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2014 could be a bad year for fires, weather and forestry experts say

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Nebraska could be headed into a destructive fire year, weather and forestry officials warn.

The weather is trending drier and windier than normal, setting the stage for potentially volatile conditions.

Shawn Jacobs, meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in North Platte, Neb., said average wind speeds have been higher than in any year since 2009.

The year has started off with a 35 percent increase in the number of high-risk days, he said.

Casey McCoy, Nebraska Forest Service wildland's fire manager, suggested that people prepare for the potential of rapidly occurring and spreading fires.

Most of Nebraska has had less than a quarter-inch of rain in January, he said.

In 2012, record drought led to a historic fire year. Last year saw a record low number of fires.



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