliency in our forests and communities, visit: www.bcwildfire.ca and www.firesmartbc.ca