

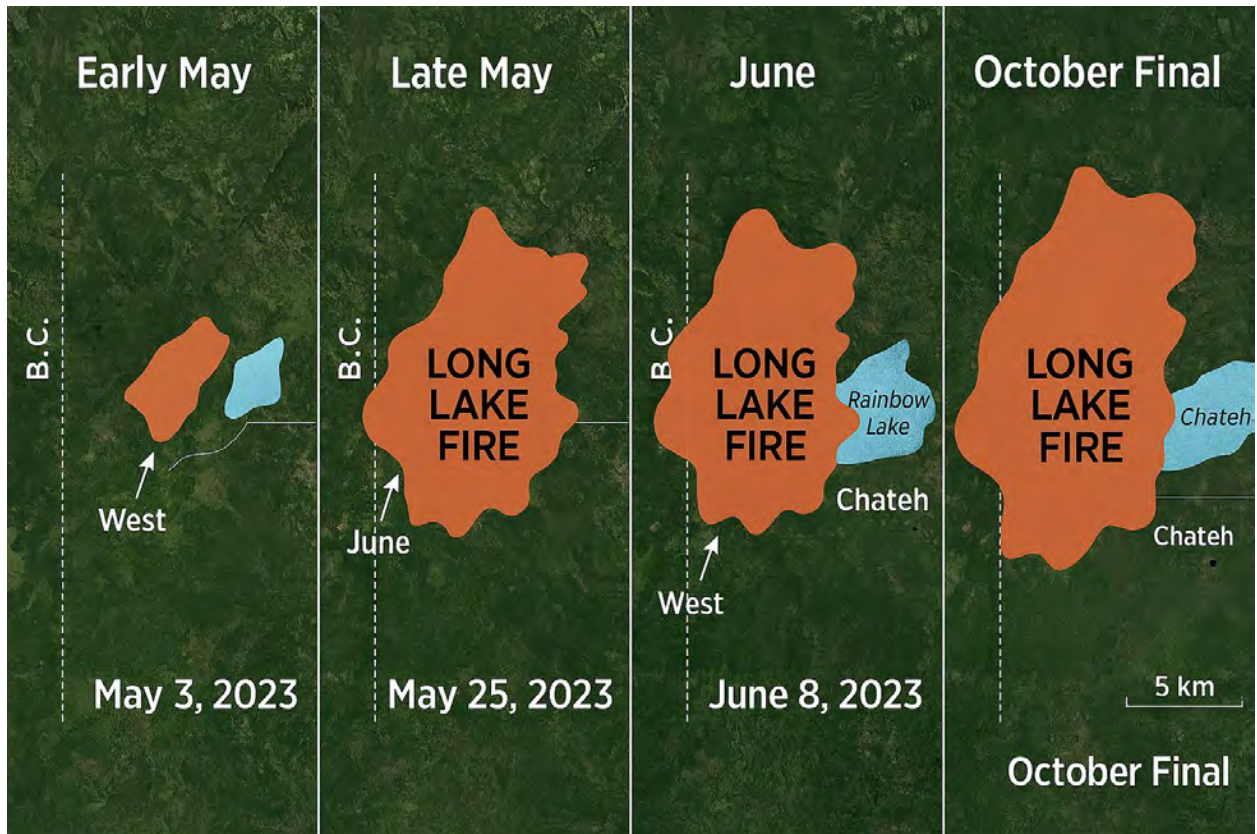
Appendix B

Canadian Wildfires Descriptions

*Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2015 8-Hour Ozone (O₃)
National Ambient Air Quality Standard
(NAAQS)*

Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana

1. Long Lake Fire (May 23, 2023, May 30, 2023)



The Long Lake Fire began on May 3, 2023, on the southern edge of the Rainbow Lake airport runway in northern Alberta. The ignition was considered likely human-caused, as flames spread immediately into surrounding grass and black spruce forest, triggering rapid expansion in its first days. The fire grew from initial ignition to 17,000 hectares in just four days, ultimately threatening the community of Rainbow Lake. Through May and June, shifting winds pushed the fire toward the British Columbia border, forcing evacuation orders and requiring extensive suppression efforts including more than 100 firefighters, helicopters, heavy equipment, and controlled burn-off operations. By June 8, the fire reached 152,559 hectares, and by late October 2023 it was being held at 205,938 hectares, making it one of Alberta's largest fires of the season.

2. Paskwa Fire (May 23, 2023, May 30, 2023)



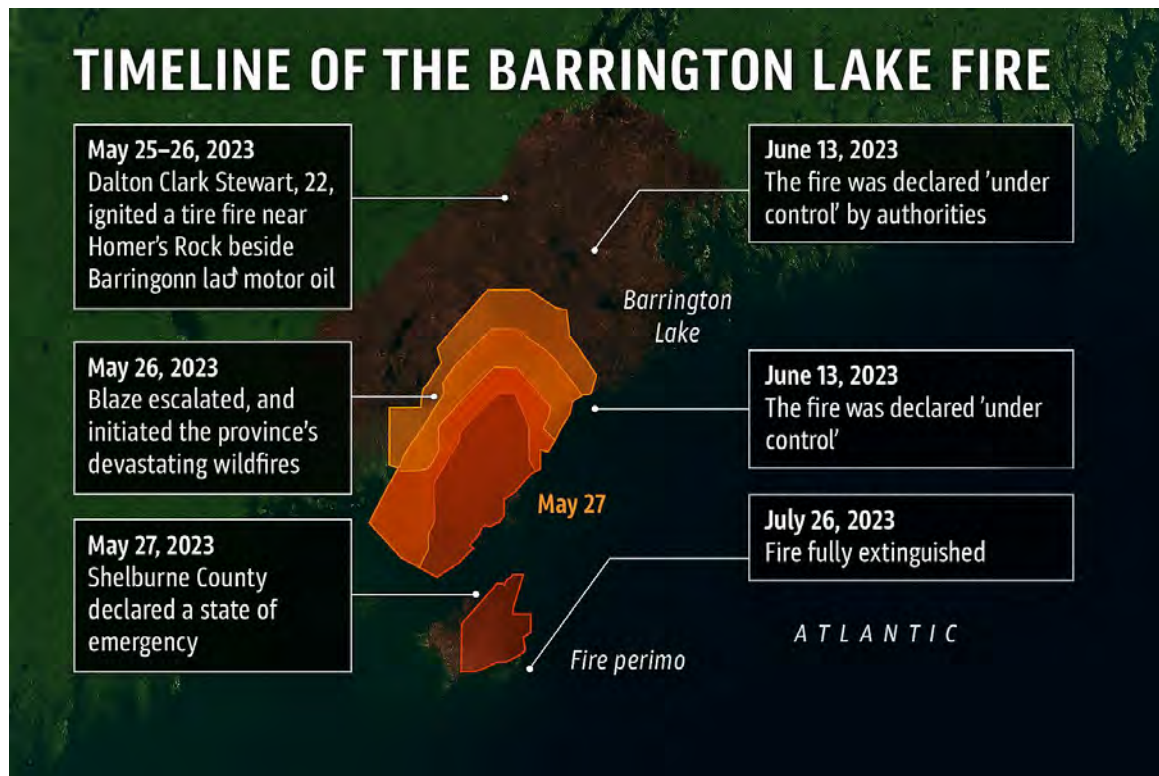
The Paskwa Fire ignited on May 2, 2023, near Fox Lake in northern Alberta, likely sparked by a lightning strike that occurred during early May storms. The fire rapidly grew under hot, dry, and windy conditions, expanding to 16,400 hectares by May 7, and later crossing into Wood Buffalo National Park. It caused catastrophic destruction in Fox Lake, destroying more than 300 buildings and forcing large-scale evacuations by road, barge, and aircraft. Through May and early June, the fire continued growing, peaking at approximately 93,311 hectares, before extensive multi-agency suppression and winter–spring hotspot removal eventually allowed it to be declared extinguished on June 10, 2024.

3. Shaw Fire (May 23, 2023, May 30, 2023, July 23 and 25, 2023)



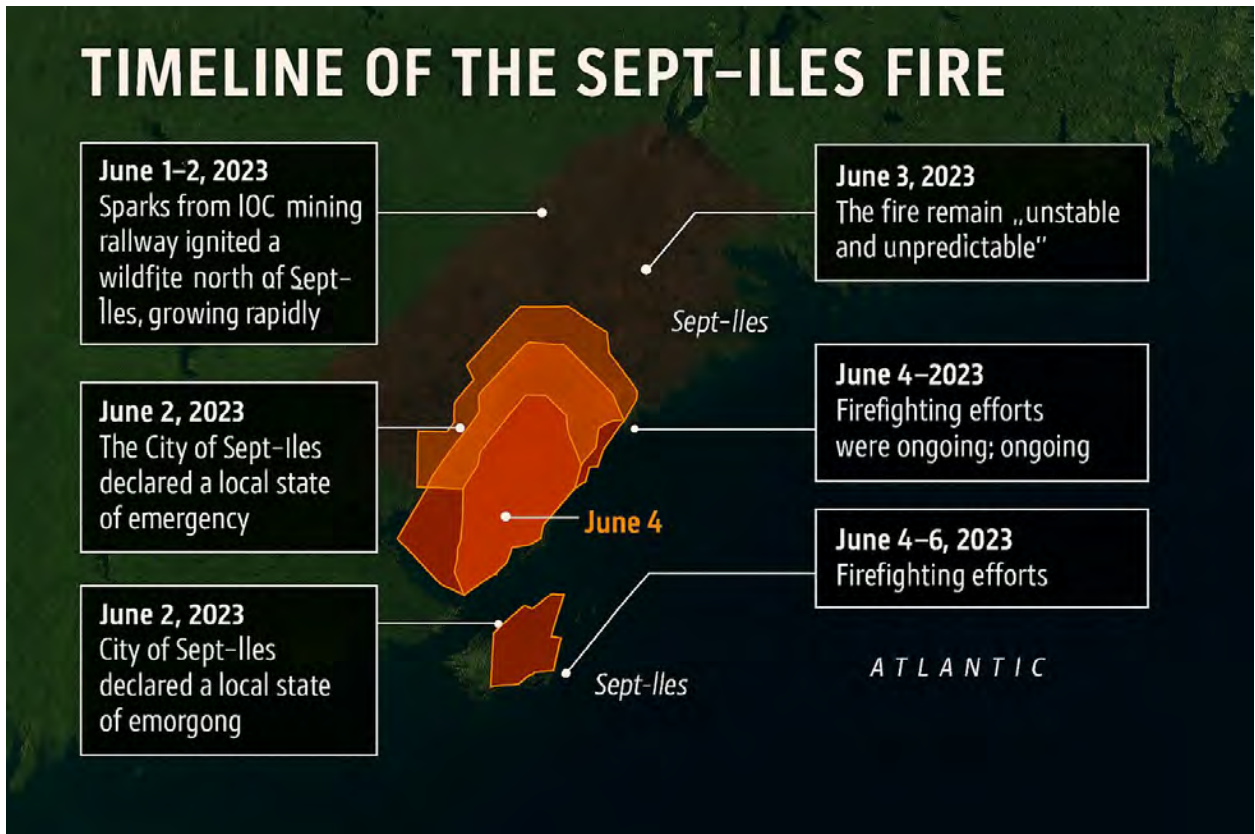
The Shaw Fire began on May 4, 2023, between Buffalo Narrows and Île-à-la-Crosse in northwestern Saskatchewan. Its ignition source was not confirmed, though the 2023 season featured widespread lightning and drought conditions. It quickly grew into the province's largest wildfire of the year, covering 186,420 hectares, threatening communities, highways, and SaskPower infrastructure. Its rapid expansion forced partial evacuations of Buffalo Narrows and surrounding communities, along with power disruptions affecting thousands of residents. This fire also heavily impacted the Sakitawak Conservation Area, burning extensive boreal forest habitat.

