

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Alaska is out of fire season. December through March is expected to have virtually no fire activity, which is normal.

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 has received ample precipitation this fall, with some snowpack across much of the state.
- CPC outlook maps are forecasting warmer than normal conditions for all of Alaska this winter, with a focus in western and northwestern Alaska, particularly along the coast for December. This is likely due to the extremely low sea ice content of the Chukchi Sea this fall.
- Precipitation forecasts have notoriously little skill in Alaska, and in particular, the winter months present a forecast challenge. However, both the medium to long range forecasts are indicating the likelihood for ample precipitation across all but the eastern Interior over the next few months..

- ▶ 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.

