

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- The snowpack will begin to melt in Alaska in April. In 2020 this melting may lag the typical season in Alaska's Interior, as the snowpack there is generally above normal depth. Melting begins at lower elevations in southern Alaska before spreading higher and northward. As the snow melts, there is an increased risk for fires along the road system. By late May and June, the boreal spruce forest will support more persistent fires. In a typical summer, a rainy pattern can settle over Alaska by late July.

Factors:

- The Drought Monitor shows normal conditions over all of Alaska. There had been some drought issues in South Central Alaska as well as in the Southeast Panhandle last year, but the precipitation over this winter has helped to mitigate those issues.
- As of late March, Alaska is generally snow covered and expecting more snow and below freezing temperatures across most of the burnable landscape. The exception is the far southern Panhandle, which usually has a mix of frozen and liquid precipitation throughout the winter months.



- Fuels are frozen in almost all areas and will not be burnable through the rest of the winter. In April, some lower elevations of South Central will go snow free and expose cured grasses.

