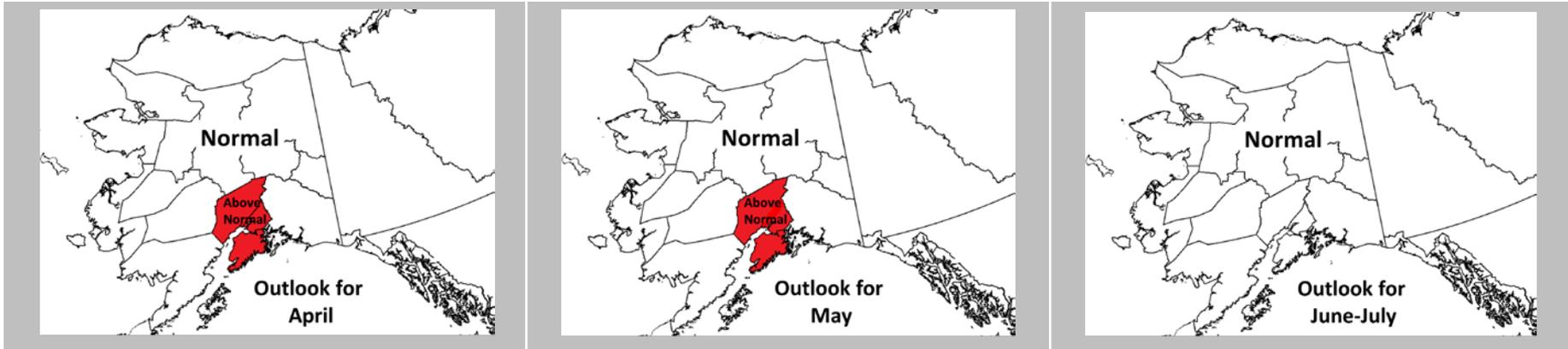


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for April and May is for above normal fire activity in the Spring around South Central, particularly around the Anchorage Bowl, Kenai Peninsula and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. Fire potential will return to normal in June.

Factors:

- Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook maps continue to indicate a high likelihood of warmer than normal conditions across the entire state through the spring and into summer. These warm temperatures have contributed to low snowpack in parts of southern Alaska once again this winter, with worst conditions around the Matanuska Valley, Anchorage Bowl and Kenai Peninsula. Much like last spring, this may lead to early exposure of burnable fuels and increasing fire activity two to three weeks earlier than normal. This could create increased fire potential particularly in the fine fuels along the populated corridors of southern Alaska by the first week of April. It is likely that the Alaskan Interior will soon follow suit.
- Though late-season snows may help the situation, the last two years have had similar external factors, such as a warm water pool in the Gulf of Alaska and a forcing of colder air farther north. If this spring continues at these warmer temperatures, this spring may emerge in much the same way as last year's, which had high fire danger in much of southern Alaska in April.

The Canadian Fuels and Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Fire Weather Indices are not yet being calculated through the winter months. Calculations will resume as the ground becomes snow-free.