The Canadian Large Fire Data Base: Point Data Version

Version 02, Released May 13, 2002
Fires greater than 200 ha in size for all Canada for the 1959 to 1999 period, inclusive.

Download Data File

http://nofc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/old/fire/frn/English/clfdb_e.htm
Please use the following login when prompted:
Username : nofc
Password : nofc

Introduction:

The Large-Fire Data base is a compilation of forest-fire data from all Canadian agencies, including provinces, territories, and Parks Canada. The dataset only includes those fires greater than 200 hectares in final size; this represents only a few percent of all fires, but accounts for most of the area burned (usually more than 97%). Therefore, the Large-Fire data base can be used for spatial and temporal analyses of landscape-scale fire impacts. For information on smaller fires (less than or equal to 200 ha in size), please contact individual fire agencies.

Collaborations:

We strongly suggest that users of this data base work with one of the agencies. For Canada-wide analyses, contact members of the Fire Research Group at the Canadian Forest Service:

- Brian Amiro: ***bamiro@nrcan.gc.ca***
- Bernie Todd: ***btodd@nrcan.gc.ca***
- Mike Flannigan: ***mflannig@nrcan.gc.ca***

For analyses for a single, province, territory, or Parks Canada, contact the appropriate agency. Links to these can be found through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre: ***http://www.ciffc.ca/links.htm***.

There are many caveats for this dataset, and collaboration with the agencies will help avoid difficulties in interpretation. Previously published analyses are listed in the "reference" section below.

Data Format:

The data file is comma-delimited ASCII, with each row representing a record for a

given fire.

The first row is a header row:
Year,Month,Day,Province,Fire_ID,Latitude,Longitude,Start_Date,Detect_Date,Cause,
Size,Fire_Region,Fire_Zone,EcoZone,EcoRegion,EcoDistrict

The field format is given in the following table:

Format of LFD Data Base				
Field	**Format**	**Example**	**Possible Content**	**Missing Data**
Year	Number	1988	Year - i.e. 1959 to 1999	
Month	Number	6	Month of Year of fire start	0
Day	Number	21	Day of Month of fire start	0
Province	Text	ON	BC, AB,SK,MN,ON,PQ,NF,NB,NS,YK,NWT,WBNP (Wood Buffalo National Park), NP (National Park)	
Fire ID	Text	TH-111	Region + Fire Number	NA
Latitude	Number	49.6	Fire Start Location in Decimal Degrees	0
Longitude	Number	-90.11	Fire Start Location in Decimal Degrees	0
Start Date	Date	6/16/98	Date or 0/0/00	0/0/00
Detect Date	Date	6/18/98	Date or 0/0/00	0/0/00
Cause	Text	MAN	MAN (human), LTG (lightning), UNK(unknown)	UNK
Size	Number	333.22	Final Fire Size in Hectares (Ha)	
Fire_Region	Text	TH	Region or NA (not available)	NA
Fire_Zone	Text	INT	INT (intensive zone), EXT (extensive zone) or NA	NA
EcoZone	Number	9	EcoZone Classification - 1 to 15	0
EcoRegion	Number	138	EcoRegion Classification - 1 to 217	0
EcoDistrict	Number	591	EcoDistrict Classification - 1 to 1031	0

Acknowledgements:

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References:

The following papers present analyses of this data base. We encourage users to

read these before attempting further analyses.

Stocks, B.J., J.A. Mason, J.B. Todd, E.M. Bosch, B.M. Wotton, B.D. Amiro, M.D. Flannigan, K.G. Hirsch, K.A. Logan, D.L. Martell, and W.R. Skinner. 2002. Large forest fires in Canada, 1959-1997. Journal of Geophysical Research (in press).

Amiro, B.D., J.B. Todd, B.M. Wotton, K.A. Logan, M.D. Flannigan, B.J. Stocks, J.A. Mason, D.L. Martell, and K.G. Hirsch. 2001. Direct carbon emissions from Canadian forest fires, 1959 to 1999. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 31: 512-525.

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