How does the BCWS predict a fire season?

This forecast was assessed by meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists who considered a range of broad fire environment factors and observed weather data. This includes accounting for conditions that affect soil moisture, fine fuel dryness and vegetation growth, which in turn influence the amount of fuel available for wildfires.

What factors influence this prediction?

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 reliably forecast much beyond a few days in advance. The BC Wildfire Service maintains its levels of preparedness by studying forecasts, using experience from previous seasons and analyzing trends to give us a good indication of what to expect in the upcoming season. We will produce monthly updates of our season forecast, as we continue to collect data and utilize forecasting models.

What can we do to prepare for an upcoming fire season?

Much of the fire starts at this time of year are human-caused and therefore preventable. This is a good time to review how we can all prevent wildfires heading into the 2019 season. For more information including resources on wildfire resiliency within our forests and communities, visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention or www.FireSmartBC.ca