



FOREST FIRE UPDATE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR **MAY 26, 2025**
KENORA 020/KENORA 014



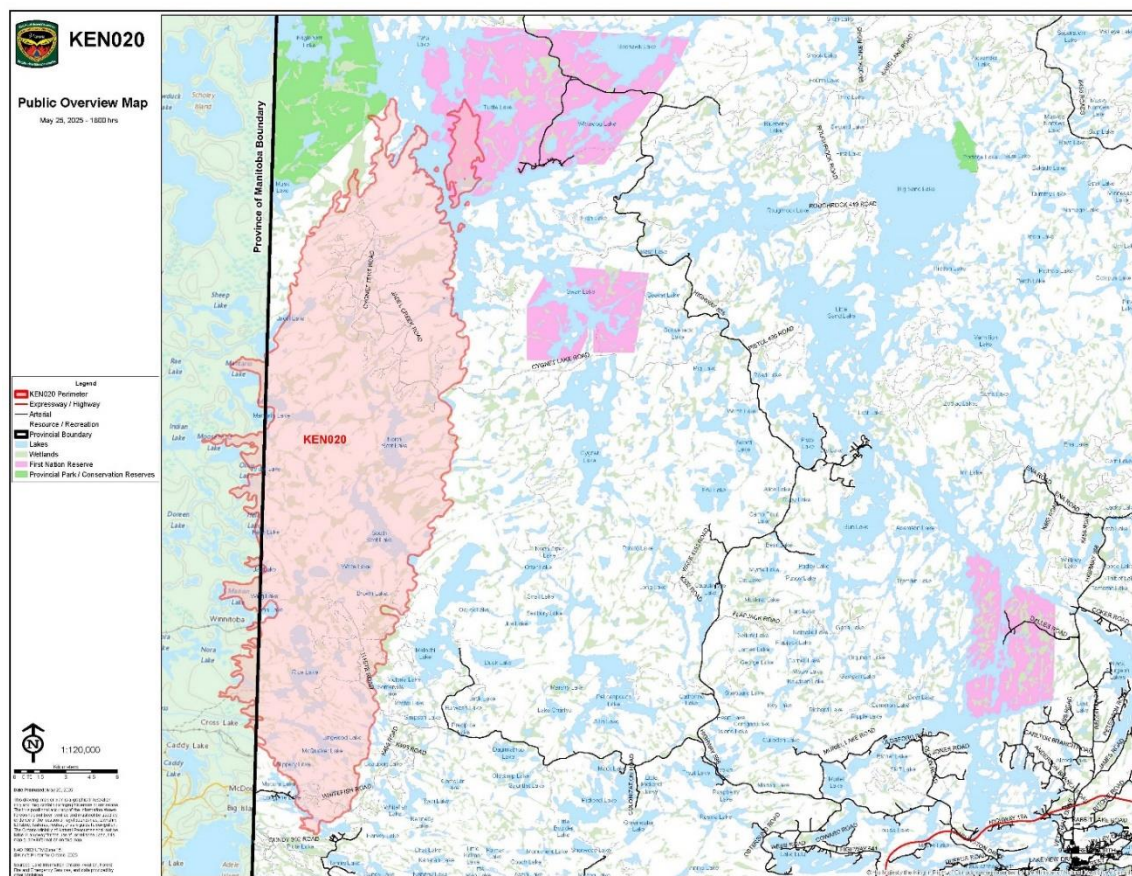
Smoke observed on Kenora 20, May 22.

Current Fire Situation

- The Marney Brown Incident Command Team assumed command of Kenora 20 and Kenora 14 on May 25.
- A total of 263 personnel are assigned to Kenora 20 and Kenora 14, comprising firefighters, overhead staff and flight crews.

