


Fort McMurray Fire, Fort McMurray AB, Started May 1 2016

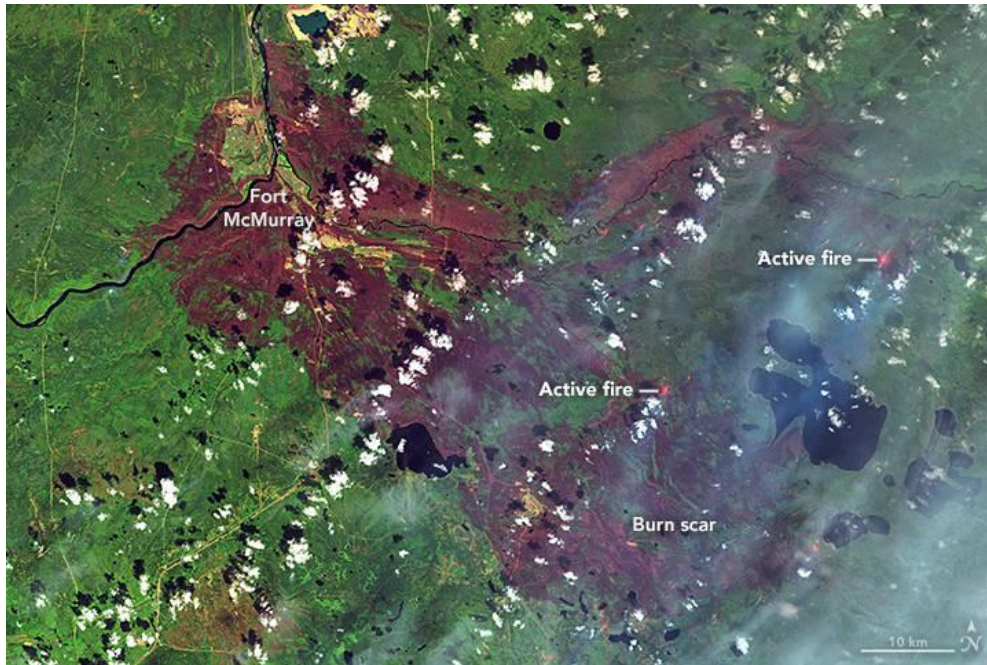
compiled by Miles Epstein and Jalena Bennett, 19 Aug 2023

Contributing Weather Conditions

- From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Fort_McMurray_wildfire: “During the start of the fire, an unusually hot, dry air mass was in place over [Northern Alberta](#), which brought record-setting temperatures to Fort McMurray. On May 3, the temperature climbed to 32.8 °C (91 °F),^[19] accompanied by [relative humidity](#) as low as 12%.^[20] The situation intensified on May 4 when temperatures reached 31.9 °C (89 °F)^[19] and winds gusted to 72 km/h (45 mph).^[21] A natural [El Niño](#) cycle also led to a dry fall and winter season along with a warm spring, leaving a paltry snowpack, which melted quickly. Combined with the high temperatures, this created a “[perfect storm](#)” of conditions for an explosive wildfire, and significantly contributed to the fire's rapid growth.^{[22][23][24][25]”}
 - High temperatures, low relative humidity, and strong winds
 - Dry fuel
 - Conditions worsened *after* fire started allowing an already-existing fire to spread more rapidly

Media photos and video

Image/Video	Caption and Source
 A false-color satellite image showing a large wildfire burn scar. The image is a composite of Landsat 7 data, with shortwave infrared (SWIR) and near-infrared (NIR) bands used to penetrate smoke and clouds. Active fire hotspots are visible as bright red and yellow patches, while the burned areas appear as dark brown and black. A large plume of white smoke is visible on the left side of the image. The surrounding landscape is green, indicating unburned vegetation. A river or road is visible winding through the landscape.	<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Fort_McMurray_wildfire#/media/File:Wildfire_spreads_in_Fort_McMurray.jpg</p> <p>Satellite imagery of the burn scar left by the wildfire on May 4, 2016</p> <p>NASA Earth Observatory image by Joshua Stevens, using Landsat data from the U.S. Geological Survey. Caption by Kathryn Hansen - Cropped from mcmurray_etm_2016125_swir_lrg.jpg on http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view.php?id=87988</p> <p>On May 4, 2016, the the Enhanced Thematic Mapper Plus (ETM+) on the Landsat 7 satellite acquired this false-color image of the wildfire that burned through Fort McMurray in Alberta, Canada. The image combines shortwave infrared, near infrared, and green light (bands 5-4-2). Near- and short-wave infrared help penetrate clouds and smoke to reveal the hot spots associated with active fires, which appear red. Smoke appears white and burned areas appear brown.</p>



<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/fort-mcmurray-fire-continues-in-alberta>

Satellite imagery of the burn scar left by the wildfire on May 12th, 2016. Note how much the fire spread since the last image taken on May 4th (previous image was zoomed in on Fort McMurray).

Credits: NASA Earth Observatory image by Joshua Stevens, using Landsat data from the U.S. Geological Survey

References for the image and caption above: Alberta Government (2016, May 12) [Wildfire Update 13: May 12 at 1:30 p.m.](#) Accessed May 16, 2016.

The [Operational Land Imager](#) (OLI) on the [Landsat 8](#) satellite acquired this image of the burn scar on May 12.



[2016 Fort McMurray wildfire](#). Large flames and heavy smoke surround congested Highway 63 South.