4. Barrington Lake Fire (May 30, 2023, June 2 and 3, 2023)



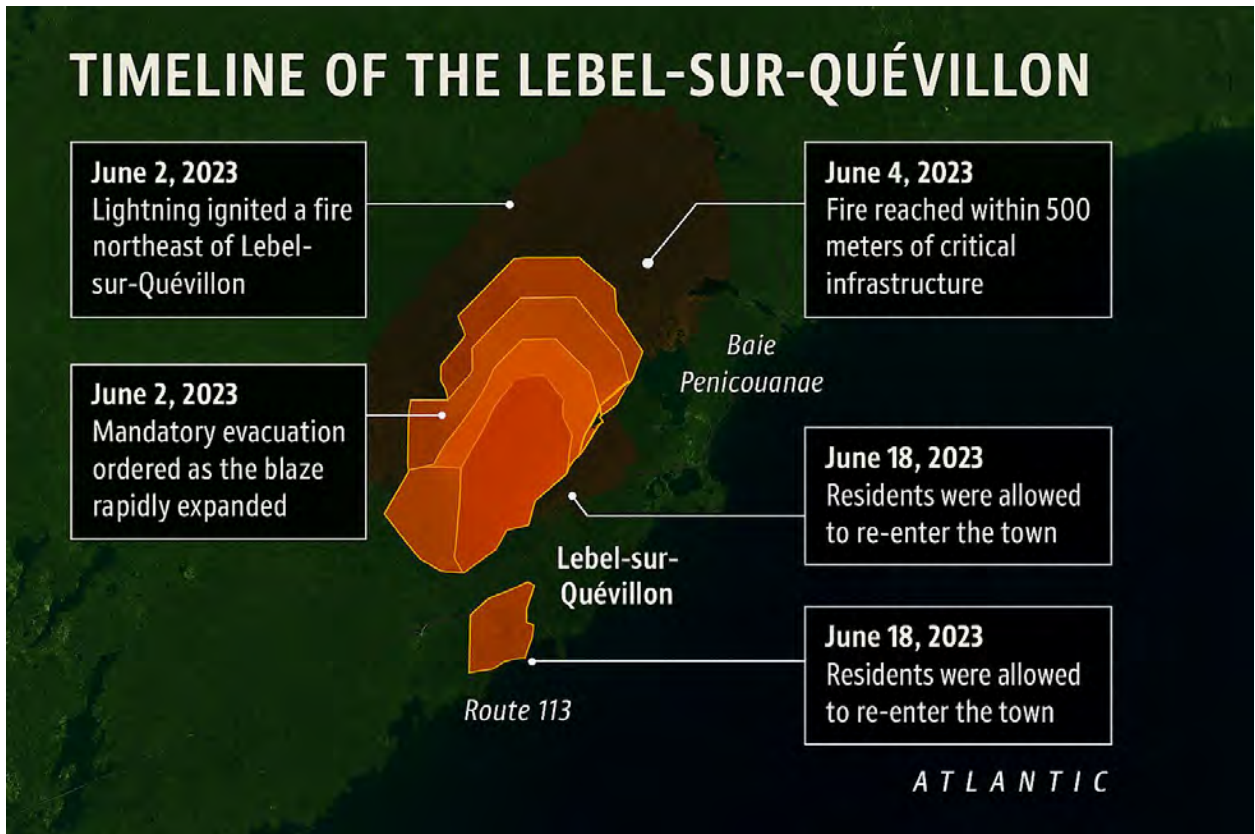
The Barrington Lake Fire began between May 25–26, 2023 in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, ignited by an intentionally set tire fire that was not properly extinguished. Drought-stricken fuels enabled the fire to spread rapidly, forcing the evacuation of more than 6,000 residents as it expanded into a wind-driven, fast-moving blaze. By late May, towering flames caused widespread destruction, ultimately burning between 23,000–23,379 hectares and destroying around 60 homes and over 150 outbuildings. After weeks of intense suppression—including out-of-province assistance—the fire was brought under control by June 13 and fully extinguished on July 26, 2023.

5. Sept-Îles Fire (June 2 and 3, 2023)



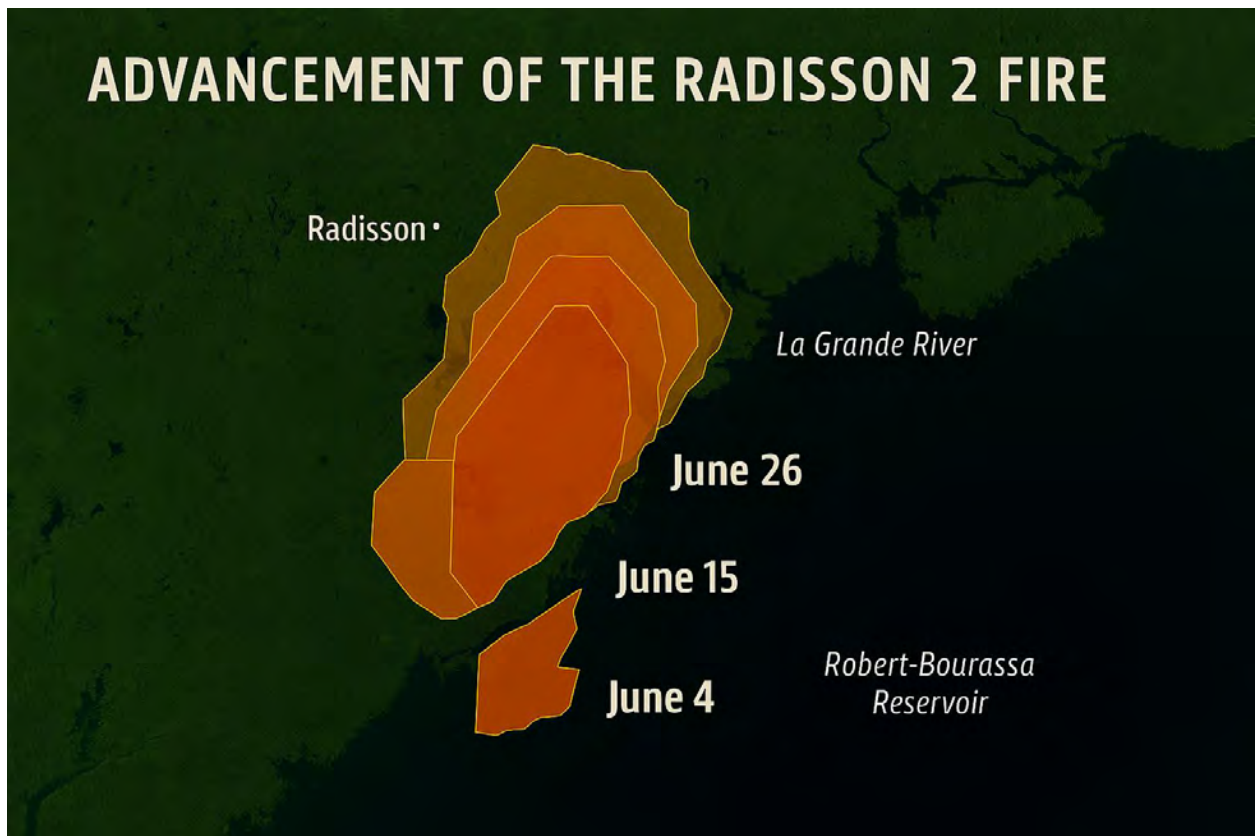
The Sept-Îles Fire ignited on June 1, 2023, northwest of the city of Sept-Îles, Quebec, likely caused by sparks from a moving railcar along the IOC railway line. Driven by severe drought conditions and strong winds, the fire expanded rapidly toward populated areas including Malienam, Moisie, and Lac-Daigle, prompting evacuation orders for thousands of residents. Over several days, heavy smoke affected the region while crews conducted aerial suppression and structural protection. The fire ultimately burned an estimated 12,000–15,000 hectares before stabilizing in mid-June.

