

# Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

## Forecast:

- Alaska has experienced a very long, busy season. Fire potential will become normal in October as daylight radically shortens, temperatures cool, and precipitation returns. In November, December, and January, Alaska will be blanketed with snow and will be out of fire season.

## Factors:

- Summer has ended, and Alaska's brief autumn will soon give way to winter, with afternoon high temperatures rapidly cooling and struggling to reach above freezing by the end of the month. Rains in September moderated the fire weather indices over much of the Interior and South Central Alaska, with periods of rain and snow continuing through the end of September.
- This fall and winter are again expected to see above normal temperatures for most of the state. This is particularly true in the Arctic and in coastal regions, as the sea ice is far away from shore and ocean temperatures continue to be extremely warm for this time of year. It will take a lot of atmospheric cooling to bring these temperatures back down, form sea ice, and thus reduce the warming effects on the nearby land mass.

- ▶ CFFDRS calculations indicate the deep layers are still extremely dry. However, this isn't unusual for this time of year. Autumn rains have brought enough rain to wet the upper and mid layers of fuels, so new starts are unlikely and spread will be minimal from now until the snow flies and/or the ground freezes.

