



# FOREST FIRE UPDATE

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR **MAY 29, 2025**  
**KENORA 020/KENORA 014**



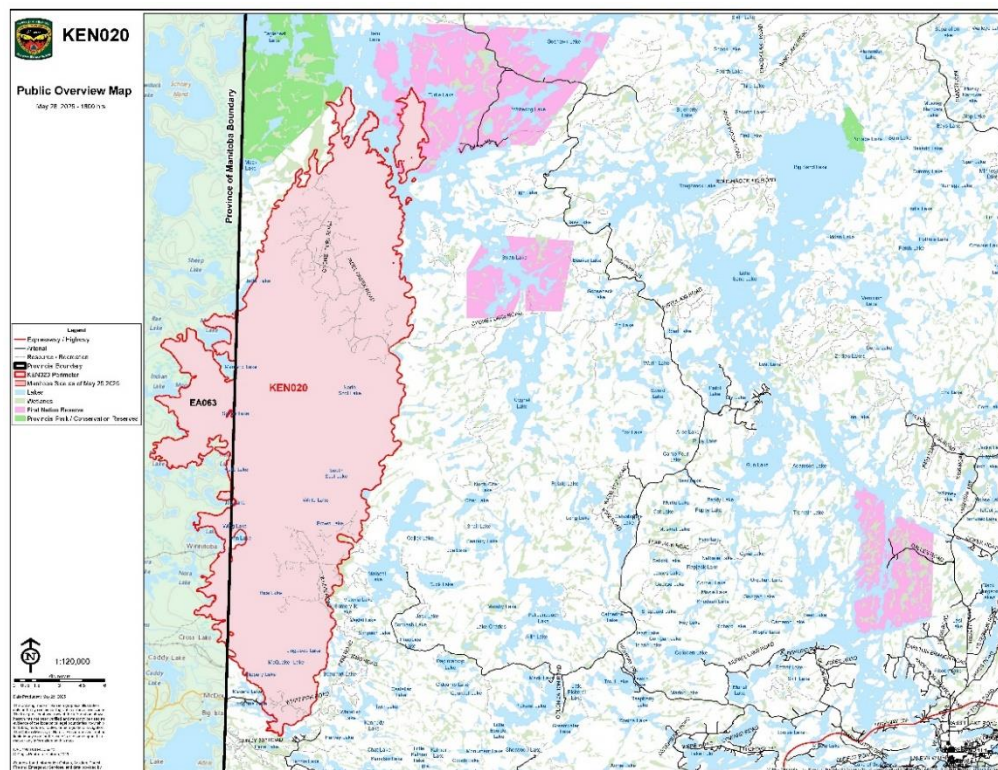
*A heavy helicopter bucketing on the western side of Kenora 20, May 27. Photo by Melanie Wheatley, Fire Behaviour Analyst.*

## Current Fire Situation

- A total of 286 personnel are assigned to Kenora 20 and Kenora 14, comprising firefighters, overhead staff, flight crews and medics.
- A total of 15 helicopters are assigned to Kenora 20 and Kenora 14, with daily bucketing operations ongoing on hotspots.

