

NASA image: Fires in northern Saskatchewan

June 7 2013



Credit: Jeff Schmaltz LANCE/EOSDIS MODIS Rapid Response Team, GSFC.

NASA's Aqua satellite collected this natural-color image with the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer, MODIS, instrument on June 05, 2013. Actively burning areas, detected by MODIS's thermal bands, are outlined in red. All three fires noted here are more than 100 hectares in size (>247 acres).

According to the Government of Saskatchewan's wildfire website, this area of the province has been designated an "observation zone." This means in this area there are fewer human values or commercial timber and [fire](#) is generally allowed to play its natural, beneficial role on the landscape, excluding communities and major infrastructures such as mines. Intervention is considered on the basis of suppression costs, compared with the value of what is being protected.

According to Brent Krayetski, the province's wildland fire coordinator, "The dry grasses haven't seen much rain in a while. Temperatures are going into the 20s [C] (70s F) and we're seeing windy conditions which [are] just the right kind of conditions to make any kind of fire take off and run and get out of control," he said.

There have been 67 [wildfires](#) in Saskatchewan this year. The biggest wildfire ripped through a large chunk of Grasslands National Park two weeks ago. It was caused by an agricultural fire that got out of control.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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