6. Lebel-sur-Quévillon (LSQ) Fire (June 2 and 3, 2023)



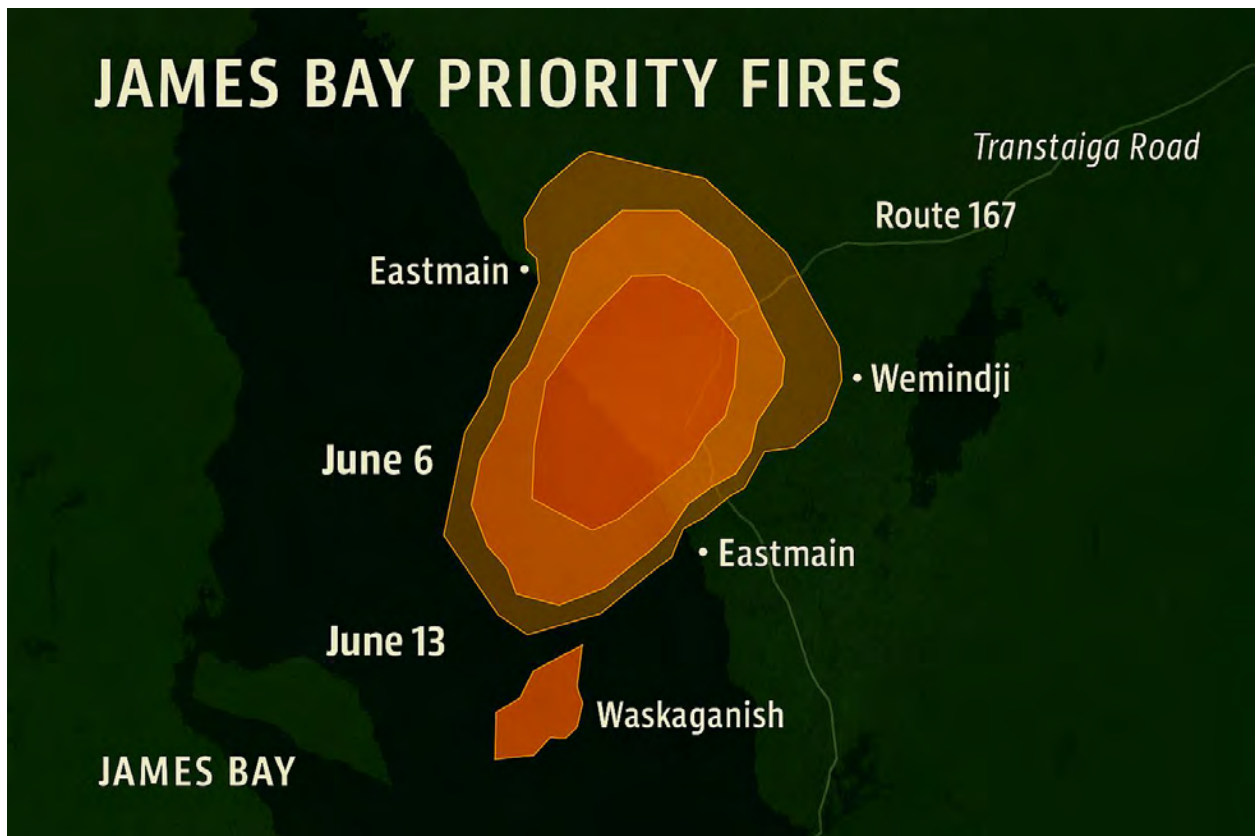
Ignited by lightning, the Lebel-sur-Quévillon Fire started in early June 2023 in north-central Quebec, during one of the province's worst drought periods on record. Multiple lightning-caused ignitions merged into a massive fire complex that became the largest wildfire in Quebec in 2023, burning approximately 481,991 hectares. The fire prompted full evacuation of the town of Lebel-sur-Quévillon, threatened the Nordic Kraft pulp mill, and required significant aerial and ground firefighting resources. Through June and July, it expanded rapidly before weather shifts allowed for improved containment.

7. Radisson 2 Fire (June 2 and 3, 2023)



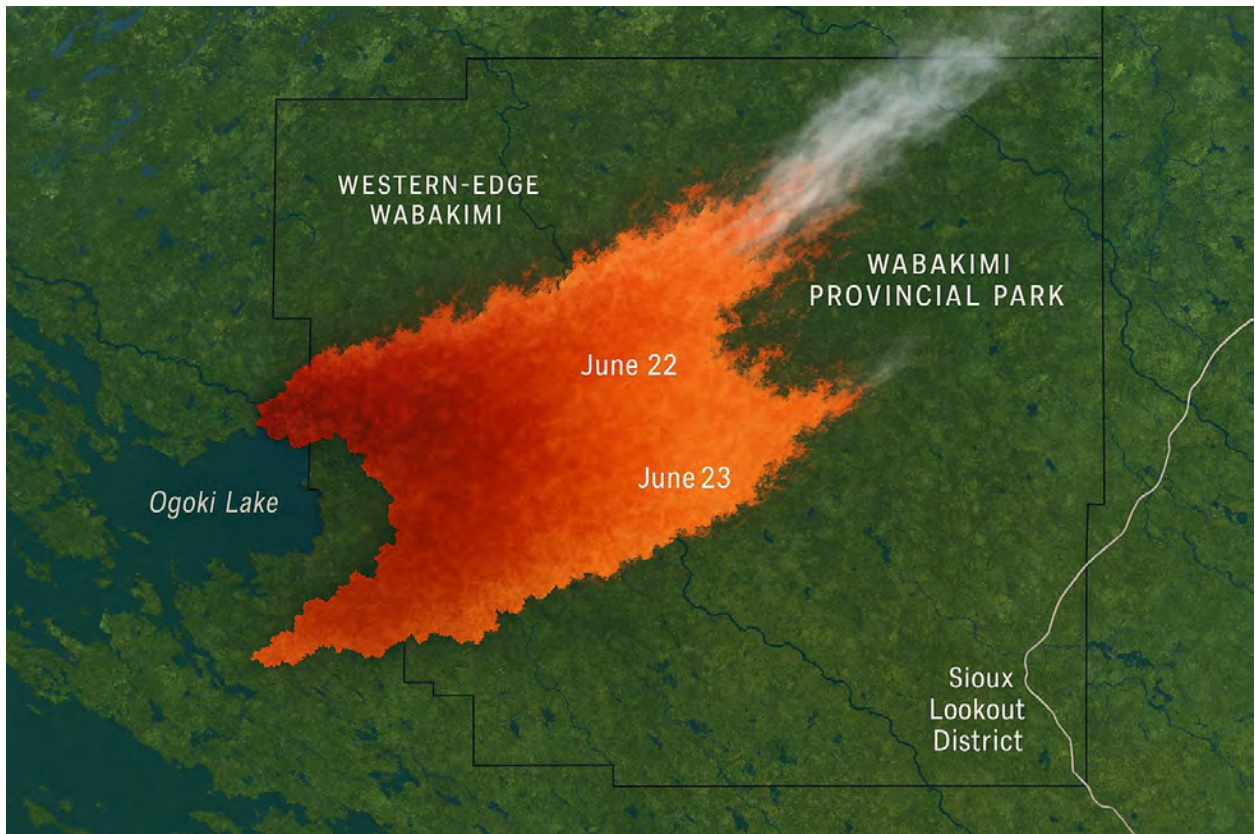
The Radisson 2 wildfire ignited in early June 2023 in the subarctic region north of the La Grande hydroelectric complex in Quebec, caused by extensive lightning storms that ignited more than 180 fires in a single day. The fire spread across remote black spruce forest, expanding dramatically between June 5–26 and ultimately burning ~322,636 hectares, becoming Quebec's second-largest wildfire of 2023. Although remote, it threatened key access routes to Hydro-Québec infrastructure, requiring continual monitoring and protective actions.

8. James Bay Priority Fires (June 10, 2023, June 18 and 19, 2023, June 21, 2023)



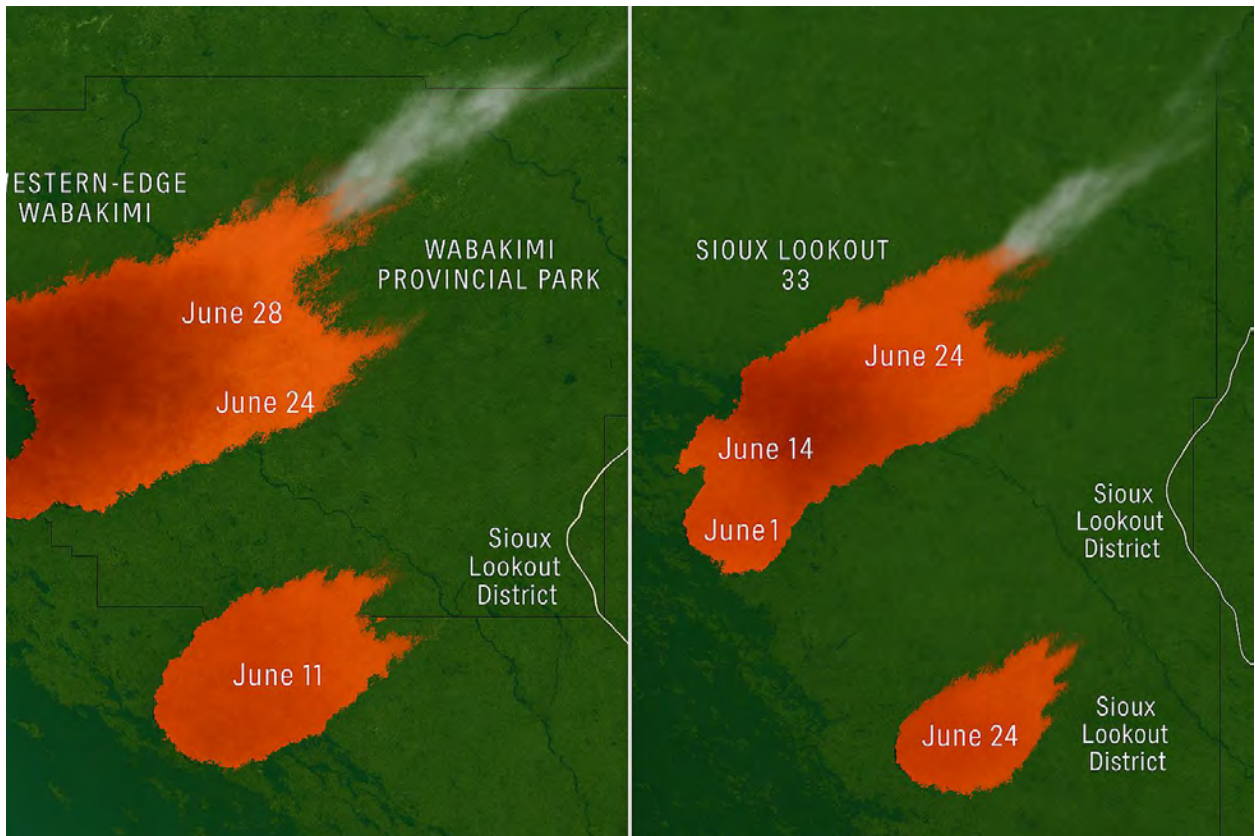
The James Bay Priority Fires began on June 1, 2023, when a historic lightning outbreak ignited 182 separate fires across northern Quebec, many near the Cree communities of Eastmain, Wemindji, and Waskaganish. Extreme drought, high winds, and low humidity allowed several fires to expand rapidly, with many reaching 20,000–100,000+ hectares. While no full evacuations occurred, communities faced days of alerts, smoke, and threats to evacuation roads and hydroelectric corridors. The fires stabilized in mid-June following rainfall.

