



FOREST FIRE UPDATE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR **JUNE 1, 2025**
KENORA 020/KENORA 014



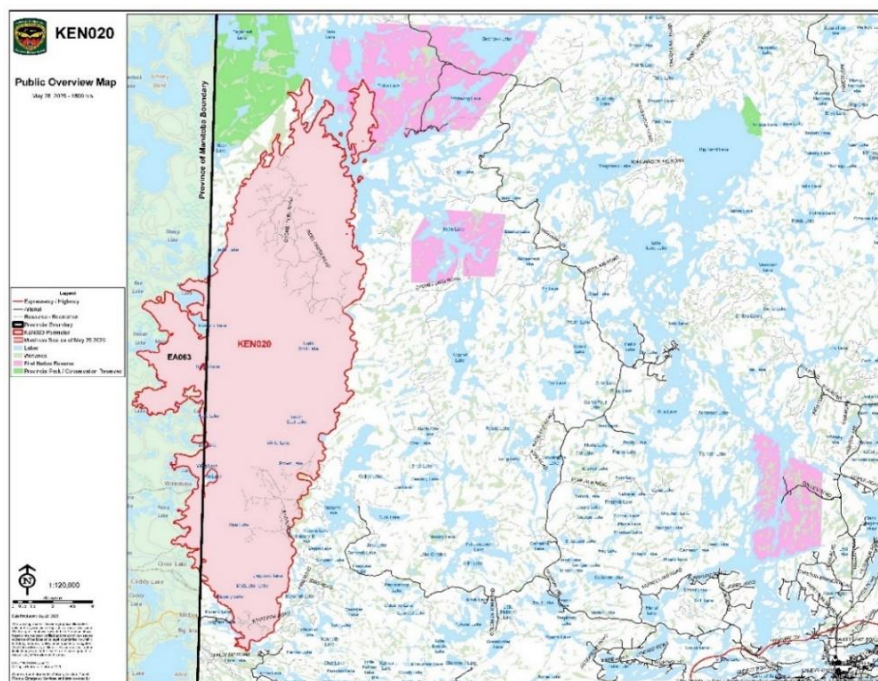
Smoke rising over Kenora 20, May 29. Photo by Helitack Technician Brooke Hutchinson.

Current Fire Situation

- A total of 16 helicopters and 195 personnel are assigned to Kenora 20 and Kenora 14, comprising firefighters, overhead staff, flight crews and medics.
- Smoke from active fires to the west and northwest continues to be a significant concern.

Kenora 20

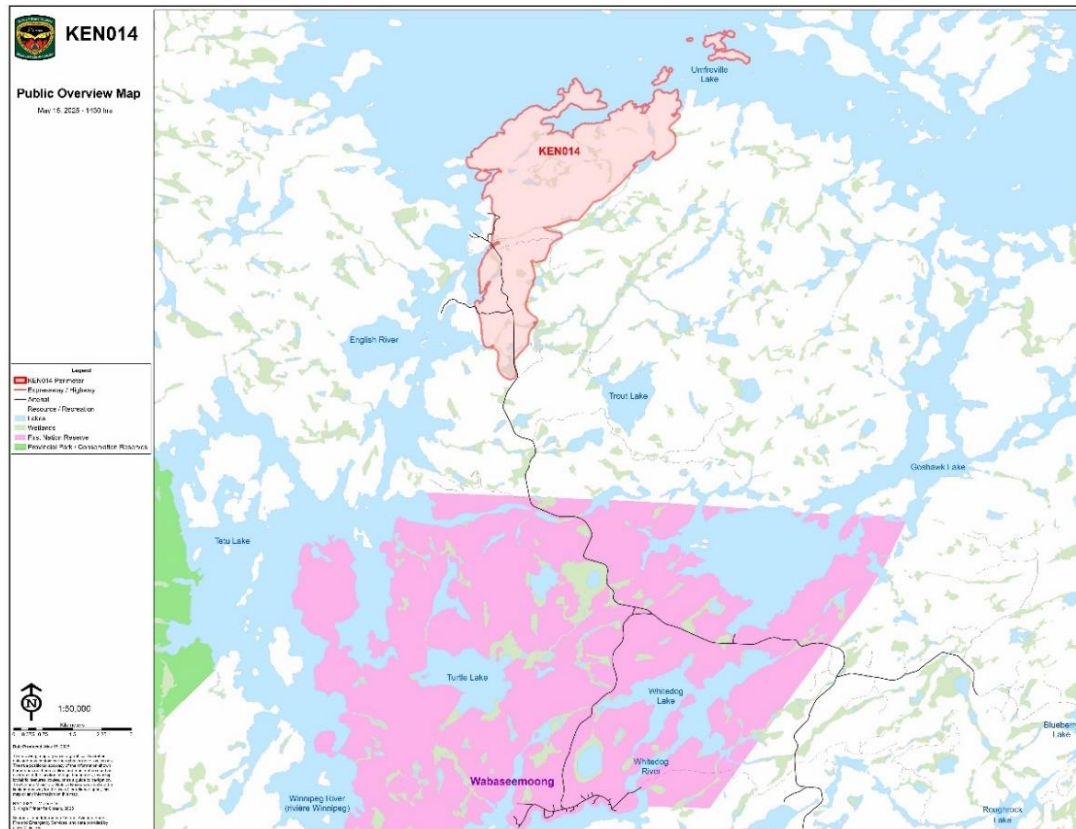
- Kenora 20 remains at 34,008 hectares, encompassing the entire fire area spanning Ontario and Manitoba (fire EA063). The Ontario portion of the fire is 29,729 hectares in size.
- Despite the ongoing extreme conditions, fire fighting crews and bucketing helicopters have maintained the existing perimeter on the eastern flank - a testament to the hard work of everyone on the fire line.
- This fire covers an extremely large area, and managing it requires significant time, effort, and resources. Kenora 20 remains classified as not under control, which means it has not yet received sufficient suppression to prevent further spread.
- Four Type 2 wildland firefighting crews arrived yesterday to support ongoing suppression efforts, and an additional four Type 2 crews are scheduled to arrive today.
- Cooler temperatures and increased cloud cover helped to limit fire behaviour yesterday. Today's forecast of warm and dry conditions creates the potential for extreme fire behaviour.
- The wildland fire hazard remains extreme across the area, with no significant rainfall recorded since the fire was confirmed on May 12. A cold front is expected to move into the area Monday, bringing cooler temperatures and possible precipitation.