Kenora 20

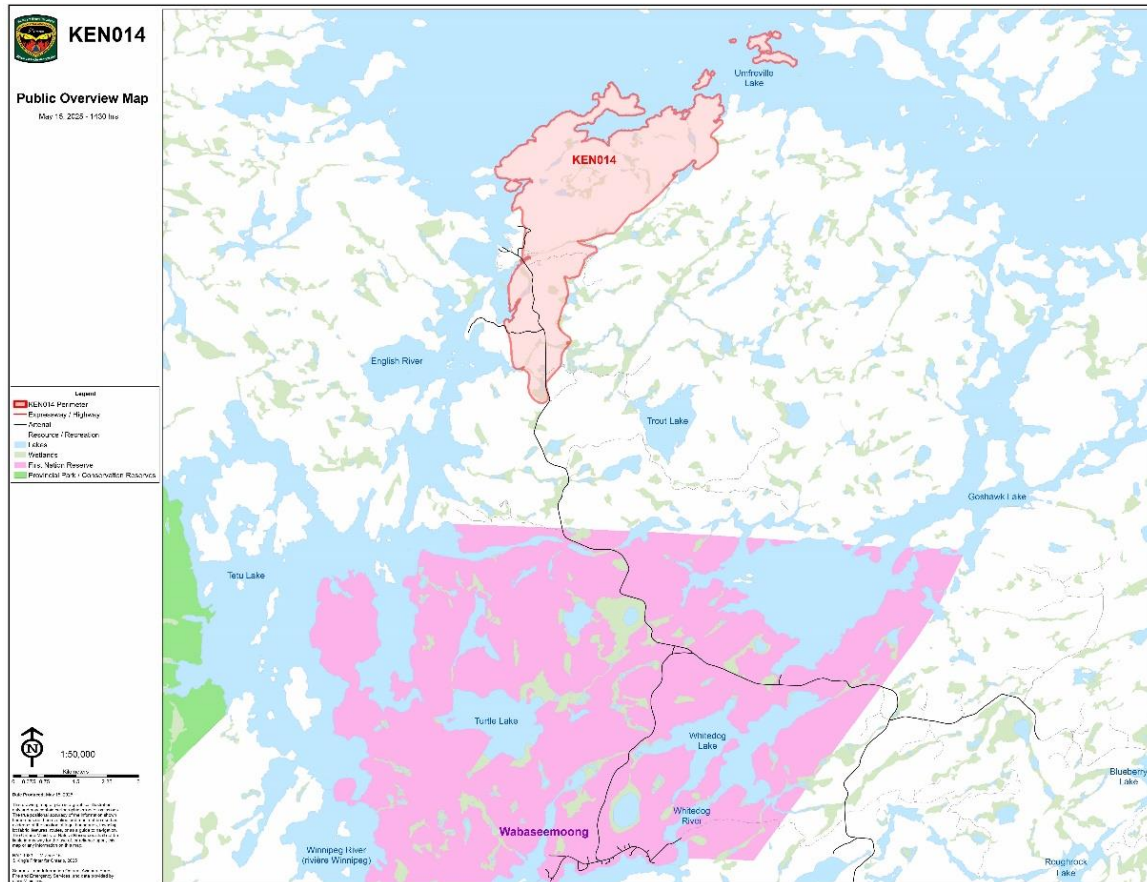
- Kenora 20 remains at 31,276 hectares in size and is not under control.
- Fire crews continue to make good progress establishing hose lines along the eastern perimeter of the fire while bucketing helicopters extinguish hotspots.
- Low intensity fire behaviour (class 1-2) was observed May 25.
- Smoke observed at the northern end of the fire near Tetu Lake was actioned by bucketing helicopters throughout the day, May 25.
- Infrared scanning was completed overnight to help identify hot spots and priority areas.
- With no rain in the forecast, low humidity, continued high fire hazard conditions and ongoing fire operations, there is currently no timeline identified to ease travel restrictions into the fire area.
- Smoke is anticipated to drift into the area from Manitoba fire EA061 over the coming days, particularly as the wind shifts to a northwesterly flow on Wednesday.



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.
- Fire crews continue to make good progress actioning hot spots.