9. Western-edge Wabakimi Fire (June 18 and 19, 2023, July 4, 2023)



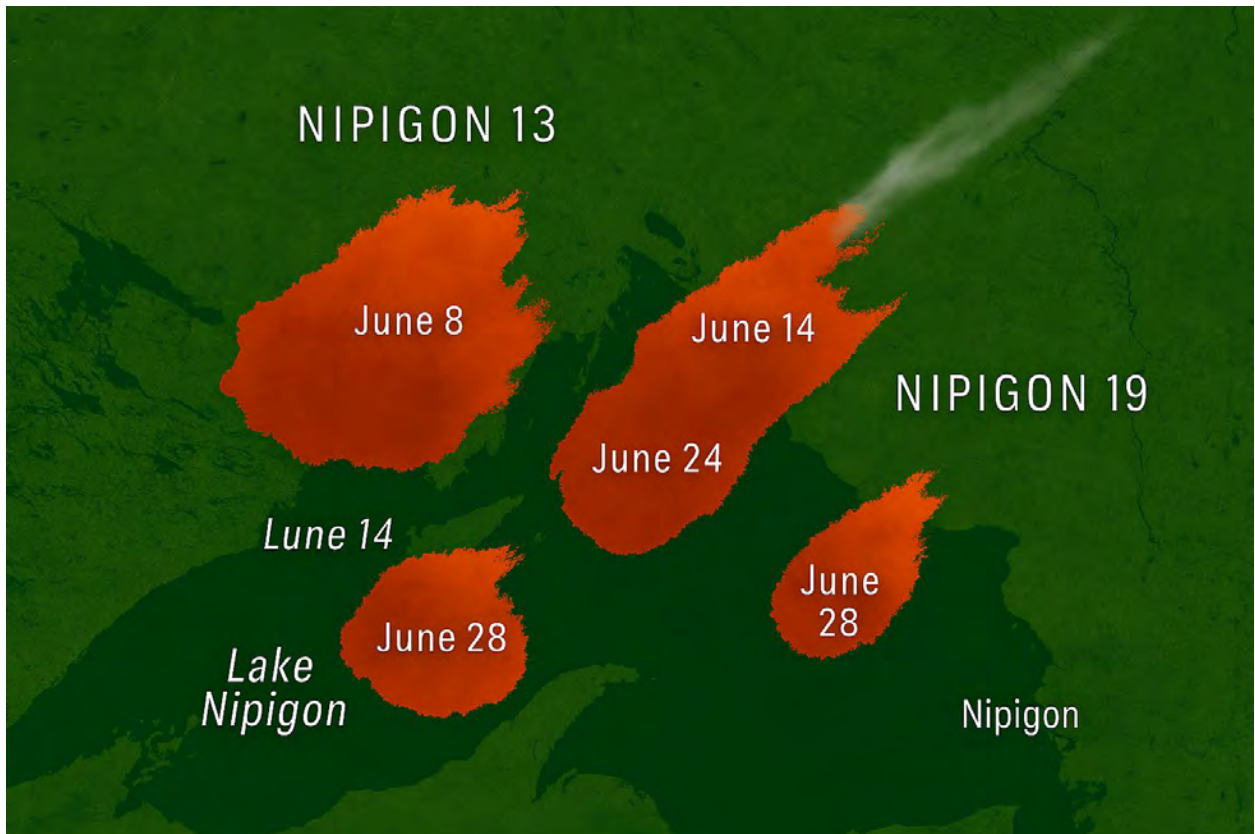
The Western-edge Wabakimi Fire began in early June 2023 along the western boundary of Wabakimi Provincial Park in northwestern Ontario. Although the exact ignition source was not publicly confirmed, reports do not identify whether lightning or human activity caused the blaze. The fire grew rapidly through late June, reaching approximately 41,000 hectares by June 24, and was listed as “not under control” due to aggressive fire behaviour and continuous hot, dry conditions. By June 28, official assessments confirmed the size had increased to 41,548 hectares, with satellite imagery showing dense smoke plumes and numerous hotspots along the park’s border.

10. Sioux Lookout 33 Fire (June 18 and 19, 2023, July 4, 2023)



The Sioux Lookout 33 wildfire was discovered on June 11, 2023, near the western edge of Wabakimi Provincial Park and quickly became one of northwestern Ontario's major "Fires of Note." Although the ignition cause was never formally identified, the region was experiencing significant lightning-driven ignition events during this period. The fire displayed rapid expansion through June and early July, growing from an early estimate of 41,548 hectares to 60,394 hectares by July 6, remaining "not under control." Suppression efforts included bulldozer guards, hose lines, and helicopter bucket operations. The fire ultimately reached 62,300 hectares before being declared fully extinguished in October 2023.

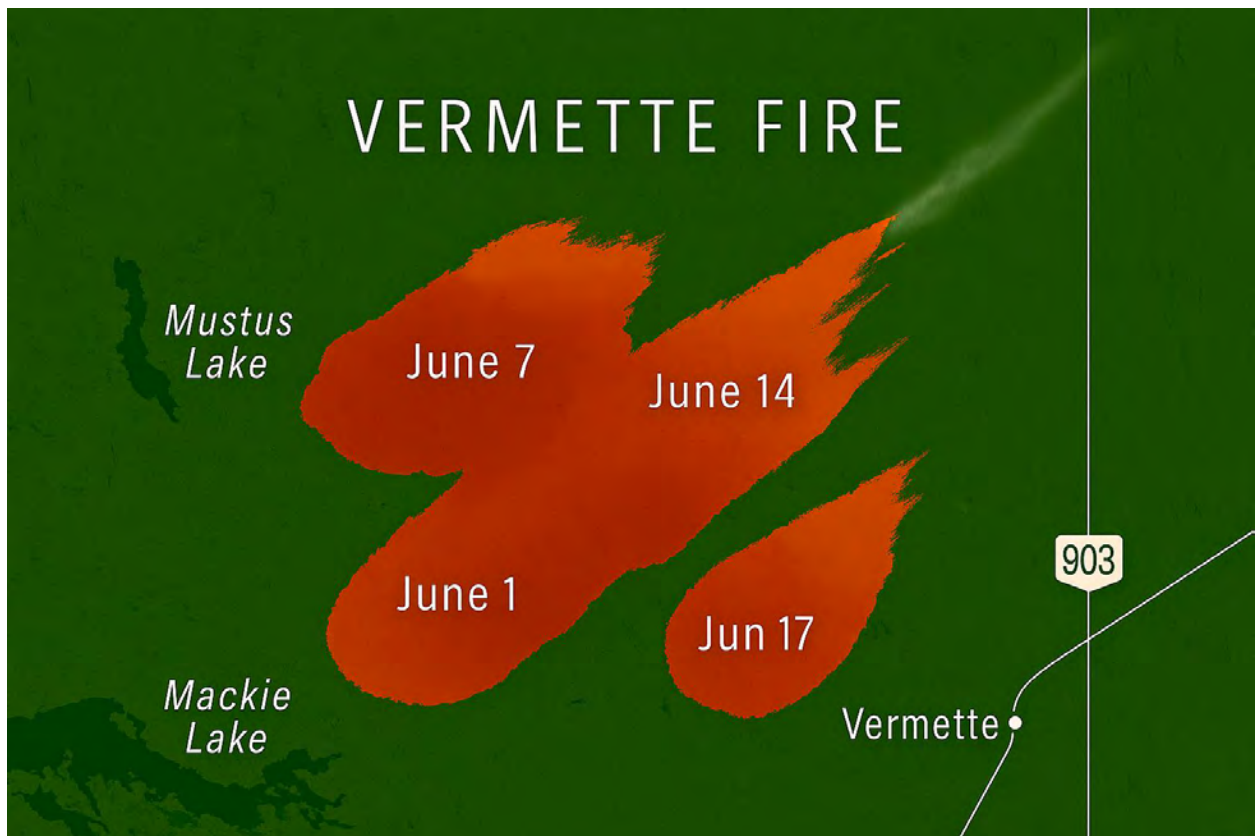
11. Lake Nipigon 13 and 19 Fires (June 18 and 19, 2023, July 4, 2023)



The Nipigon 13 wildfire ignited in mid-June 2023 west of Ogoki Lake, northwest of Lake Nipigon. Its ignition source was not reported, though conditions at the time strongly favored lightning-caused fires across the region. By June 19, the fire had already grown to 3,077 hectares and remained “not under control,” later expanding dramatically to 37,868 hectares by July 6 as it persisted under hot, dry weather. Nipigon 13 was designated a Fire of Note, prompting value protection, helicopter bucket drops, and installation of hose and dozer lines to defend vulnerable infrastructure.

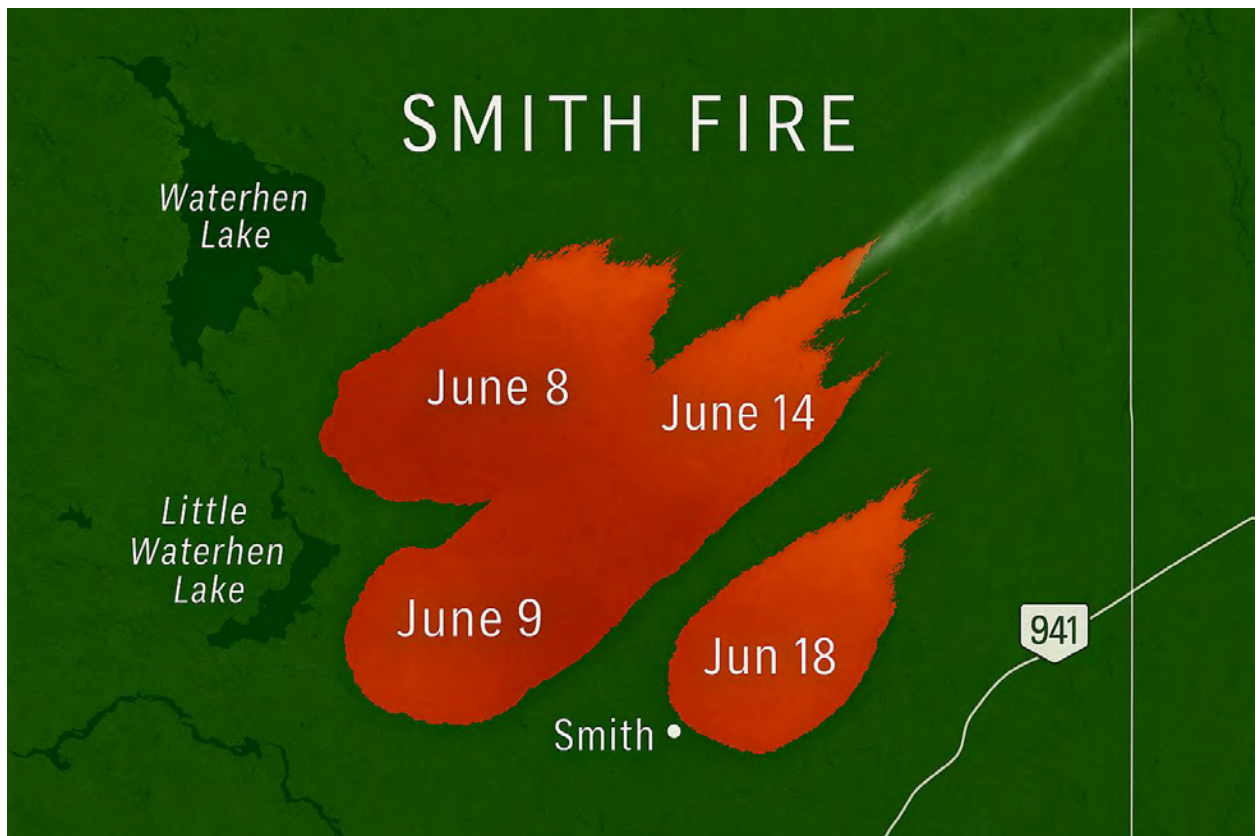
The Nipigon 19 wildfire was first reported on June 13, 2023, northwest of Ogoki Lake near Lake Nipigon. Initially only 6 hectares and uncontained, the fire expanded steadily through mid-June, reaching 444 hectares by June 19 and continuing to grow under active burning conditions. By July 6, the fire had reached 9,143 hectares with no containment reported. Like Nipigon 13, Nipigon 19 was identified as a Fire of Note, with suppression crews utilizing hose lines, helicopter bucket operations, and value-protection strategies to slow its spread. The ignition cause was not confirmed but was likely lightning-related given regional patterns.

