

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Alaska is out of fire season. February through March is expected to have virtually no fire activity, which is normal. April and May are expected to be normal, with human caused fires becoming more common in May.

Factors:

- The U.S. Drought Monitor shows an area of Abnormally Dry (D0) in the northern Alaska Panhandle and severe drought (D2) in the southern Panhandle. The remainder of the state is normal, though snowpack amounts are well below normal in most parts of the Interior.
- CPC outlook maps are forecasting warmer than normal conditions for all of Alaska this winter, which has been typical of the last several winters as the climate changes.
- Precipitation forecasts have notoriously little skill in Alaska, and in particular, the winter months present a forecast challenge. However, the long range forecasts are indicating the likelihood for higher than normal precipitation across much of the Gulf Coast as spring approaches.

- ▶ Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System have all been turned off for the season as temperatures are mainly below freezing, the ground is frozen or even snow-covered in most areas, and ignitions are unlikely.