Information Contacts

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

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

AFFES Community Liaison Officer (Wabaseemoong, area Indigenous communities)

Maggie Kavanaugh - Maggie.Kavanaugh@ontario.ca / 807-889-0942

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

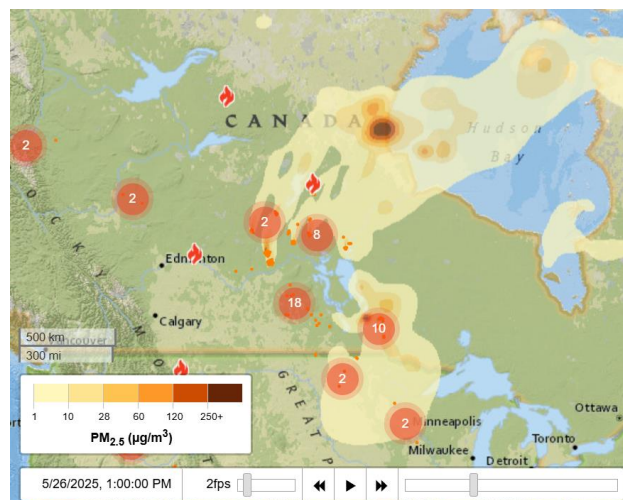
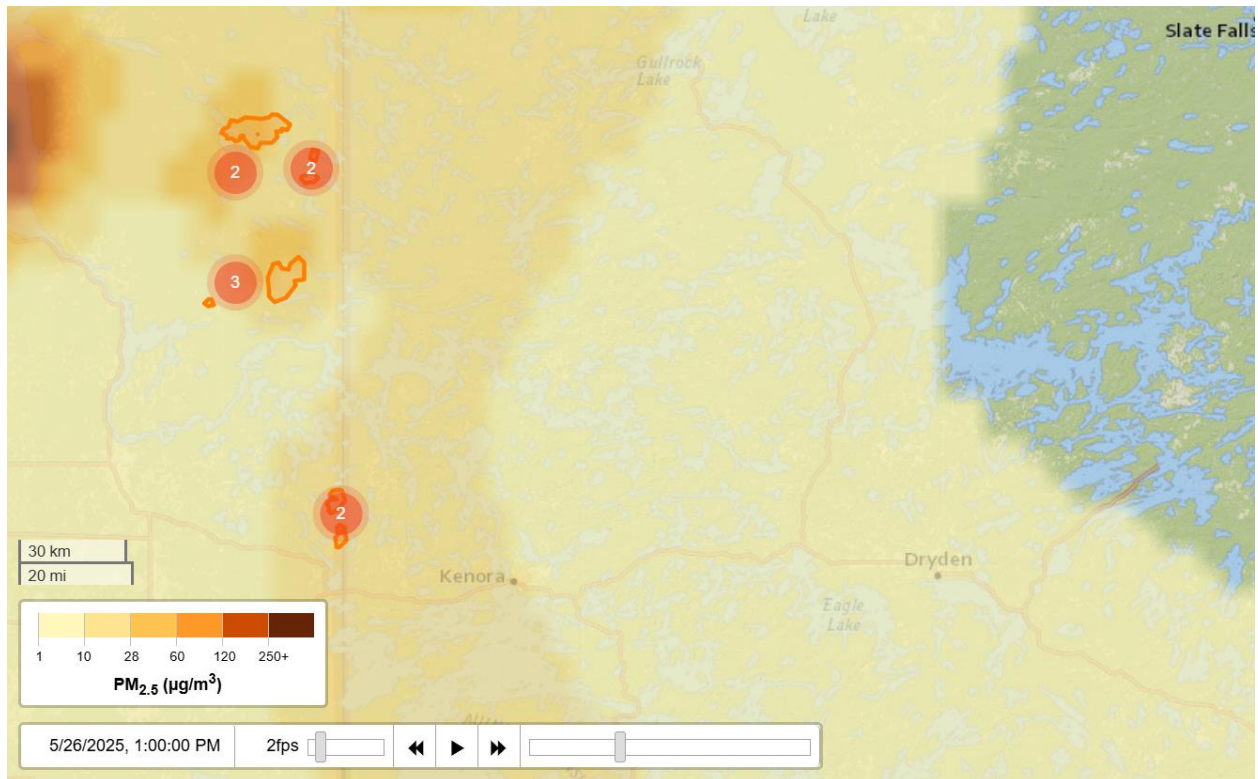
Michelle Riley - Michelle.Riley@ontario.ca / 807-747-0341

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.