12. Vermette Fire (July 23 and 25, 2023)



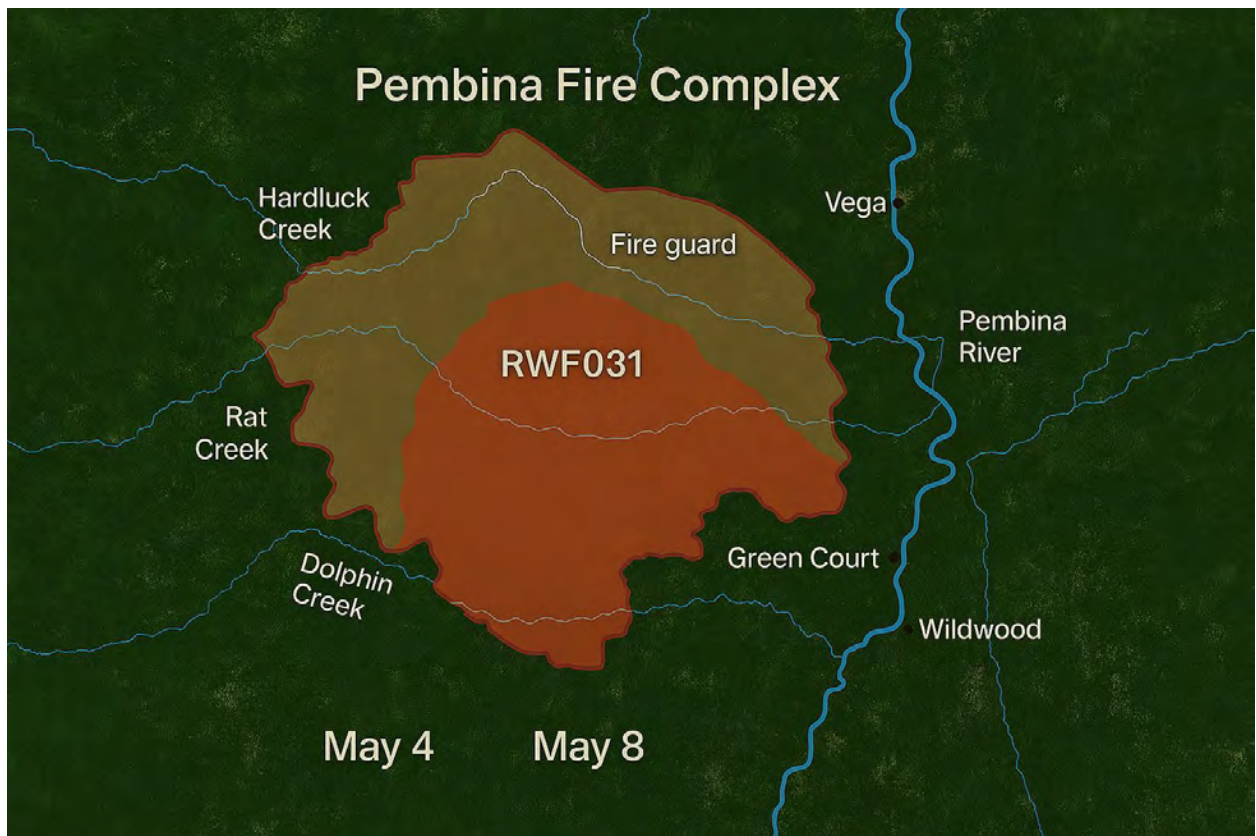
The Vermette Fire (designated “23BN-VERMETTE”) ignited on April 29, 2023, southwest of Dillon, Saskatchewan—near Dillon, St. George’s Hill, and Michel Village. Classified as a human-caused wildfire, it rapidly expanded to cover 88,446 hectares as of June 11, 2023. Firefighting efforts included Type 1, 2, and 3 crews, heavy equipment, helicopters, and airtanker operations, with a focus on protecting communities and key transport routes such as Highway 925.

13. Smith Fire (July 23 and 25, 2023)



The Smith Fire, located north of Pinehouse, was noted in mid-May 2023. By May 18, it had grown to 103,624 hectares. While the exact start date and ignition source were not publicly detailed in available sources, its rapid growth during dry spring conditions suggests a combination of weather and forest fuel factors.

14. Pembina Fire (August 3, 2023)



The Pembina Fire Complex was first detected on May 4, 2023, this human-caused blaze was designated as a full-response incident. By mid-July, it had consumed approximately 216,197 acres (~87,500 hectares) under active suppression operations that included heavy equipment, aircraft, and extensive fireguard construction.

15. St. Mary's River Fire (August 3, 2023)



The St. Mary's River Fire was discovered on July 17, 2023, (St. Mary's) First Nation in British Columbia, caused by a downed power line. Winds up to 50 km/h drove rapid expansion from 20 to 100 hectares within hours, later reaching ~800 hectares. The fire destroyed several homes on reserve lands, forced evacuations across multiple neighborhoods, and temporarily disrupted operations at the Cranbrook airport.

16. Shoe Fire (June 11 and 12, 2025, July 2, 2025, July 14, 2025)



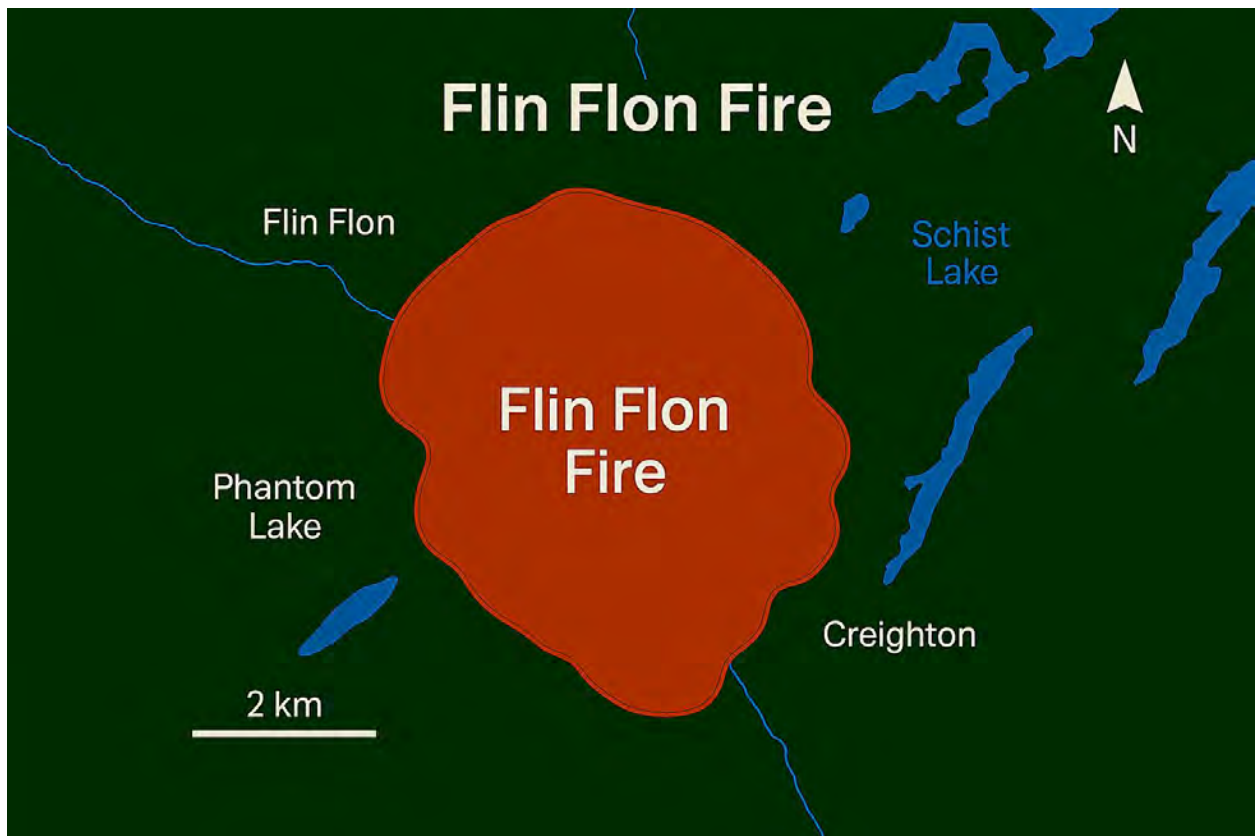
The Shoe Fire was discovered on May 7, 2025, near Lower Fishing Lake in Narrow Hills Provincial Park, Saskatchewan, and was classified as human-caused. Within weeks it developed into the largest wildfire in the province for 2025, eventually burning ~565,701 hectares and prompting evacuations around East Trout Lake, Piprell Lake, and other recreational areas. It destroyed cabins, park infrastructure, and critical administrative buildings before shifting winds and major suppression efforts slowed its progress.