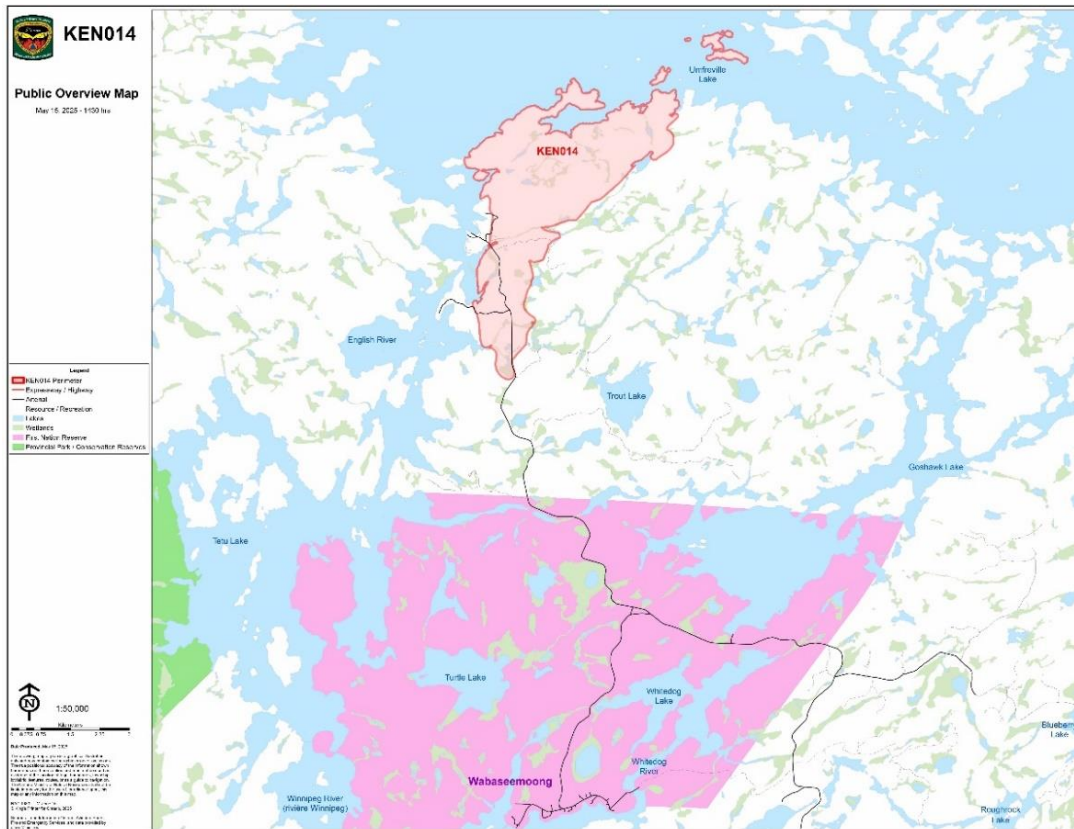
## Kenora 20

- Kenora 20 is now measuring 34,008 hectares in size and is not under control.
- The remapped size includes the entire fire area on both the Ontario and Manitoba sides of the border. The size increase is due to fire growth on the western flank in Manitoba, which has been designated as fire EA063 by Manitoba. The western flank remains the most active area of the fire.
- The Ontario portion of Kenora 20 is measuring 29,729 hectares in size, with fairly minimal fire behaviour observed throughout the day, May 28, partly due to shading from smoke drifting in from the west and northwest.
- No recent fire growth has been observed along the eastern perimeter, but further work is necessary to minimize potential for fire to spot over or breach existing lines as drying continues and winds shift.
- Recent infrared scan results show that suppression efforts by ground crews and bucketing helicopters have been making an impact in priority areas.
- A shift to a westerly flow has brought more smoke into Kenora and surrounding areas. We are expecting increased smoke impacts to the area in this evening, particularly drifting in from Manitoba fire EA061 and EA063.
- The wildland fire hazard remains extreme in the area, with no significant precipitation recorded since the fire was confirmed on May 12.



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

Alison Bezubiak - [affes.inc1-info@ontario.ca](mailto:affes.inc1-info@ontario.ca) / 807-323-3743

AFFES Community Liaison Officer (Wabaseemoong, area Indigenous communities)

Krista Prosser – [Krista.Prosser@ontario.ca](mailto:Krista.Prosser@ontario.ca) / 807-407-9675