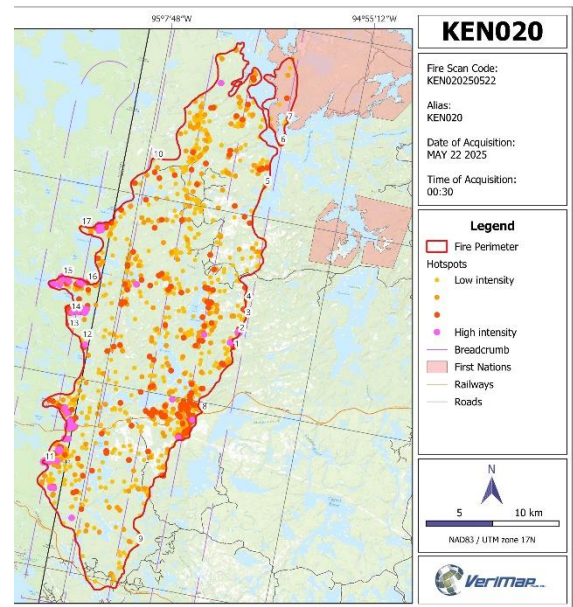


Wildland Fire Q&A

Q: What is infra-red scanning?

A: Wildland fire management professionals use technology in a variety of ways to help them gain situational awareness across large areas on the landscape where fire may be behaving differently or hiding from plain sight.

Infra-red scanning is a valuable tool that shows where heat is specifically located and concentrated on the landscape. IR scans are important to gain an idea of how much firefighting remains to be done on a fire as well as identify specific locations as targets for helicopter bucketing or crews.



The most recent high-level infrared scan of Kenora 20, May 22.

Best performed in the gloom of dawn, infra-red scanning equipment ranges from hand-held devices used by technicians from helicopters, to sensors mounted on drones, planes, helicopters and satellites.

Q: What is 'peak burn'?

A: Peak burn refers to the period of the day when winds and temperatures are at their highest and relative humidity is at it's lowest – all important drivers of fire behaviour. Barring some intervention by the weather or suppression, wildland fires are generally most active between the hours of 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. with some variation through the spring summer and fall.

Peak burn hours underlie the rationale for Ontario's outdoor burning regulations during the fire season (April 1 -Oct. 31) – which allow piles to be ignited no sooner than two before sunset, with the fire extinguished no later than two hours after sunrise.

Q: What exactly do you mean by 'not under control', 'being held', 'under control', or 'being observed'?

A: While these terms, used to describe a fire's control status, are designed to have a universal meaning between different provincial wildland fire agencies from coast to

coast, members of the public often have trouble knowing how to feel about such descriptions.

In this sense the most problematic is always '**not under control**', or '**out of control**' (used elsewhere in Canada). Wildland fire management agencies use this term to describe a fire that may not be responding, or responding only in a limited way to firefighting, so that the further spread of the fire is not being contained.

What level of concern does a 'not under control' status warrant from a member of the public? That depends.

