

Was 2020 an exceptional year for fires in the Northern Hemisphere extratropics?



The 2020 wildfire season in the extratropical region of the Northern Hemisphere was marked by extreme fires in Siberia and the Western United States, and uncharacteristically weak fire activity in Alaska and Canada. The image at the left shows smoke from the fires on September 13, 2020. The graphs below show the comparison between estimates of historical (2003 through 2019) fire emissions and 2020 fire emissions, indicating that 2020 was the highest-ranking year in terms of the total amount of pyrogenic carbon released in the atmosphere by the wildfires.

