Dry conditions have prevailed in western Norway in the past month; see the precipitation anomaly (by NOAA) in the inset map, with total rainfall/snowfall in the past month being 100 to 200 mm lower than normal.

Aided by the drought, at least three significant fires have started in the past 10 days in the area—in Lærdalsøyri on 18 January, in Flatanger on 28 January and in the island of Frøya on 29 January.

The most recent fire, in Frøya, started near the village of Sistranda and expanded rapidly causing the evacuation of approx. 180 people from Sistranda and the area of Sandvik (Norwegian Civil Protection). Media (NRK) reported an expansion towards Dyrvik early on 30 January.

Norwegian Civil Protection (DSB) reports that six helicopters and at least 150 personnel from the police, fire brigade, army, civil protection and Red Cross were operating on the site early on 30 January.

According to fire personnel quoted in media, at around noon (UTC) of 30 January the eastern front was under control and progress was good on the southern and western fronts.

According to media, the fire in Flatanger was put under control on 29 January after burning at least 90 buildings.