**NASA – LANCE FIRMS MODIS and VIIRS Active Fire Text files**

**Directory Structure of the Archive / FIRMS directory – as of August 3, 2020**
C6 : collection 6. Currently in use for MODIS Aqua and Terra
Modis-C6.1 : collection 6.1 Not yet in use for MODIS Aqua and Terra but will be soon.
Noaa-20-viirs-C2 : NOAA-20 VIIRS Collection 2. Currently in use
Suomi-npp-viirs-c2 : S-NPP VIIRS Collection 2. Currently in use
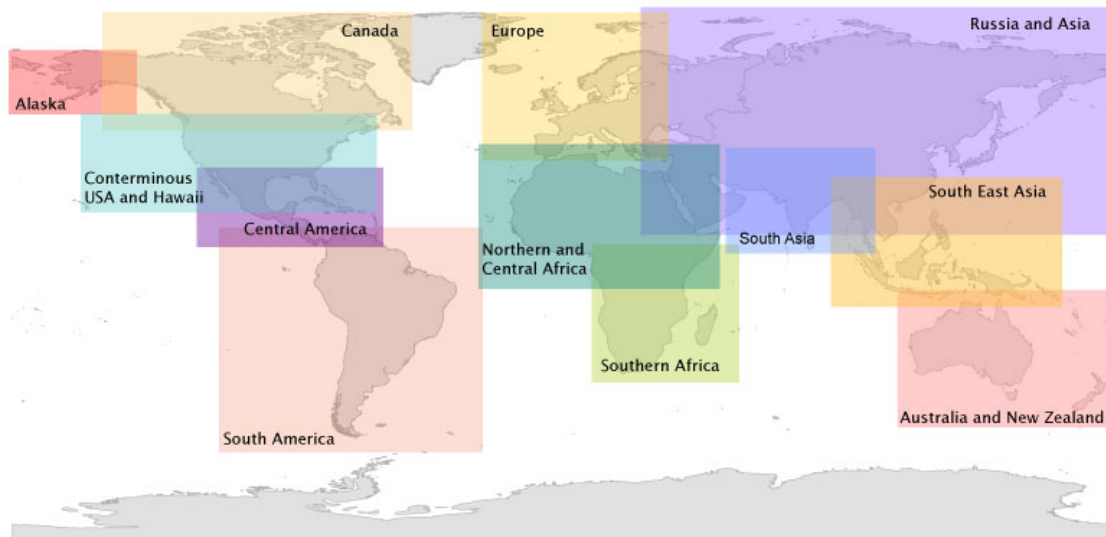Viirs : S-NPP VIIRS Collection 1. No longer recommended.

**Introduction**
This readme file contains basic information about the active fire data from FIRMS HTTPS.
More information about FIRMS, the data and other formats for downloading active fire data can be found here: https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/near-real-time/firms

**Contents:**

1. How to download the Active Fire Text files
2. Naming Convention of the Active Fire Text files
3. About the Active Fire Text files
4. Citation and Disclaimer



**1. How to download the Active Fire Text files**

To download the data, you need to be registered in the NASA EOSDIS Earthdata Login (https://urs.earthdata.nasa.gov/login). If you already have an account, you can download the Text files from: https://nrt3.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/archive/FIRMS on the primary system and https://nrt4.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/archive/FIRMS on the backup system.
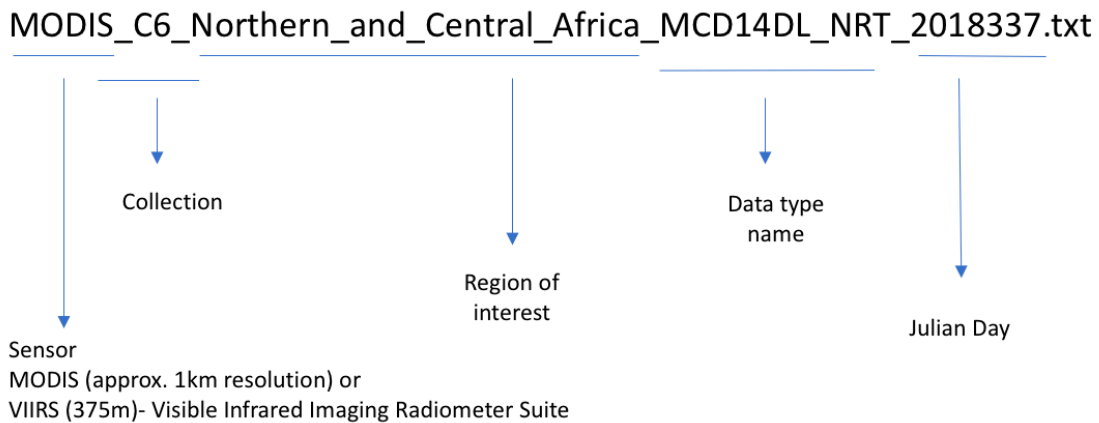
The MODIS and VIIRS Active Fire Text files are available as global and regional files. Please refer to the following image to determine which region you are interested in.

The Active Fire Text files are posted at approximately 00:00 UTC each morning. The file continues to be updated 3 hours after each satellite over pass (so the text file changes throughout the day).

To check what time of day the satellites pass over your location, use the following links from the Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison:
Terra (MODIS), Aqua (MODIS) or SNPP (VIIRS) satellite passes over your area. The Active Fire text file should be updated within three hours of satellite overpass.

## 2. Naming Convention of the Active Fire Text files

The naming convention is as follows

MODIS_C6_Northern_and_Central_Africa_MCD14DL_NRT_2018337.txt

Collection

Data type
name

Region of
interest

Julian Day

Sensor
MODIS (approx. 1km resolution) or
VIIRS (375m)- Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite

J1_VIIRS  - data from NOAA-20 (formally known as J1)
SUOMI_VIIRS  - data from Suomi-NPP

In the example above the Julian day can be broken down as follows:
    2018 is the year
    337 is the Julian day of the active fire detection.
This equates to 3 December 2018.
A Julian Day Calendar and converter can be found at: http://www-air.larc.nasa.gov/tools/jday.htm

## 3. About the Active Fire Text Files

Active fire user guides can be found here: https://earthdata.nasa.gov/faq/firms-faq#ed-user-guides

The text files contain information about each fire – more information about these attributes can be found using the following links:
- MODIS https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/near-real-time/firms/c6-mcd14dl#ed-firms-attributes
- VIIRS https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/near-real-time/firms/v1-vnp14imgt#ed-viirs-375m-attributes

The "Version" attribute enables users to distinguish between NRT and standard data processing.
**NOTE:** If latency is not a primary concern, users are encouraged to use the standard science products, which are created using the best available ancillary, calibration and ephemeris information.

Please see the FIRMS FAQ for more information: https://earthdata.nasa.gov/faq/firms-faq

If adding data to a GIS, please use the WGS84 coordinate system.

## 4. Citation and Disclaimer

NASA promotes the full and open sharing of all data with the research and applications communities, private industry, academia, and the general public. Read the NASA Data and Information Policy.

If you provide the LANCE / FIRMS data to a third party, we request you follow the guidelines in the citation  and replicate or provide a link to the disclaimer.

Please note that data distributed from FIRMS comes from 2 sources: 1) near real-time (NRT) data and 2) data extracted from standard quality data files. If latency is not a primary concern, users are encouraged to use the standard science products, which are created using the best available ancillary, calibration and ephemeris information. In the unlikely event you decide to use the NRT data in a scientific publication, please make sure you reference it correctly.