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

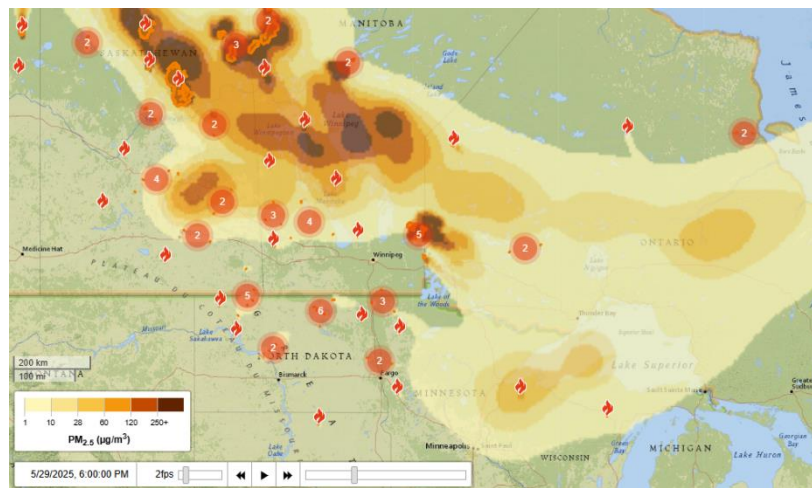
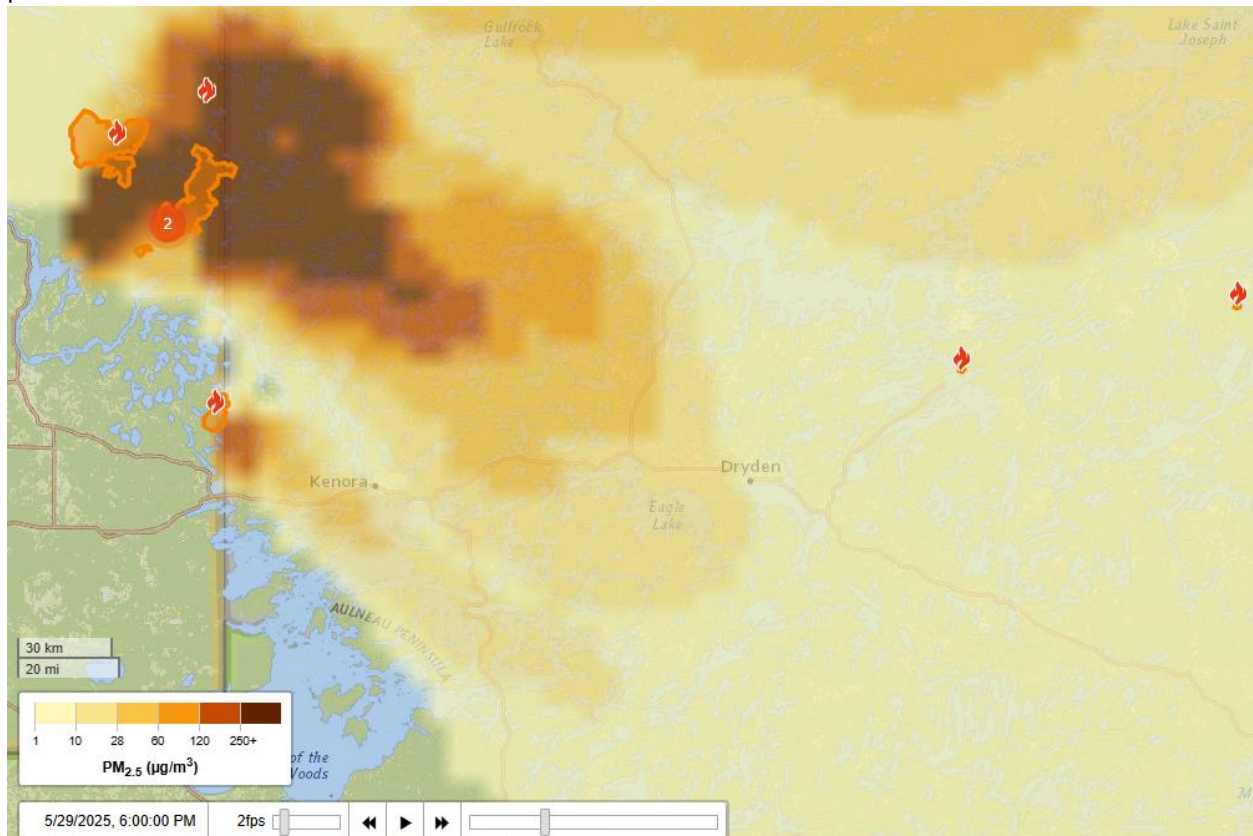
Brittany Bolan – [Brittany.Bolan@ontario.ca](mailto:Brittany.Bolan@ontario.ca) / 807-407-9671