17. Camp Fire (June 11 and 12, 2025, July 2, 2025, July 14, 2025)



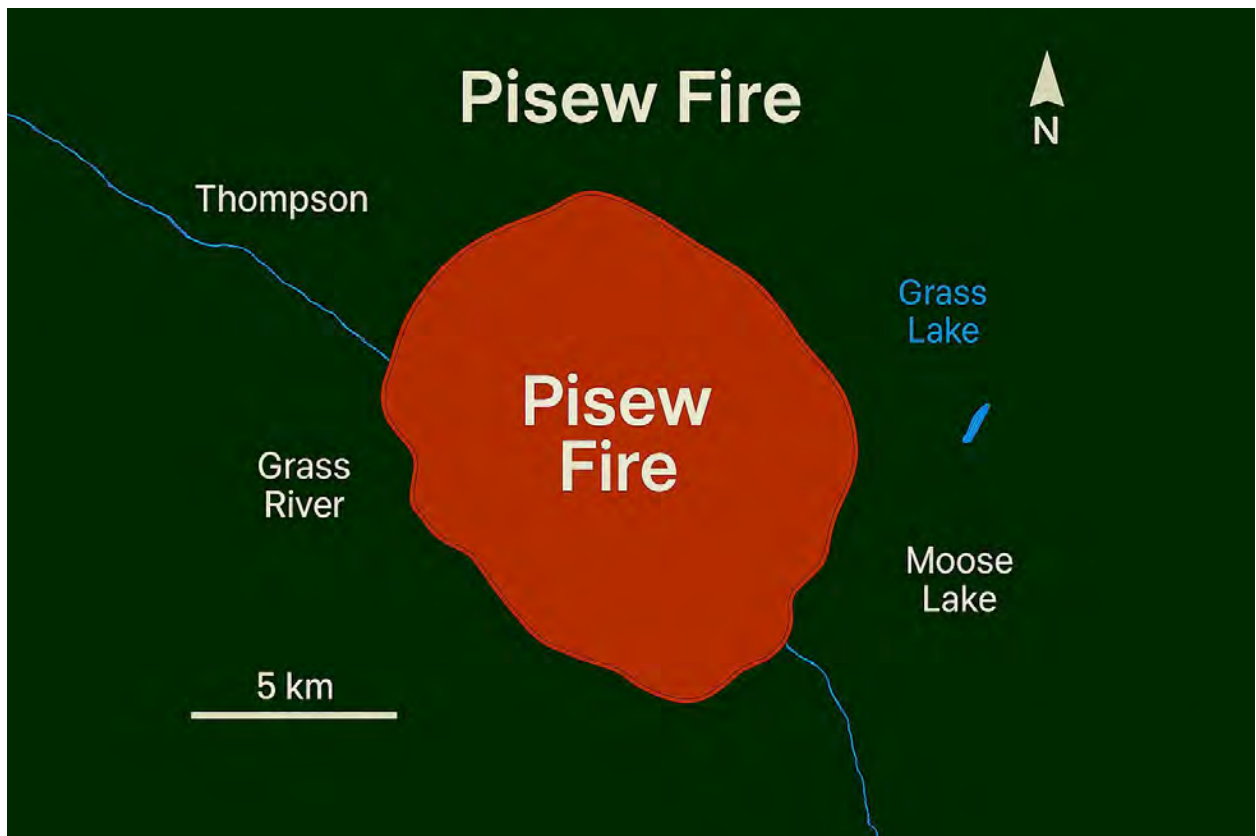
The Camp Fire began around May 6, 2025, north of Snowden in northern Saskatchewan. While its ignition source was not confirmed, Saskatchewan's 2025 season saw a high proportion of human-caused fires. Around May 10, NASA imagery showed its plume merging with that of the Shoe Fire, forming a combined burn area of ~115,000 hectares by May 27. It threatened Candle Lake and nearby communities, destroyed cabins, and stretched firefighting resources already strained by multiple large fires.

18. Flin Flon Fire (June 11 and 12, 2025)



The Flin Flon wildfire complex ignited in late May 2025, beginning in Creighton, Saskatchewan, and spreading into Flin Flon, Manitoba. Its ignition cause was not specified, though extreme drought and wind were major contributing factors. By May 28, all 5,000 residents were ordered to evacuate as the fire encircled the city. While the immediate fire near Flin Flon reached over 200 hectares, the larger fire complex burned over 516,000 hectares across both provinces. It caused more than \$300 million in insured damages and destroyed hundreds of structures in the Denare Beach area.

19. Pisew Fire (July 23 and 25, 2023)



The Pisew Fire was discovered on May 21, 2025, west of La Ronge in northern Saskatchewan, and was designated as human-caused. Over the following weeks it expanded to ~220,065 hectares, remaining not contained deep into the season. Despite becoming inactive by August, the fire caused significant evacuations, visibility hazards, and road closures in the surrounding region.

20. EA061 Fire (June 16, 2025)



The EA061 wildfire ignited on May 12, 2025, near Bird River in eastern Manitoba, most likely caused by lightning during a widespread regional dry spell. Rapid spread increased its size to 93,000 hectares in its first 24 hours, eventually reaching 359,040 hectares by late August. It prompted evacuations from Bissett, Nopiming Provincial Park, and nearby rural areas, and resulted in highway closures and a province-wide state of emergency.

21. Red Lake 12 Fire (June 16, 2025)



Red Lake 12 began in late May 2025 near Sandy Lake and Deer Lake First Nations in northwestern Ontario, likely caused by lightning during a period of widespread storm activity. The fire grew rapidly in early June, reaching 194,127 hectares by June 27, making it the largest wildfire ever recorded in Ontario at that time. It forced evacuations of roughly 2,000 residents, required heavy helicopter and ground crew deployment, and was listed as “being held” by early July after extensive suppression efforts.

22. Muskeg Fire (July 2, 2025, July 14, 2025)



The Muskeg Fire started around June 29, 2025, northwest of Beauval in northern Saskatchewan, most likely triggered by lightning during extreme drought and heat-dome conditions. It grew to 221,491 hectares by July 18 and later expanded to 345,958 hectares by October. It remained uncontained for months, repeatedly forcing evacuations in communities such as Patuanak, Beauval, and Île-à-la-Crosse, and causing significant smoke and highway closures.

Long Lake Fire (HWF036)

The Long Lake Fire was first detected on May 3, 2023, near the southern edge of the Rainbow Lake airport runway in Alberta's High Level Forest Area. Likely caused by human activity, the fire quickly moved into nearby grass and black spruce fuels, expanding to more than 17,000 hectares within the first four days. By early May, the eastern flank approached within 1.5 kilometers of Rainbow Lake, prompting concerns for the community as the fire continued to spread northwest toward the British Columbia border.

Throughout May and June, strong winds and dry conditions sustained rapid fire growth. By May 25, the fire measured 121,846 hectares and remained out of control, with 101 firefighters, 9 helicopters, and heavy equipment engaged in suppression.

Evacuation orders covered Rainbow Lake and the Dene Tha' First Nation community of Chateh. By June 8, the fire reached 152,559 hectares, aided by drought-stressed fuels, although localized rainfall temporarily improved ground-level suppression. Fire growth continued westward, supported by aerial operations, dozer line construction, and fire-guard strengthening near vulnerable points such as Baseline Road and the northeast protection line near Chateh.

By late October 2023, the fire reached a final monitored size of 205,938 hectares and was classified as being held, making it the largest fire in Alberta for the 2023 season. Throughout the incident, coordinated incident management teams from both Alberta and British Columbia contributed to sustained control efforts, and structural protection actions helped prevent damage to nearby communities.

Paskwa Fire

The Paskwa Fire began on May 2, 2023, near Fox Lake in the Little Red River Cree Nation and was immediately classified as out of control. Believed to have been ignited by lightning, the fire expanded rapidly due to hot, dry, and windy conditions. By May 7, it had grown to approximately 16,400 hectares, with suppression efforts involving 67 firefighters, 9 helicopters, heavy equipment, and airtankers. Continued growth carried the fire toward Wood Buffalo National Park, reaching roughly 60,955 hectares on May 19.

As the fire advanced, significant impacts occurred in Fox Lake, where more than 300 buildings, including homes, community infrastructure, and an RCMP detachment—were destroyed. Evacuations from Fox Lake required vehicles, canoes, and barge transport, affecting a population where many residents had never evacuated before. Garden River was placed under threat as the fire grew to 86,194 hectares by May 26 and later 93,311 hectares by June 7, prompting extensive guard construction, hotspot suppression, and structure-protection measures.

The Paskwa Fire remained out of control through June 2023 and later became part of the Davidson-Paskwa complex, supported by 159 personnel, 42 pieces of heavy equipment, and 10 helicopters. Winter and spring efforts in 2024 focused on extinguishing remaining hotspots with infrared scanning. On June 10, 2024, the fire was officially declared extinguished following more than a year of sustained monitoring and suppression.

Shaw Fire

The Shaw Fire emerged in early May 2023 in northwest Saskatchewan between Buffalo Narrows and Île-à-la-Crosse. First documented on May 4 at an estimated 186,420 hectares, it quickly became the largest wildfire in Saskatchewan for the season. The fire burned through dense boreal forest within the Sakitawak Conservation Area, causing widespread ecological impacts. Early reports classified

the fire as not contained, prompting rapid deployment of Type 1–3 crews, helicopters, air tankers, and heavy machinery.

As the fire advanced, multiple communities were affected. Buffalo Narrows issued a partial evacuation for vulnerable residents, and power outages occurred for approximately 2,500 customers after fire-related damage to electrical lines. Dillon, St. George's Hill, Michel Village, Patuanak, and Île-à-la-Crosse also issued evacuation advisories or orders as winds pushed fire fronts toward populated areas. A state of emergency was declared in Buffalo Narrows in mid-May, with evacuees relocated to Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Meadow Lake, and other centers.

Fire activity persisted through June, with suppression focusing on protecting Highways 155, 908, and 925, as well as nearby waterways such as the Niska Channel. Although fire-progression reports beyond June were limited, the Shaw Fire remained a high-impact incident throughout the season, continuing to burn within the region's critical transportation and ecological corridors.

Barrington Lake Fire

The Barrington Lake Fire began between May 25 and May 26, 2023, near Homer's Rock in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia. A provincial investigation determined the cause to be an intentionally set tire fire that was not fully extinguished. Under drought-stressed forest conditions, the fire quickly escalated beyond initial suppression capacity and spread through dry fuels across the region. By May 27, the county declared a local state of emergency, and mandatory evacuations were issued as the fire grew to roughly 3,000 hectares.

Intense fire behavior between May 31 and June 13 generated flames as high as 200–300 feet, with the burned area expanding to approximately 17,602 hectares by the end of May and ultimately reaching between 23,000 and 23,379 hectares. More than 6,000 residents were displaced as the fire impacted communities around Barrington Lake, Clyde River, Beaverdam Lake, Birchtown, and wider areas of the Municipality of Barrington and Shelburne County. Structural losses included an estimated 60 homes and cottages and more than 150 outbuildings.

Throughout June, provincial, municipal, and out-of-province firefighting resources were deployed, including U.S. crews. The fire was declared under control on June 13, and persistent mop-up operations continued until heavy rain helped extinguish remaining hotspots. On July 26, 2023, the fire was officially declared out after weeks of stabilization and monitoring.

Sept-Îles Fire (Fire 172)

The Sept-Îles Fire, designated as Fire 172, ignited on June 1, 2023, near the IOC railway corridor northwest of Sept-Îles, Quebec. Sparks from a moving railcar were identified as the most likely ignition source, with dry forest fuels and wind alignment contributing to rapid initial spread. Within hours, the fire began moving toward

populated areas, prompting the community of Sept-Îles and the adjacent Innu communities of Maliotenam and Moisie to activate emergency procedures. A local state of emergency was declared on June 2 as the fire continued to expand under severe weather conditions.

