

# Climate Change and Forest Fires in Alberta

What might the future  
look like? .....



More favourable  
conditions for  
wildfires.



Longer fire season.



Fires that are more  
difficult to control.



An increase in the  
average area  
burned.

## Did you Know?

\$ The most expensive natural catastrophe in Canadian history was the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, costing nearly \$4 billion.

Forest fire and succession cycles are a natural aspect of Alberta's boreal region. However, warming temperatures and a changing climate create perfect wildfire conditions with drier fuels, longer fire seasons and more lightning strikes.

Pine beetles are native to western North America, but have been able to expand their range further north-west into Alberta as our winters shorten and warm-up. We have seen devastating outbreaks throughout British Columbia and Alberta as a result. Scientists have found that wildfires are more likely to ignite in trees recently killed by pine beetles.



Wildfire hazards can be reduced at the community level by building structures with less-flammable materials, pruning trees back near homes, and planning development with wildfires in mind. [Learn more about how to FireSmart your community >>>](#)