Date on map represents the most up-to-date fire perimeter.

Kenora 14

- Kenora 14 is currently being held at 1,607 hectares in size.
- Crews continue to patrol and address priority areas; however, recent infrared scans have detected significantly fewer hotspots requiring action.



Date on map represents the most up-to-date fire perimeter.

Information Contacts

AFFES Brown IMT – Information Officer (fire updates, media inquiries)

Alison Bezubiak - affes.inc1-info@ontario.ca / 807-323-3743

AFFES Community Liaison Officer (Wabaseemoong, area Indigenous communities)

Krista Prosser – Krista.Prosser@ontario.ca / 807-407-9675

Kenora District IMT – Information Officer (road closures, travel restrictions)

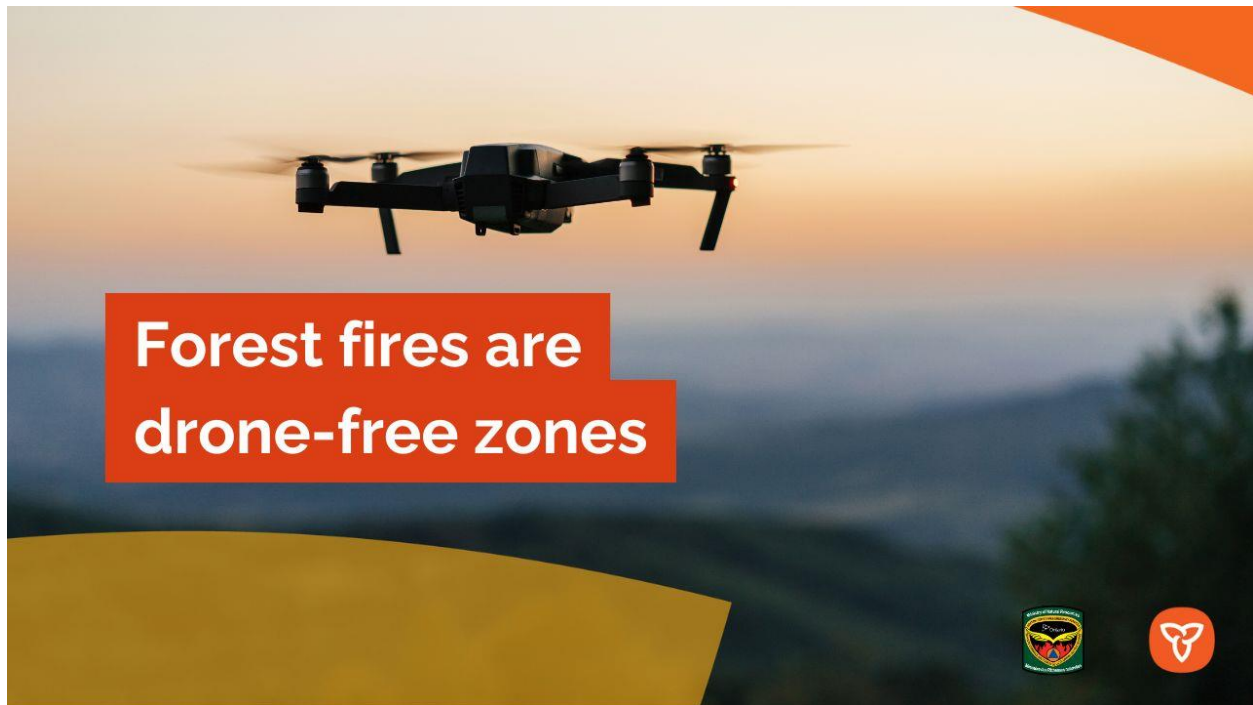
Brittany Bolan – Brittany.Bolan@ontario.ca / 807-407-9671

