



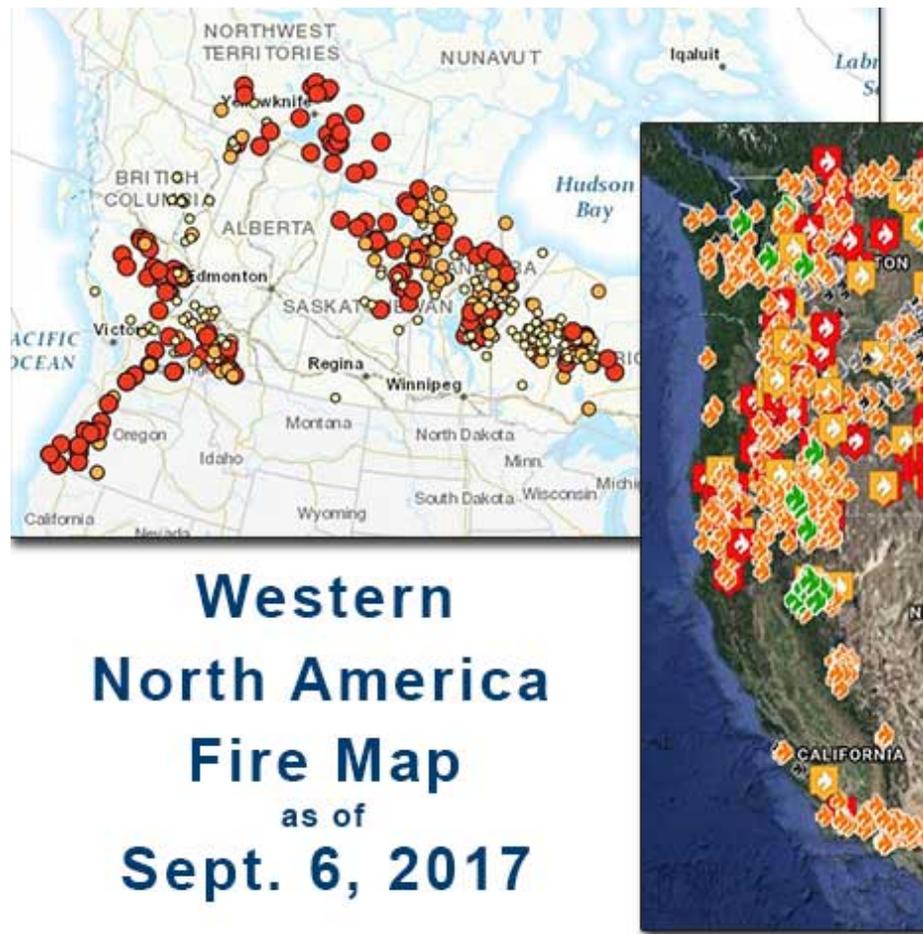
# The Importance of Deck Building Products Fire Ratings to Minimize Fire Threats



The summer of 2017 brought significant awareness to the danger and damage caused by wildfires. Thousands of wildfires have been burning throughout western North America with a state of emergency being declared in more than one state and province.

As of September 6, 2017, state and provincial government fire status websites report that there are still more than 140 wildfires active in British Columbia, 11 in Washington, 18 in Idaho, 26 in Montana and 24 in California.

While these wildfires are extreme circumstances and no preventative measures will stop such a destructive force in its path, homes in proximity to fires can minimize damage from hot



Fire location maps as of September 6, 2017. Sources: [www.cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca)  
[www.fireweatheravalanche.org](http://www.fireweatheravalanche.org)

ash and embers by using fire rated building products.

## Minimizing Fire Threats on Residential Properties with Deck Building Product Choice

In some high-risk districts, officials have been designated to do property assessments to help people make their homes more resilient to wildfire. One such official recently sought advice on fire-resistant decking materials, stating, *“Wood decks are a hazard that we frequently see, so I was wondering whether you are aware of any fire-resistant decking materials...that people could opt for.”*

This inquiry is an excellent example of how to minimize fire risk on residential properties. Traditional slatted wood decks are very vulnerable to fire but using a fire rated deck building product can