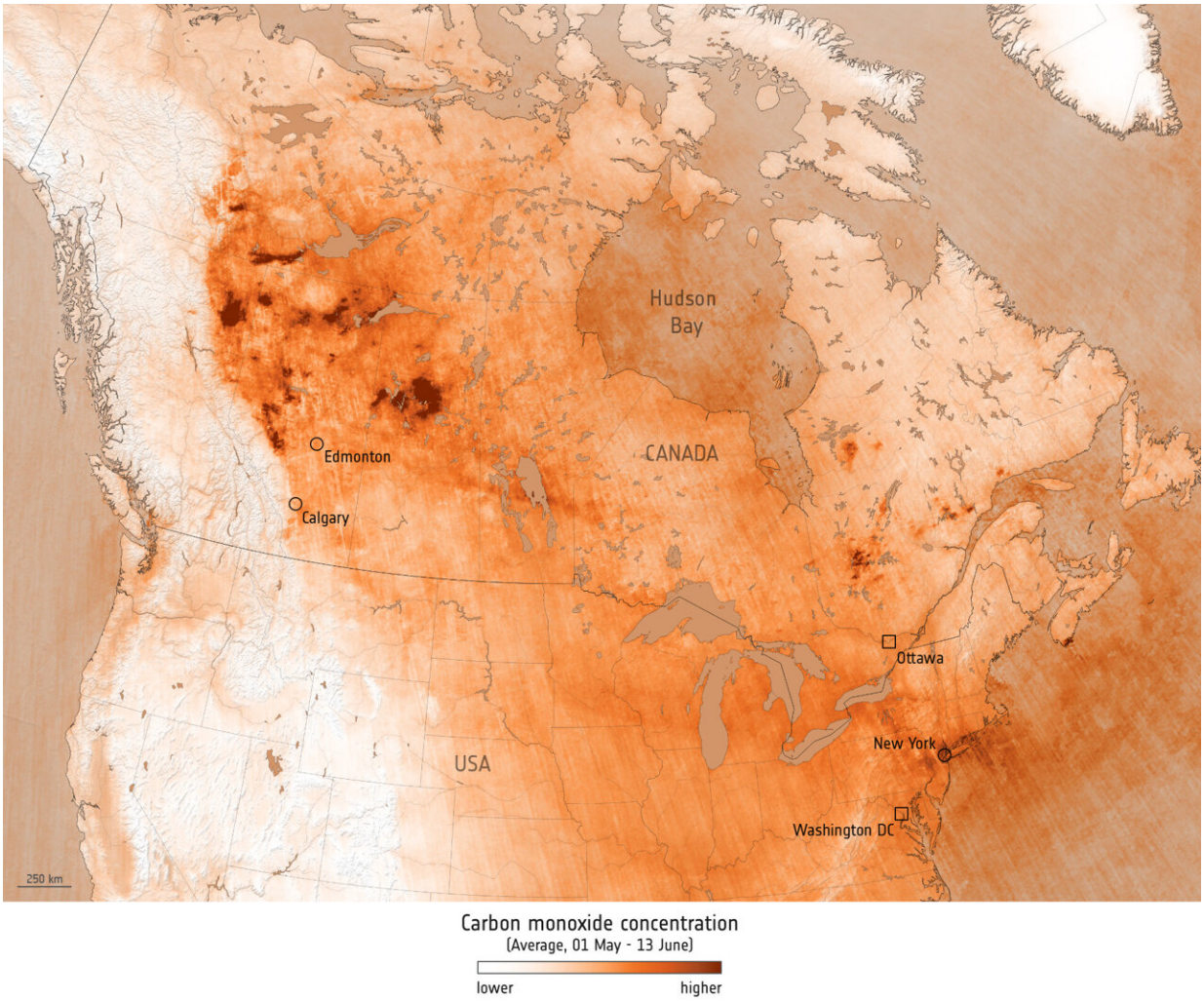
Image: Carbon monoxide from fires in Canada

June 16 2023



Credit: Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2023), processed by ESA, CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO

As climate change increases the risk of wildfires across the globe, the spate of fires that hit Canada in May and June suggest that 2023 is on course to be the country's worst fire season to date. These fires not only pose a serious threat to human life, wildlife, the environment and property, they also affect air quality.

Using data from the Copernicus Sentinel-5P mission, the image shows the average concentration of carbon monoxide for 1 May to 13 June. The extremely high concentrations, which are depicted in deep tones of orange, can be linked to active fires during the time. The image also shows how this air pollutant was carried as far as New York in the U.S. and over the Atlantic.

Provided by European Space Agency