## 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.



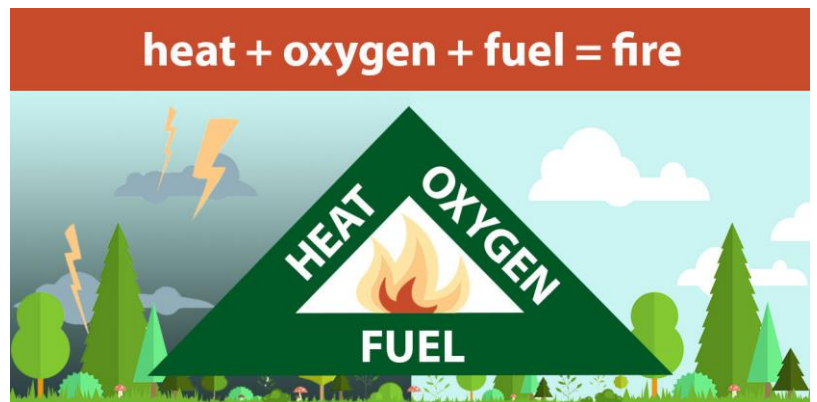
## Wildland Fire Q&A

### Wildland Fire Science

Fire science is the study of how a fire behaves in our natural wildlands. For a fire to start, three things must be present: heat, fuel, and oxygen. This is called the fire triangle - remove any one of these, and a fire can't start or keep burning.

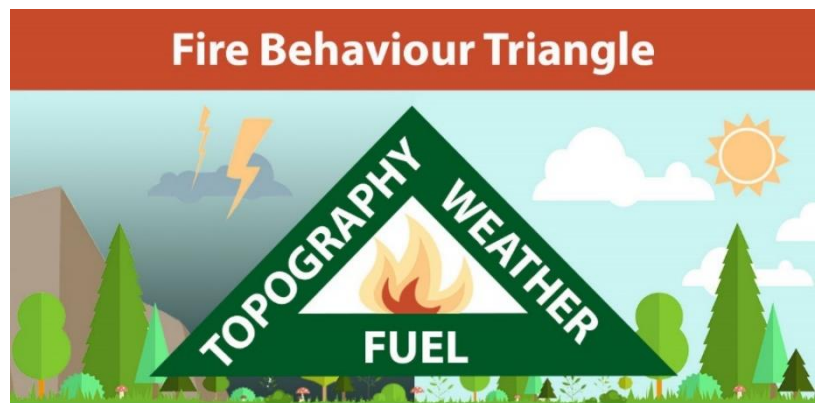
#### Q: How do you break the fire triangle?

A: To put out a fire, one part of the fire triangle - heat, fuel, or oxygen - must be removed. This can be done by cooling the fire with water, smothering it to block oxygen, or removing or treating nearby fuels to stop the fire from spreading.



#### Q: What is fire behaviour?

A: Fire behaviour is the way fuel ignites, flames develop, and fire spreads, and is determined by the interaction of fuels, weather and topography. A wildland fire is impacted by these three interactions.



#### Q: How do fuels affect the way a wildland fire behaves?

A: Fuels affect fire behaviour based on their type, size, arrangement, and moisture content. Smaller, drier, and more continuously arranged fuels - like grasses and twigs - ignite and burn faster, while fuel types like coniferous trees tend to burn more intensely due to their characteristics.