Thank you, BC Wildfire Service

As a contingent of BC Wildfire Service firefighters begins their journey home, AFFES would like to extend our gratitude to the crews and overhead staff for their invaluable support on Kenora Fires 14 and 20.

Their dedication, expertise, and teamwork during a critical time made a meaningful impact on our operations and the safety of our communities.





Forest fires are drone-free zones

It is illegal and dangerous to fly drones within 9 km of any active wildland fire.

Flying your drone near a wildfire means firefighters can't do their jobs. Unauthorized drones could force emergency response teams to ground aircraft, and puts the lives of pilots, firefighters, and emergency personnel at risk.

Report a drone incident

If it is an emergency (there is imminent danger presented by the drone), call 9-1-1.

Report unsafe drone use

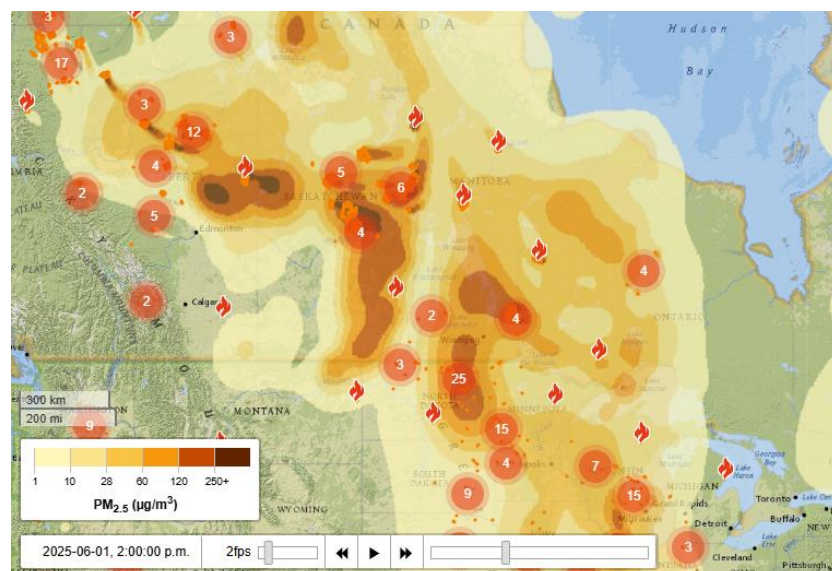
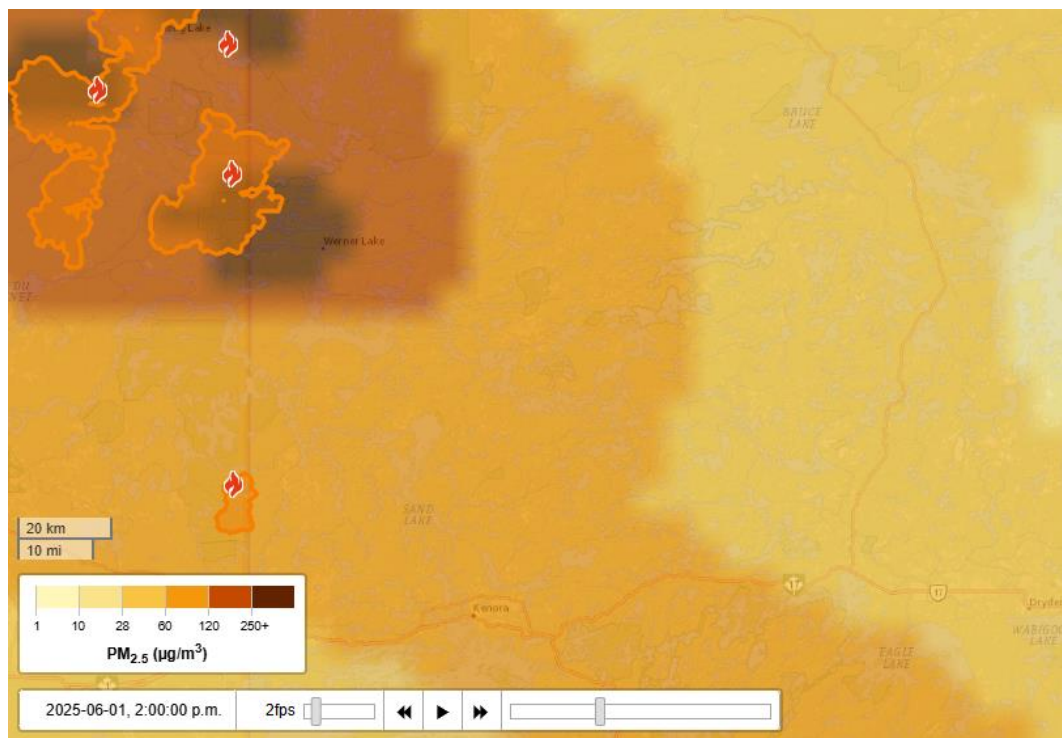
If you believe someone is operating a drone in an unsafe or irresponsible manner, please report the incident to Transport Canada by completing their [online drone incident report form](#).