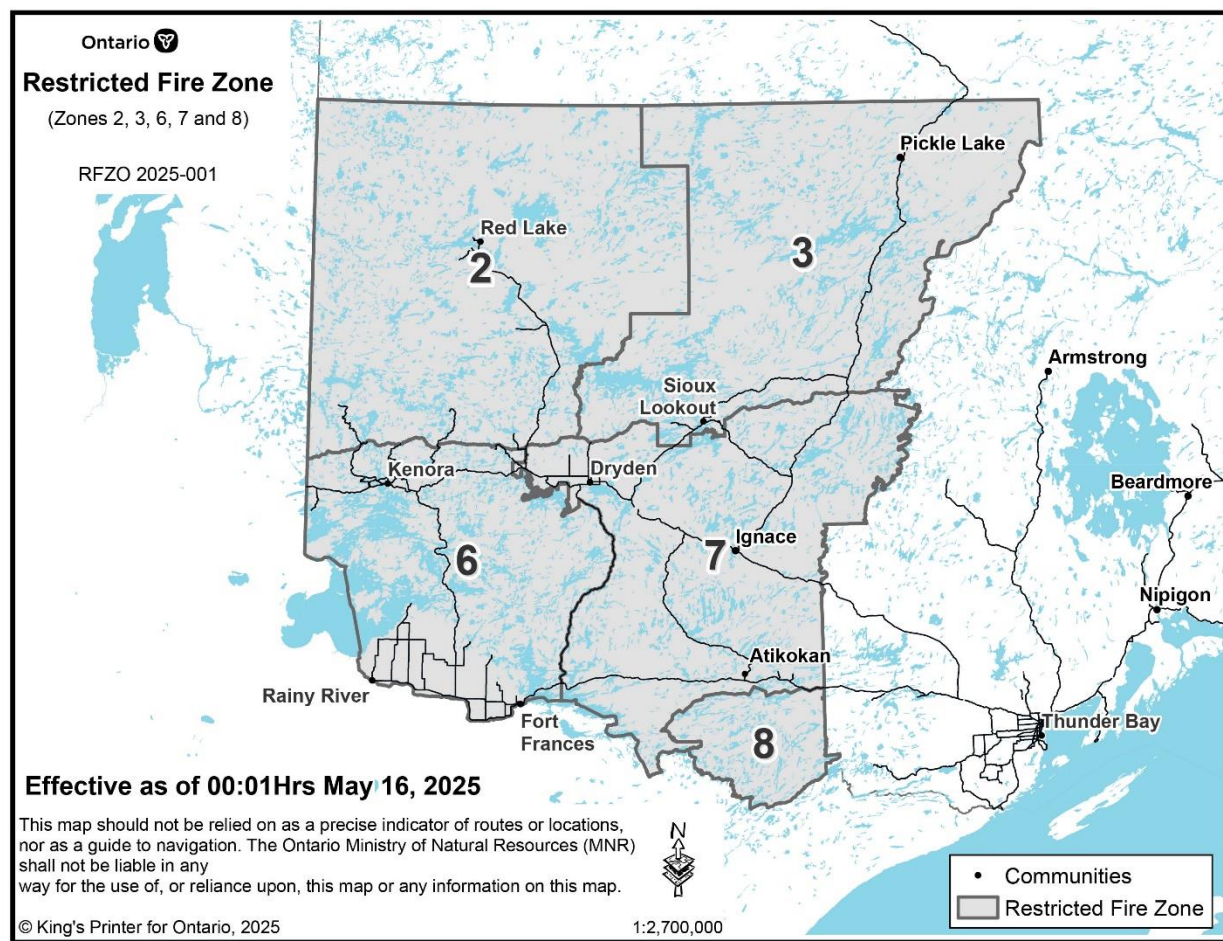
Not under control' can encompass a wide range of fire behaviour from intense, fast moving flames, to a large, smouldering fire area that has yet to see enough firefighting action to ensure it will not grow further. The larger the fire, the more time and resources it will take before that status of control can change.

A fire that is '**being held**' means that under the present conditions and resources assigned to the fire, enough firefighting has taken place that the fire isn't likely to grow any larger.

'Under control' means that enough firefighting has taken place to ensure no further spread of the fire.

The status '**being observed**' describes a fire that does not pose a threat to human lives, property and infrastructure and is monitored without intervention to allow the natural ecological benefits of wildland fires to take place.

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.

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.](#)

What is a **restricted fire zone**?

A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) is a geographic area where the use of open fires, such as campfires or debris burning, is restricted. It is a temporary measure put in place by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to prevent human-caused fires.

What are the RFZ rules?

A Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) may last from a few days to weeks and is lifted as soon as conditions allow.

It is illegal to start any fire within the RFZ area. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$25,000 and three months in jail. If your illegally started fire causes a wildland fire, you may also have to pay for some of the costs of suppressing the fire.

You can still go camping, hiking, fishing, and have fun outdoors, but if you need heat for cooking or warmth, use a portable gas or propane stove.

Portable charcoal equipment, such as BBQs and Hibachis, are illegal except close to a dwelling that you legally occupy or in an organized campground.