#### Q: How does weather impact wildland fire behaviour?

A: Weather plays a big role in how wildfires behave. Factors like relative humidity, rain, temperature, and especially wind affect how dry fuels are, how fast a fire spreads, and where it might go next. Wind is one of the greatest factors influencing

fire behaviour, impacting both the direction and rate of spread of a wildland fire. It affects the speed at which fuels dry by moving moist air to or away from fuels, and may blow embers starting new fires in another location.

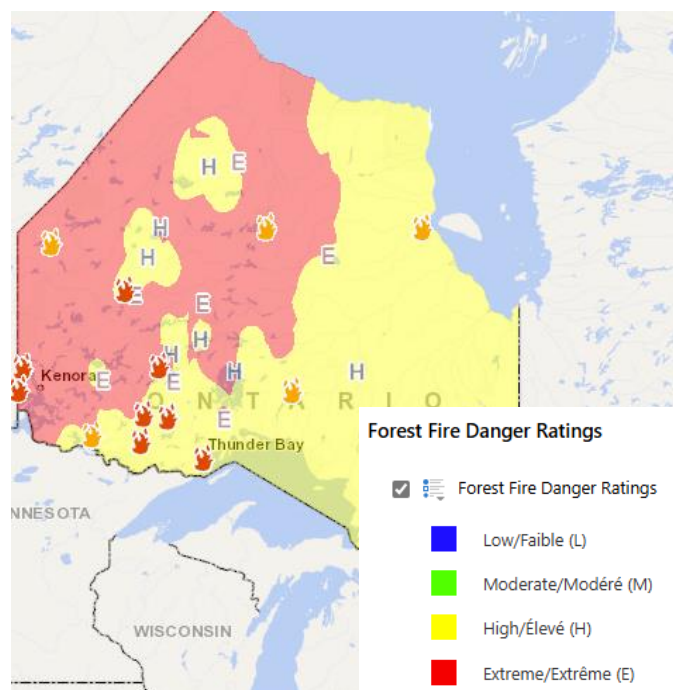
**Q: What exactly is relative humidity?**

A: Relative humidity is a measure of how much moisture is in the air compared to how much it could hold at that temperature.

When humidity is high and temperatures are cooler, there's more moisture in the air, which helps keep grasses, leaves, and other fuels damp—making it harder for fires to start or spread.

When humidity is low and the air is hot, fuels like grass and pine needles dry out quickly. This makes it easier for fires to ignite and spread.

A key warning sign is something called “crossover.” This happens when the temperature (in °C) is equal to or higher than the relative humidity (in %). When we see crossover conditions - especially with dry fuels and wind - fires can spread faster and behave more aggressively.



*Ontario's 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.*

**Q: What is topography and how does it affect wildland fires?**

A: Topography—like hills, slopes, and water bodies—affects how wildfires move. Fires spread faster uphill, especially on sunny, south-facing slopes where fuels are drier, while features like rivers or lakes can slow them down.

## Weather outlook – May 29-June 5



### Regional weather for May 29

Today will be mostly sunny with period of haze and smoke. Winds will be west to northwest at 15-20km/h with gusts 30-40km/h. Daytime highs of 27C with RH values of 20-25%. Winds back to the west overnight and remain at 15-20km/h. Even more smoke moves into the area overnight and RH recovery may only reach 40-50%.