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

FireSmoke Canada

FireSmoke Canada is the Canadian portal for information about wildland fire weather and smoke. From here you can access interactive maps displaying smoke and fire weather forecasts. These tools and data help raise awareness and make decisions about air quality, health and safety and emergency management.

Communities may be impacted by smoke drift from nearby fires, or fires in other provinces. Visit [FireSmoke.ca](https://firesmoke.ca) to see the current smoke forecast.



Environment Canada - Special Air Quality Statement

Smoke is causing or expected to cause poor air quality and reduced visibility.

Wildfire smoke is expected to move back into the area today and remain in place for the next several days.

Forest fire danger ratings are currently high or extreme with restrictions in place. These conditions are expected to persist into the weekend.

As smoke levels increase, health risks increase. Limit time outdoors. Consider reducing or rescheduling outdoor sports, activities and events.

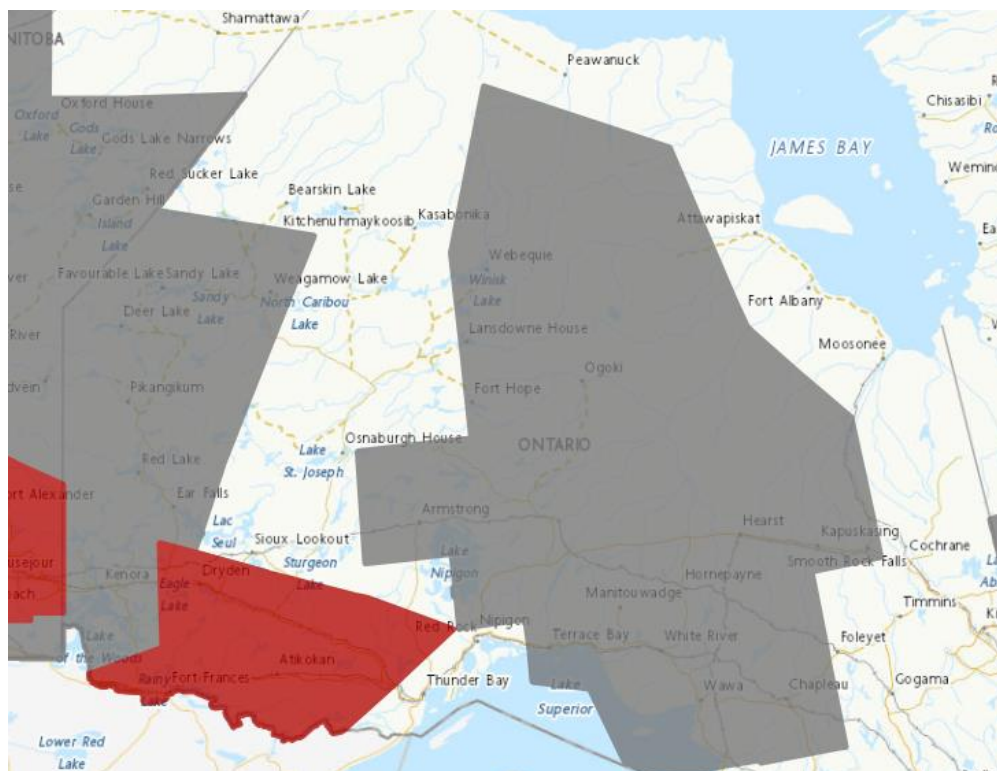
Always follow guidance from local authorities.

Learn more at canada.ca/wildfire-smoke.

Visit airhealth.ca for information on how to reduce your health risk and your personal contribution to pollution levels, as well as for current and forecast AQHI values.