DarrenRD - [File:Landscape view of wildfire near Highway 63 in south Fort McMurray.jpg](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Fort_McMurray_wildfire#/media/File:Landscape view of wildfire near Highway 63 in south Fort McMurray \(cropped\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Fort_McMurray_wildfire#/media/File:Landscape_view_of_wildfire_near_Highway_63_in_south_Fort_McMurray_(cropped).jpg)



<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/05/06/477014138/in-photos-canadas-devastating-fort-mcmurray-wildfires>

The wildfire rages along Highway 63 near Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on Tuesday.

Terry Reith/CBC News via Reuters



Tyra Abo sits on a cot at a makeshift evacuee center in Lac la Biche on Thursday.

Cole Burstson/AFP/Getty Images



Home foundations are all that remain in a residential neighborhood destroyed by a wildfire on Friday in Fort McMurray.

Scott Olson/Getty Images

Swings were burned away in a residential neighborhood destroyed by a wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada on Friday.

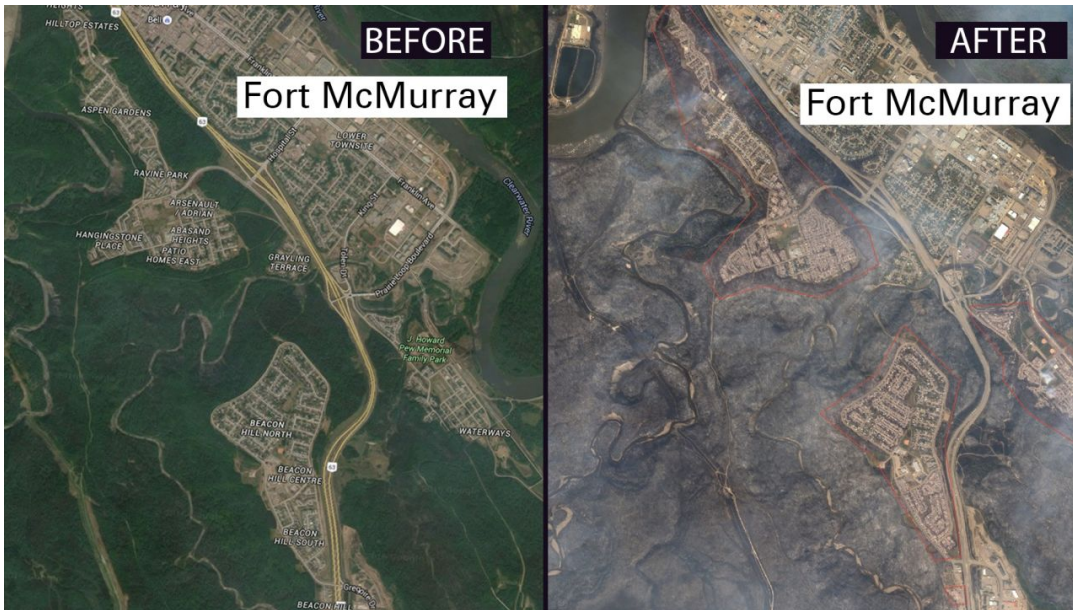
Scott Olson/Getty Images



<https://www.cnn.com/2016/05/09/americas/fort-mcmurray-fire-canada/index.html>

Fort McMurray fire: 2,400 structures gone, 10% of city destroyed

Image: Google Images





Fires burn at the edge of the road Tuesday as evacuating motorists flee Fort McMurray, Alberta. **Jerome Garot** via Instagram

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/fort-mcmurray-wildfire-nasty-dirty-fire-burns-over-24k-acres-n568046>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICLPyhSdPIA>

Fort McMurray wildfire: A timeline of a disaster

News video with many clips of fire (close up/during evacuation) and clips of officials/citizens discussing fire.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E_OLgC4nV0

Harrowing Fort McMurray wildfire escape

News video of dash cam video of person driving out of neighborhood through fire, with interview of Michel Chamberland, who shot the video. Includes dramatic footage of embers falling onto driving cars as they evacuate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sqj2bm1VwF0>

Reporter discussing fire and evacuation, shows fire growing in real time

Caught on camera: Fort McMurray fire erupts behind Global News reporter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vH5MJgU7eY8>

RAW: Video of Fort McMurray fire as it approaches the city

Raw footage of flames

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOC5YGyoGDw>

2016 Fort McMurray fire

[WARNING: EXPLICIT LANGUAGE]

Civilian footage of driving past fire during evacuation



A devastated neighbourhood in Fort McMurray, Alta., on Friday, May 13, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jason Franson
<https://www.mymcmurray.com/2017/04/27/one-year-later-a-look-at-the-fort-mcmurray-wildfire-and-rebuild-by-the-numbers/>

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/ishmaeldaro/satellite-photos-fort-mcmurray-before-and->

Interactive tool to show before and after satellite photos of

after;

Fort McMurray



An aerial photo of Highway 63 south of Fort McMurray, Alberta, shows smoke from vast wildfires on May 5, 2016. MCPL VanPutten/Canadian Armed Forces/Handout via Reuters
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/05/20/the-fort-mcmurray-fires-stunning-pulse-of-carbon-to-the-atmosphere/>



Flames rise Tuesday in an industrial area south of Fort McMurray, Alberta, all of which was under a mandatory evacuation order. **CBC News / Reuters**
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/fort-mcmurray-wildfire-80-000-evacuated-over-out-control-blaze-n567371>



A mobile phone image of the wildfire raging through the Canadian city of Fort McMurray on 3 May. Photograph: [Twitter.com/Jerome Garot/EPA](https://twitter.com/Jerome_Garot)
<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/16/fort-mcmurray-alberta-canada-worlds-most-fire-prone-cities>