### 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.

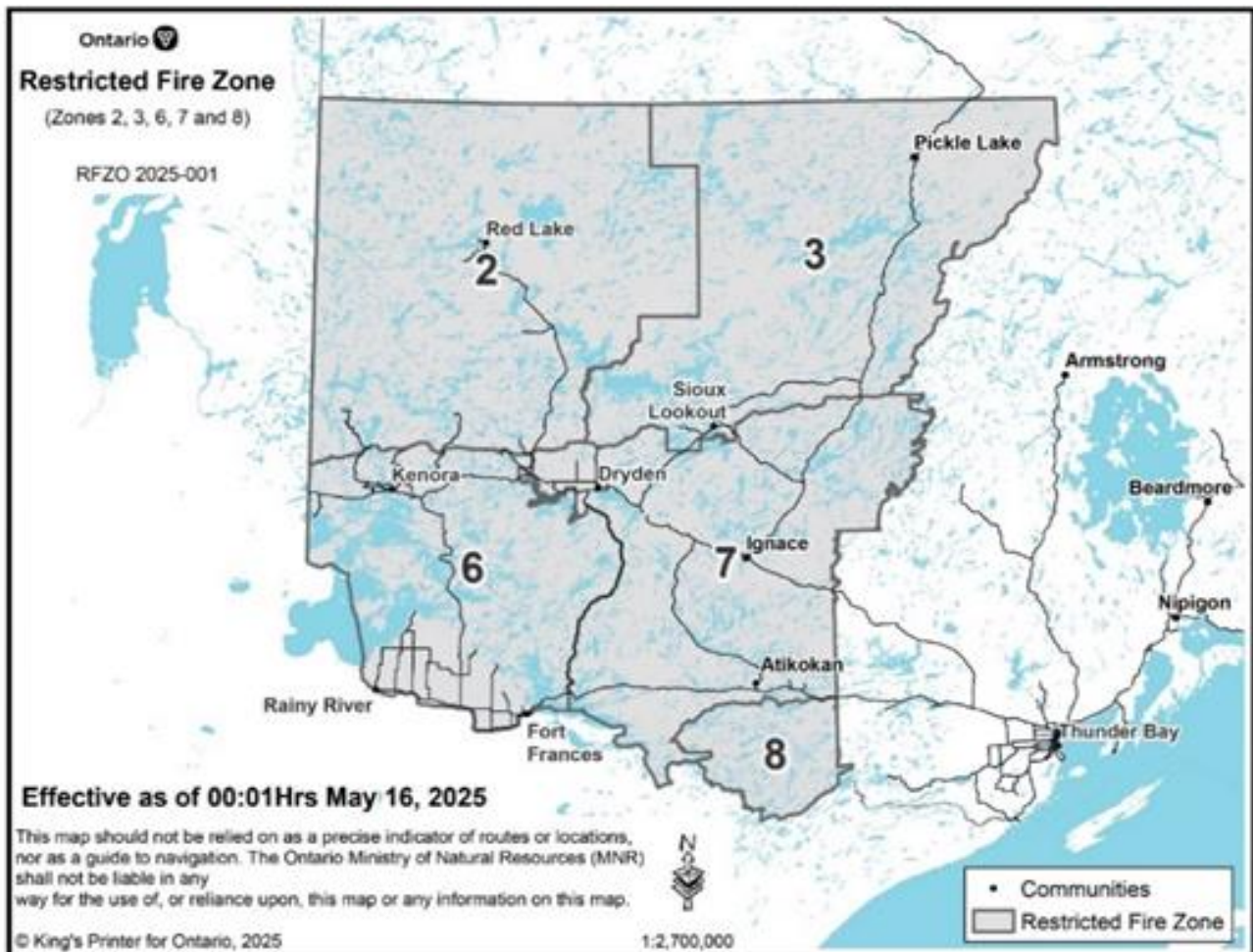
*Effective May 30 at 12:01 am local time the Ministry of Natural Resources will be implementing another Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) for the Northwest Region to include zones 4, 9, 10 and 11. The area impacted by the new RFZ is from south of the west side of St Ignace Island, west along the Canada-U.S.A.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

*Expanded Restricted Fire Zone Map to follow.*

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.