Please continue to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada.

Issued by Environment Canada and the Province of Ontario.



Environment Canada map depicting area (shaded grey) impacted by Special Air Quality Statement.

Weather outlook – June 1-June 8



Regional weather for June 1

Today will be mostly sunny with a few clouds this evening. Winds will become southerly at 10-15km/h, gusts near 35km/h this afternoon. Winds veer to the southwest later this afternoon and evening. Daytime highs of 32C with RH values near 25%. RH recovery should be 70-80%. There is the slight chance of an isolated thundershower overnight as a very weak cold front crosses the area. This front will veer the winds to the north overnight.

Restricted Fire Zone in effect

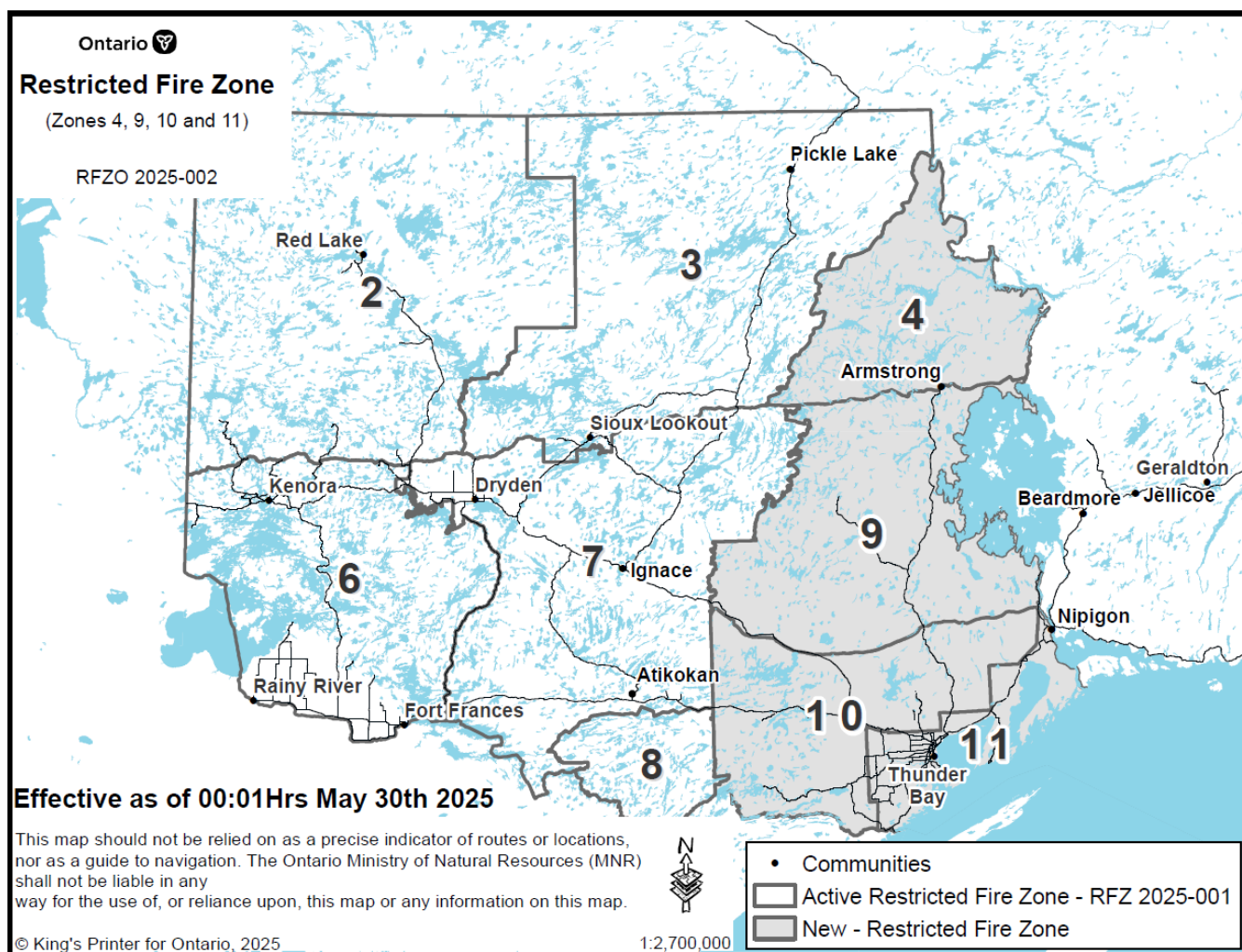
Due to the extreme forest fire hazard, the Ministry of Natural Resources will be declaring a Restricted Fire Zone effective Friday, May 16 at 12:01 am local time for a portion of the Northwest Region (zones 2, 3, 6, 7, 8). The area impacted will be from the Southwest corner of the USA, Manitoba and Ontario border, North along the Manitoba border to West of the midway point of Weeskayjahk Ohtahzhoganeeng Provincial Park, East to North of Wabakimi Provincial Park, South along the Western border of Wabakimi Provincial Park to the Eastern border of Quetico Provincial Park until the USA border, then back West along the USA/Canada border to the Manitoba Border.