Commercial campground operators may allow campfires if certain conditions are met. Please check with the campground.

Report a forest fire

You can help protect Ontario's forests.

If you see smoke or flames, or would like to report an unattended fire, call 310-FIRE (3473) north of the French and Mattawa rivers, or 911 south of the rivers.

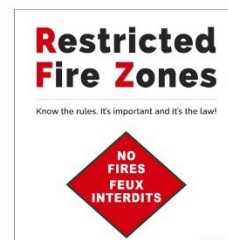
Am I in an RFZ?

To see all current Restricted Fire Zones in effect, visit Ontario.ca/forestfire and select 'Use the interactive map'. There you can zoom in to see borders of the restricted fire zones. Ensure that the 'current restrictions' map layer is activated.

Follow us on Twitter @ONForestFires.

Also, advisories are issued to radio, television and print media.

Locally, look for highly visible green and red *No Fires* signs around roadways, camping spots, sports lodges, gas stations and stores.



Ontario.ca/forestfire



@ONForestFires

Ontario 

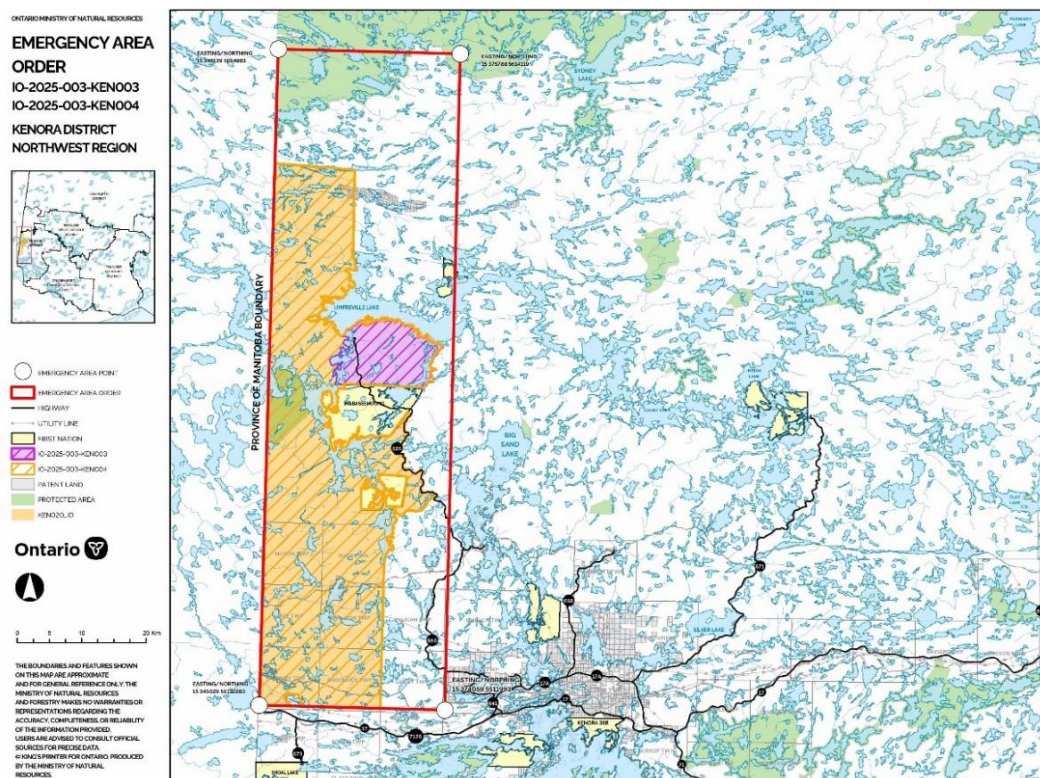
Weather outlook – May 26-June 2



Regional weather for May 26

High pressure remains strong over the Region maintaining sunny to partly sunny skies. Light and variable winds gradually becoming more southeasterly to southerly at 10-15km/h, odd gust over 20km/h. RH's will easily hit the 15-30% range with temperatures hitting the low 20s.

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.

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Visit our website

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

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