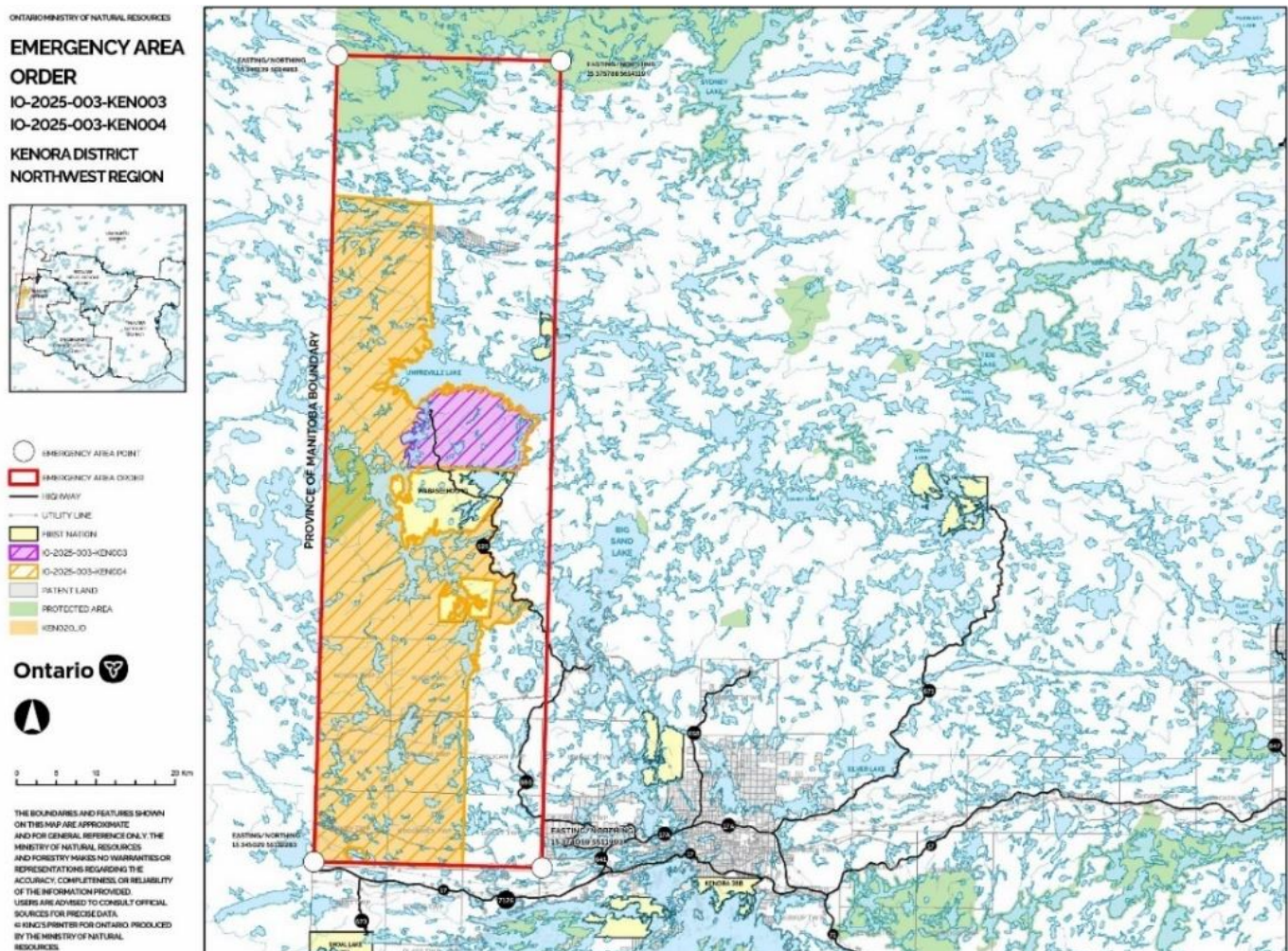
1. All travel and use of roads, including Gundy Road north of Tannis Lake, Pickerel Lake Road beyond the Pelicanpouch access point at km 9, and Cygnet Lake Road, is prohibited unless authorized by a travel permit.
2. All use of lakes and waterways within the Area including the Winnipeg River below Whitedog 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.



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## Visit our website

English - [www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires](http://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires)

French - [www.ontario.ca/fr/page/incendies-de-foret](http://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.liaapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/ForestFireInformationMap/index.html?viewer=FFIM.FFIM>