Effective May 30 at 12:01 am local time the Ministry of Natural Resources has implemented another Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) for the Northwest Region to include zones 4, 9, 10 and 11. The area impacted by the new RFZ is from south of the west side of St Ignace Island, west along the Canada–U.S.A. border, north along the

District of Rainy River–District of Thunder Bay border, north along the English River system, east to the western boundary of the Brightsand River Provincial Park, following north to and along the boundary of Wabakimi Provincial Park, south along the eastern side of the Little Jackfish River system, to the north end of Lake Nipigon, following the western shore of Lake Nipigon south to the west side of the Nipigon River system heading south to Red Rock and along the northeast boundary of Black Bay Peninsula to the west side of St. Ignace Island.

See the expanded Restricted Fire Zone Map below.

No open air burning, including campfires, is permitted within the boundaries of a Restricted Fire Zone. Portable gas or propane stoves may be used for cooking and warmth BUT must be handled with extreme caution. All burning permits are suspended. [Learn more about the fire restrictions here.](#)



Travel restrictions in fire areas

Evacuation Order of area

1. All persons must immediately evacuate the area indicated on the hatched section of the map unless authorized by a travel permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
2. All persons are prohibited from entering the area indicated on the attached map unless authorized by a travel permit issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

KEN020

Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services has been advised that as recommended by the Ministry of Natural resources' Kenora District, an Implementation Order is now in effect for the purposes of public safety and/or effectual fire suppression, for areas near Kenora 20 Under the Emergency Area Order EAO 2025-03 declared on May 13, 2025.

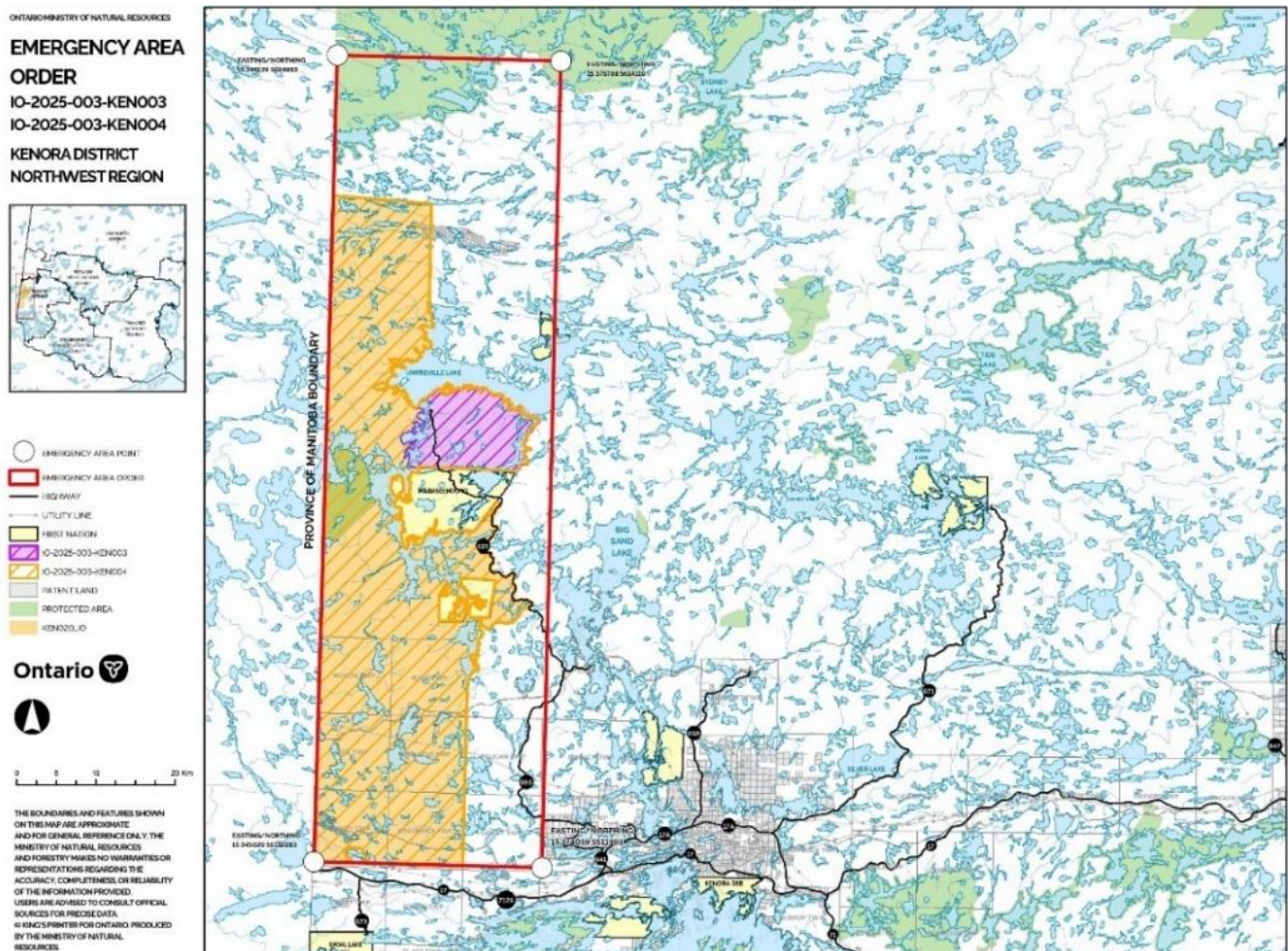
1. All travel and use of roads, including Gundy Road north of Tannis Lake, Pickerel Lake Road beyond the Pelicanpouch access point at km 9, and Cygnet Lake Road, is prohibited unless authorized by a travel permit.
2. All use of lakes and waterways within the Area including the Winnipeg River below Whitedog Falls (UTM 15U 366399 5553102), Eaglenest Lake, Tetu Lake, Cygnet Lake, Rice Lake, Malachi Lake, Otter Lake, Macara Lake, Longpine Lake, and Dagimabrop Lake is prohibited.
3. All use and occupation of Crown Land, within the hatched area identified on the above Implementation Order map (Schedule A), is prohibited.