Between June 2 and June 4, the fire caused significant smoke impacts and triggered evacuation orders affecting between 4,000 and 6,000 residents. Structural protection units were deployed to residential areas and industrial sites, and emergency shelters were opened to support evacuees. From June 5 onward, more moderate weather enabled stabilization on some perimeters, though the fire continued burning through forested terrain. By mid-June, the incident transitioned into a long-duration monitoring phase. Final size estimates ranged between 12,000 and 15,000 hectares, reflecting variation among provincial reports.

Throughout its active period, Fire 172 caused transportation disruptions, including intermittent closures of Highway 138 and partial interruptions to IOC rail operations. Aerial suppression, ground crews, and municipal emergency coordination played central roles in protecting communities. While not one of Quebec's largest fires by area, its proximity to dense population centers made it one of the province's most operationally significant incidents of 2023.

Lebel-sur-Quévillon Fire

The Lebel-sur-Quévillon Fire began in early June 2023 following a major lightning outbreak that ignited hundreds of fires across Quebec during a period of extreme drought. Located north and northwest of the municipality of Lebel-sur-Quévillon, the fire developed within the province's Intensive Protection Zone, where suppression is required to protect communities and industrial assets. Numerous lightning-caused ignitions merged into a single complex between June 2 and June 4, rapidly expanding in black spruce fuels.

By June 5, the municipality of Lebel-sur-Quévillon, home to roughly 2,000 residents, was fully evacuated as flames approached within a few hundred meters of the Nordic Kraft pulp mill and nearby chemical storage facilities. Between June 6 and June 12, the fire grew from approximately 200,000 hectares to more than 300,000 hectares, fueled by persistent drought and wind conditions. International and interprovincial assistance augmented provincial resources as the fire became a national-priority incident.

By late June and into July, the fire reached a final mapped extent of approximately 481,991 hectares, making it Quebec's largest wildfire of 2023 and one of the largest ever recorded in the province. Cooler and wetter conditions eventually reduced fire activity, allowing the incident to transition into long-term monitoring. Despite the fire's size and proximity to industrial infrastructure, major structural losses were avoided due to extensive protection work and early evacuation measures.

Radisson 2 Fire

The Radisson 2 Fire ignited in early June 2023 in Quebec's subarctic region north of the La Grande hydroelectric complex. Lightning from a severe early-June outbreak triggered the fire during a period of drought and low humidity. Rapid expansion occurred between June 5 and June 15 as the fire burned through remote black spruce stands. Due to its location within the Eastern Subarctic fire-management zone, suppression focused primarily on protecting infrastructure rather than attempting full perimeter control.

Between June 15 and June 26, the fire entered its most rapid growth period, expanding to more than 300,000 hectares. By late June, the total burned area reached an estimated 322,636 hectares, making Radisson 2 the second-largest wildfire in Quebec in 2023. Throughout the month, smoke and heat affected work camps, road corridors, and hydroelectric access routes. Although the region is sparsely populated, the fire's proximity to Hydro-Québec's LG-3 and LG-4 generating stations elevated its operational priority.

By early July, a shift to cooler weather and scattered rainfall slowed the fire's growth and allowed crews to focus on targeted protection efforts. No evacuations or structural losses were reported, and the incident transitioned into a long-duration smoldering and monitoring phase. Despite burning a large remote area, the fire demonstrated the increasing risk posed to critical northern infrastructure under drought-driven fire conditions.

James Bay Priority Fires

The James Bay Priority Fires were a cluster of major lightning-ignited wildfires that developed on June 1, 2023, across the Eastern James Bay region of northern Quebec. A severe storm produced more than 182 ignitions in a single day, many of them near Eastmain, Wemindji, and Waskaganish. These fires burned within Quebec's Eastern Subarctic boreal zone, where suppression focuses on protecting life, community access routes, and hydroelectric infrastructure rather than attempting to contain every ignition.

Between June 2 and June 13, rapid fire growth occurred due to critically dry fuels, strong winds, and persistent drought. Several individual fires reached sizes between 20,000 and more than 50,000 hectares, with some merging into complexes approaching 100,000 hectares. Heavy smoke affected communities across the region, and fire perimeters threatened key transportation links including Route 167, the Billy-Diamond Highway, and the Transtaiga Road. Although full evacuations were not ordered for the Cree communities, multiple alerts and contingency plans were activated for several days.

Through mid-to-late June, shifting weather patterns moderated fire behavior, allowing suppression resources to focus on structural protection and maintaining

access to hydro corridors. Across the Nordic fire-regime zone, including the James Bay cluster, approximately 3.4 million hectares burned during the 2023 season. The James Bay Priority Fires highlighted vulnerabilities associated with remote ignition clusters occurring near essential northern infrastructure and transportation routes.

Western-Edge Wabakimi Fire

The Western-Edge Wabakimi Fire began in early June 2023 along the western boundary of Wabakimi Provincial Park in northwestern Ontario. Although the specific ignition source was not publicly reported, conditions at the time were characterized by high fire danger and widespread lightning activity across the region. By June 22, satellite imagery identified multiple active hotspots, and by June 24 the fire had grown to approximately 41,000 hectares, prompting provincial authorities to classify it as not under control.

Through late June, the fire continued to display aggressive behavior, fueled by dry conditions and strong winds. By June 28, it had expanded to 41,548 hectares, with significant smoke visible on NASA MODIS imagery and regional air-quality impacts noted in surrounding communities. The fire remained a priority within the Northwest Fire Region, with suppression focused on limiting eastward spread into Wabakimi Provincial Park and protecting remote infrastructure.

Despite coordinated efforts involving heavy equipment, ground crews, and air support, the fire persisted with high intensity into early July. Its remote location and ongoing severe weather conditions limited containment progress, and the fire remained active during peak wildfire season. The Western-Edge Wabakimi Fire contributed to one of the busiest periods for Ontario's 2023 fire season.

Sioux Lookout 33 Fire

The Sioux Lookout 33 Fire was discovered on June 11, 2023, on the western edge of Wabakimi Provincial Park. It quickly developed into one of the largest and most significant wildfires in northwestern Ontario that year. By June 24, the fire had reached approximately 41,548 hectares with aggressive spread rates, leading the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to classify it as a Fire of Note. Fully engaged suppression included helicopter bucket operations, hose lays, and heavy equipment.

By July 6, the fire grew to 60,394 hectares and remained not under control, with values-protection efforts underway around vulnerable assets in and near the park. Continued warm, dry conditions and periodic wind shifts sustained the fire's growth, and monitoring remained intensive throughout the summer. By early October, the fire reached a maximum mapped size of 62,300 hectares.

On October 6, 2023, the Sioux Lookout 33 Fire was officially declared out after months of active suppression, patrol, and hotspot extinguishment. Its size and

duration made it the largest active wildfire in northwestern Ontario during the peak of the 2023 season.

Lake Nipigon 13 Fire

The Lake Nipigon 13 Fire occurred west of Ogoki Lake in northwestern Ontario and was first reported in mid-June 2023. The fire exhibited rapid early growth and was immediately classified as not under control. On June 19, it measured approximately 3,077 hectares and continued to expand under dry, windy conditions. Provincial fire agencies designated it as a Fire of Note due to its size and the values at risk in the surrounding area.

By July 6, the fire reached 37,868 hectares, prompting sustained aerial and ground-based suppression. Efforts included helicopter bucket operations, dozer line construction, hose-line setup, and the deployment of values-protection sprinklers around cabins and infrastructure. Difficult terrain and limited access contributed to ongoing challenges in controlling spread.

Throughout July, the fire continued to burn actively, with suppression focused primarily on structural protection and perimeter stability. Lake Nipigon 13 remained one of the largest and most operationally demanding fires in the Northwest Region during the height of the 2023 season.

Lake Nipigon 19 Fire

The Lake Nipigon 19 Fire ignited northwest of Ogoki Lake and was first documented on June 13, 2023, at approximately 6 hectares. Despite its small initial size, the fire grew consistently through mid-June, reaching 444 hectares by June 19. Like Lake Nipigon 13, it was classified as a Fire of Note due to sustained growth and proximity to monitored assets.

By July 6, the fire expanded to 9,143 hectares and remained not under control. Ground and aerial suppression efforts were applied across multiple fronts, including the construction of hose lines, helicopter bucket cooling, and values-protection deployments. Northwest Ontario's persistent drought conditions contributed to continued fire activity.

The Lake Nipigon 19 Fire remained active throughout July, with suppression concentrated on limiting spread toward recreational areas and remote structures. Its progression was closely linked to the regional lightning-driven ignition pattern and challenging fire weather that characterized the 2023 season.

Vermette Fire

The Vermette Fire, designated as 23BN-Vermette, was first detected on April 29, 2023, at approximately 3:52 p.m. near Vermette in central Saskatchewan. Confirmed as human-caused, the fire expanded rapidly during the early portion of the fire season, which was marked by record heat, early snowmelt, and multi-year drought.

By mid-May, the fire was reported at approximately 45,000 hectares and remained uncontained.

Through late May and June, the fire threatened several northern communities, including Dillon, St. George's Hill, and Michel Village, all located within 20 kilometers of the fire perimeter. Priority evacuations for vulnerable residents were implemented as smoke conditions worsened and suppression crews deployed heavy equipment and sprinkler-based values-protection units. By June 2023, the fire had reached a peak size of approximately 88,446 hectares.

Throughout its active period, the Vermette Fire required ongoing air support, ground operations, and road-access monitoring, particularly around Highway 925. The fire became one of Saskatchewan's major human-caused incidents for the 2023 season and highlighted the heightened ignition risk posed by extreme early-season dryness across the province.

Smith Fire (23BN-Smith)

The Smith Fire, identified as 23BN-Smith, began in mid-May 2023 north of Pinehouse, Saskatchewan. It was classified as human-caused, consistent with early-season wildfire patterns in the province, where dry grass and human activity frequently contribute to ignitions before the onset of lightning season. By May 18, the fire had already become significant enough for inclusion in provincial technical briefings, as conditions featuring early snowmelt, record heat, and prolonged drought facilitated sustained growth.

As smoke intensified, visibility challenges prevented aircraft from accurately mapping the perimeter during several periods of active spread. At its peak, the Smith Fire burned approximately 103,624 hectares, surpassing the size of the nearby Vermette Fire. Air quality across northern and central Saskatchewan deteriorated as smoke from the Smith, Wistigo, and Shaw fires combined, prompting advisories and affecting residents as far south as Prince Albert and areas of the northern United States.

Throughout the incident, suppression efforts involved extended ground operations and aerial support where visibility allowed. The fire became one of Saskatchewan's major human-caused wildfires of 2023, contributing significantly to what ultimately became a record-breaking fire season in the province.

Pembina Fire (Pembina Creek Complex)

The Pembina Fires, often managed collectively as the Pembina Creek Complex, ignited in May 2023 across west-central Alberta. The complex included multiple fires such as RWF031 and RWF039 and resulted from both lightning activity and human-caused ignitions, including at least one debris-burn holdover. These fires developed during an exceptionally warm and dry spring, with severe drought

contributing to rapid expansion across forested and industrial areas of Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson.

