

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- The forecast for Alaska's wildfire potential for the remainder 2020 is for normal wildfire behavior. The term "normal" is somewhat loaded, however, as Alaska is generally out of fire season by this time of year. A forecast of normal wildfire behavior in Alaska for September is equivalent to forecasting minimal or even zero wildfire behavior. While snow can fall at lower elevations in Alaska in September, that snow generally melts. However, the winter's permanent snowpack is typically established in October and then persists for the remainder of the year, thus precluding any wildfire action at that time of year.

Factors:

- Ample rainfall throughout the summer of 2020 across most of Alaska has rendered the fuels at the surface as well in the duff layers nearly unburnable, thus setting the stage for a normal, thus quiet, September.

- Any wildfires that happen to occur in September will likely be confined to surface fuels and will be wind driven, provided a few days of drying arrive to dry those surface fuels. Deeper burning fires resistant to control are quite unlikely due to the weather and fuels.