KEN014

Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services has been advised that as recommended by the Ministry of Natural Resources' Kenora District, an Implementation Order is now in effect for the purposes of public safety and/or effectual fire suppression, for areas near Kenora 14 Under the Emergency Area Order EAO 2025-03 declared on May 13, 2025.

1. All travel and use of roads, including Highway 525 at and beyond the northern boundary of Wabaseemoong First Nation, is prohibited unless authorized by a travel permit.

2. All use of lakes and waterways within the English River system between Tetu Lake (UTM 15U 356895 5562897) and Umfreville Lake (UTM 358379 5570917) is prohibited.
3. All use of lakes and waterways between Goshawk Lake (UTM 15U 371012 5562576) and Umfreville Lake (UTM 3712722 5570758) is prohibited.
4. All use and occupation of Crown Land, within the hatched area identified on the above Implementation Order map (Schedule A), is prohibited.



Wildland Fire Q&A

Stages of control

Q: What does it mean when a fire's status is "not under control"?

A: The designation **"Not under control"** can describe a wide spectrum of fire activity – from fast-moving, high-intensity flames to a large, smouldering area that has not yet received sufficient firefighting attention to prevent further spread. The larger the fire, the more time, effort, and resources are required before its status can be changed to "being held".

Q: When does the status change to "being held"?

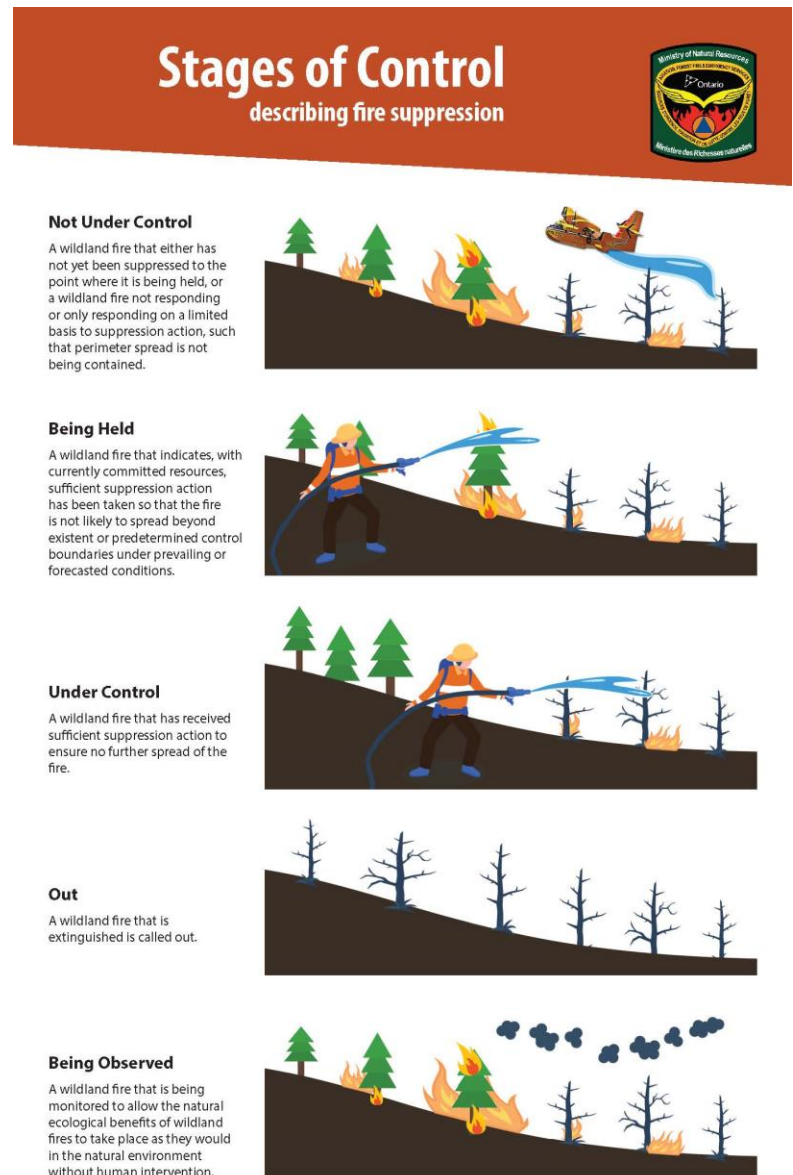
A: A fire classified as **"being held"** means that, given the current conditions and the resources assigned, enough firefighting efforts have been made to prevent the fire from spreading further.