By mid-May, the Pembina Creek Complex had exceeded 200,000 hectares in combined area. Its proximity to critical infrastructure, including oil and gas pipelines and community rail lines—prompted extensive protective actions and intermittent industrial shutdowns. The Town of Edson was evacuated twice as dense smoke and shifting fire fronts posed ongoing risks to residents and responders. Hazardous air quality persisted for extended periods across Alberta and Saskatchewan, with smoke plumes spreading into the northeastern United States.

Firefighting efforts included multi-day structural protection operations, heavy equipment deployment, and air support where visibility conditions allowed. The Pembina complex became one of the most operationally disruptive wildfire clusters in Alberta during the 2023 season due to its scale, smoke impacts, and threat to populated and industrial areas.

St. Mary's River Fire

The St. Mary's River Fire ignited on July 17, 2023, north of Cranbrook in British Columbia's East Kootenay region. The fire was attributed to a downed power line and rapidly grew from approximately 20 hectares to 100 hectares within hours, driven by winds reaching 50 km/h. By the following day, the fire had expanded to roughly 300 hectares, prompting evacuation orders for ʔaąam (St. Mary's) First Nation and surrounding rural areas.

On July 19, the fire increased to an estimated 800 hectares as strong winds continued to support aggressive fire behavior. Several homes on reserve land were destroyed, and additional properties in communities including Fort Steele faced ongoing risk. Air tanker operations temporarily restricted passenger traffic at the Cranbrook Airport, underscoring the fire's proximity to regional infrastructure. Structural protection teams were deployed across the region to reduce the likelihood of additional losses.

Full response operations continued through July and into August, utilizing heavy machinery, aerial suppression, and sprinkler-based protection systems. Following a period of moderated fire behavior and precipitation, provincial authorities declared the fire held, enabling evacuation alerts to be lifted. The St. Mary's River Fire was recognized as a wildfire of note due to its rapid escalation, structural impacts, and threat to multiple populated areas.

Shoe Fire (25LF-SHOE)

The Shoe Fire, officially designated 25LF-SHOE, was discovered on May 7, 2025, at approximately 6:21 p.m. in northern Saskatchewan near Lower Fishing Lake and Narrow Hills Provincial Park. Classified as human-caused, the fire expanded rapidly during a period of extreme drought, heat, and wind. By late May, it had prompted

multiple community evacuations, including East Trout Lake, Piprell Lake, Little Bear Lake, and voluntary departures from Candle Lake. Park closures were implemented across Narrow Hills and Clarence-Steepbank.

By June 25–26, provincial reports listed the fire at more than 554,000 hectares with approximately 50% containment. Continued extreme conditions and persistent ground-fuel burning contributed to steady growth into the summer. By August 10, 2025, the Shoe Fire reached an estimated 565,701 hectares, making it the largest active wildfire in Saskatchewan that year. Drone imagery revealed widespread destruction, including dozens of cabins at East Trout Lake and multiple administrative and staff buildings in Narrow Hills Provincial Park.

Suppression efforts involved Type 1–3 crews, helicopters, air tankers, heavy equipment, and drone-based monitoring. Recovery work began in August 2025, including planting more than 60,000 jack pine and nearly 13,000 white spruce seedlings, with additional aerial seeding planned. The Shoe Fire became one of the most significant wildfire events in Saskatchewan's recent history due to its size, duration, and structural and ecological impacts.

Camp Fire

The Camp Fire ignited around May 6, 2025, north of Snowden in northern Saskatchewan. Early-season drought and above-average temperatures created conditions that allowed the fire to establish quickly in boreal forest fuels. By mid-May, satellite imagery showed the Camp Fire producing a substantial smoke column as it advanced toward Narrow Hills Provincial Park. On May 27, the fire merged with the adjacent Shoe Fire, forming a combined burn area of approximately 115,000 hectares.

Prior to merging, the Camp Fire alone had burned an estimated 44,000 hectares by May 26. The fire threatened several communities and recreational areas, including the Resort Village of Candle Lake, prompting pre-evacuation alerts and the construction of protective firebreaks along key roadways such as Highways 120 and 265. Structural losses included at least four cabins north of Snowden, with additional threats posed to cabins, campgrounds, and park infrastructure.

Firefighting efforts involved relocating the Incident Command Centre to Candle Lake to improve coordination, deploying dozer guards, and establishing sprinkler-based values-protection systems. Extreme wind and heat periodically forced crews to withdraw from active lines. The Camp Fire's rapid growth and eventual merge with the Shoe Fire made it a significant contributor to Saskatchewan's high-intensity 2025 wildfire season.

Flin Flon Fire

The Flin Flon Fire began in late May 2025 near Creighton, Saskatchewan, before crossing the provincial border into Manitoba on May 27. Severe drought, high

temperatures, and strong winds contributed to rapid spread toward the city of Flin Flon, a community of approximately 5,000 residents. By May 28, escalating fire behavior and smoke conditions prompted a mandatory evacuation of the entire city, with residents instructed to leave by midnight. The fire edged within roughly 5 kilometers of Flin Flon's eastern boundary.

Throughout the incident, firefighting crews worked extended shifts, often 18–20 hours per day, to protect the city perimeter. Air operations, including water bombers, were deployed, although occasional drone incursions temporarily grounded aircraft. The fire formed part of a larger regional complex that extended from north of Snow Lake to the Pelican Narrows region and ultimately burned several hundred thousand hectares across northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. One of the fire perimeters associated with the broader complex exceeded 516,000 hectares.

By June 1, the fire threatening Flin Flon was successfully contained, enabling a shift toward structural protection and hotspot suppression. Evacuees began returning to the city on June 25 after conditions stabilized. Regional impacts included widespread property loss in Denare Beach, with hundreds of homes and cabins affected. Insurance assessments later estimated nearly \$300 million in damages across Manitoba and Saskatchewan, including approximately \$249 million associated with the Flin Flon component of the wildfire complex.

Pisew Fire (25LA-PISEW)

The Pisew Fire was discovered on May 21, 2025, at approximately 1:54 p.m. in northern Saskatchewan, west of La Ronge. Classified as human-caused, the fire expanded rapidly through coniferous fuels during a season marked by prolonged drought and elevated fire danger. Over the following weeks, the fire continued growing under recurring warm, windy conditions, and by August 28, 2025, it had burned approximately 220,065 hectares.

Throughout the season, the fire remained classified as not contained, although it eventually transitioned to inactive status later in the year. The fire impacted areas near La Ronge, Air Ronge, and the Besnard Lake region, posing risks to popular recreation sites and remote infrastructure. Persistent smoke affected air quality and visibility across northern communities, influencing travel and flight operations during peak activity.

Despite its large footprint, suppression efforts remained focused on protecting structures and limiting spread toward populated areas. Ground crews, aerial resources, and road-access monitoring supported operations as the fire continued to smolder through the summer. The Pisew Fire became one of Saskatchewan's major long-duration wildfires in 2025.

EA061 Fire (Manitoba)

The EA061 Fire was detected on May 12, 2025, at approximately 1:00 a.m. near Bird River in eastern Manitoba, north of Nopiming Provincial Park. Initially reported at roughly 5,000 hectares, the fire expanded rapidly, reaching approximately 93,000 hectares by May 13. Persistent drought and wind aided continued growth, pushing the fire eastward toward Bissett and into parklands including Nopiming and Atikaki.

By June 7–8, the fire had exceeded 218,709 hectares and was the largest active wildfire in Manitoba at that time. On May 30, it was measured at 185,408 hectares, and by May 31 at 189,834 hectares, reflecting consistent progression across multiple reporting intervals. In mid-July, the fire crossed into Ontario, burning approximately 228 hectares within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in addition to nearly 278,000 hectares in Manitoba. The fire prompted multiple evacuation orders, including for Bissett, and resulted in closures of Nopiming Provincial Park and Highway 315.

Throughout August, the fire remained a major incident. On August 5, it reached roughly 331,800 hectares, growing to 359,040 hectares by August 13–22. During this period, its classification shifted from out of control to being held as weather conditions moderated and suppression efforts gained traction. The EA061 Fire became one of Manitoba's largest wildfires on record and contributed to the provincewide state of emergency declared on July 10, 2025.

Same structure, tone, and detail level as all previous entries.

Red Lake 12 Fire

The Red Lake 12 Fire occurred in northwestern Ontario near the communities of Sandy Lake and Deer Lake First Nations. The fire ignited in late May 2025 during a period of elevated fire danger and quickly grew under dry, windy conditions. By June 7, the fire produced visible orange glow in the sky around Red Lake as flames advanced through remote boreal terrain. Rapid expansion continued, and by June 22 the fire had reached approximately 175,962 hectares while remaining uncontrolled.

Evacuations were carried out for both Sandy Lake and Deer Lake First Nations, affecting roughly 2,000 residents. Extensive suppression efforts were initiated, including more than 28 ground crews, a Type 1 incident management team, and 18 helicopters. Hose lines, sprinkler systems, and heli-bucket operations were used to protect structures and slow fire spread near populated areas and critical access routes.

By June 27, the fire reached 194,127 hectares, making it the largest recorded wildfire in Ontario at that time. Growth continued at a slower pace into early July, when the size reached approximately 195,670 hectares and conditions enabled the fire to be reclassified as being held. Red Lake 12 remained one of Ontario's most significant wildfire events due to its size, duration, and community impacts.

Muskeg Fire (25LX-MUSKEG)

The Muskeg Fire, designated 25LX-MUSKEG, was first detected between June 28 and June 29, 2025, in northern Saskatchewan north of the La Plonge Indian Reserve and near Beauval. The fire ignited during a period dominated by extreme drought, high temperatures, and a summer heat dome, conditions that contributed to rapid fire growth. By July 18, the fire had reached 221,491 hectares and remained 0% contained, posing threats to nearby communities including Île-à-la-Crosse, Patuanak, and Beauval.

Evacuation measures were implemented as the fire advanced. Patuanak declared a state of emergency on July 10, prompting the evacuation of approximately 141 residents by air due to highway closures. Beauval issued mandatory evacuations as fire fronts approached reserve boundaries. Smoke from the fire caused significant air-quality degradation and visibility issues, leading to intermittent closures of Highway 155 and Highway 918.

By October 12, 2025, the fire had expanded to 345,958 hectares and remained classified as not contained before transitioning to inactive status later in the season. Suppression efforts involved Type 1 and Type 2 crews, helicopters, heavy equipment, sprinkler systems, and drone-based monitoring. Partnerships with agencies from Ontario, Quebec, Mexico, and North Dakota provided additional personnel and resources. Despite periodic stabilization, flare-ups occurred into September, prompting renewed evacuations near Canoe River and South Bay areas. The Muskeg Fire became one of Saskatchewan's largest and longest-running wildfires of 2025.