Q: What is the difference between a fire that's "under control" and a fire that's "being observed"?

A: **"Under control"** means that enough firefighting has taken place to ensure no further spread of the fire.

The status **"being observed"** is given to a fire that poses no immediate threat to human life, property, or infrastructure. These fires are monitored without active suppression to allow for the natural ecological benefits of wildland fire.

For example, a remote lightning-caused fire that does not endanger communities may be allowed to burn naturally, with regular monitoring by fire management personnel.



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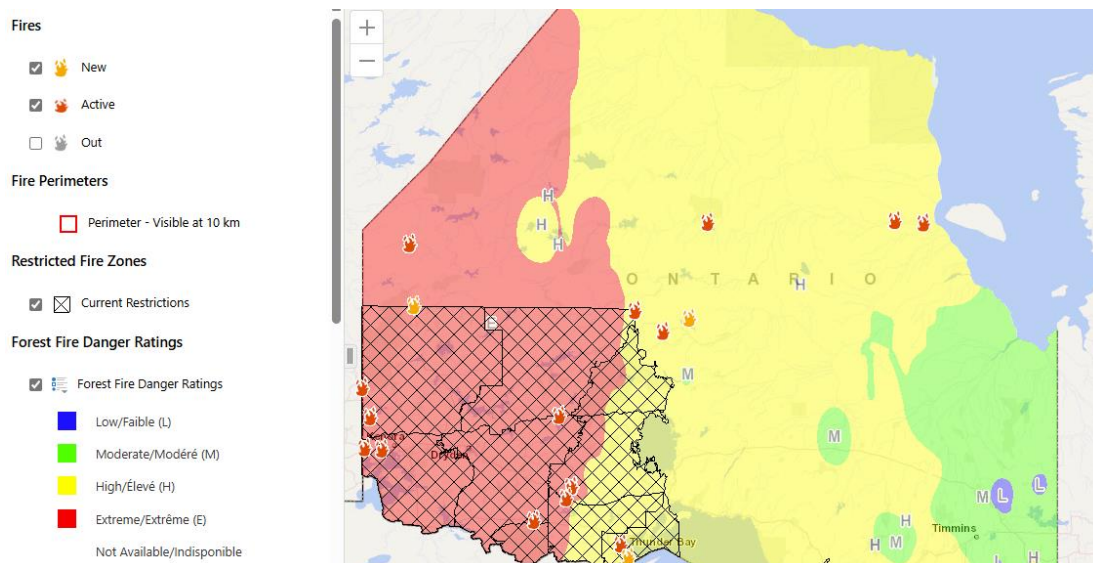
English - www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires

French - www.ontario.ca/fr/page/incendies-de-foret

View our interactive fire map

To view our interactive fire map - featuring active fires, fire perimeters, and detailed boundaries of the Restricted Fire Zone - please visit:

<https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/ForestFireInformationMap/index.html?viewer=FFIM.FFIM>



Ontario's interactive fire map, June 1, 2025, 07:00. The interactive fire map provides the forest fire danger rating as calculated by over 130 weather stations across Ontario's Fire Region. This changes throughout the day to reflect up to date weather information.