Fire 298 – July 16, 2008 Courtesy UYT

Alaska Fire Season 2008

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2008 Alaska Fire Season Summary

Fire season officially began on April 1st, and there had been 12 fire numbers issued by that time.

The first fire number issued was a False Alarm on February 28th.

The first actual fire that received a number was Mat-Su's **Mothershead** fire (#002) which was a 0.1 acre escaped debris burn on March 17th.

Mat-Su's **Friday Creek** fire (#012) was the largest of the preseason fires, reaching 206 acres in size.

Homestead Fire #111
There was no significant activity until late in May when the Homestead Fire, just south of Ninilchik off the Sterling Highway, in the Kenai Area became the first fire of the season with substantial staffing. The Homestead fire was reported on May 19th, declared out on May 28th and reached a final size of 260 acres.

Mid May brought the beginning of the summer's lightning activity, and the opportunity for Wildfire Use. 5543 strikes in a single day on June 22nd was the months high, only to be surpassed by the July 5th count of 6383. There were 27 WFU fires in 2008 totaling approximately 23000 acres. Four of the WFU fires started in May, nine started in June, and fourteen started during a four day period in July.

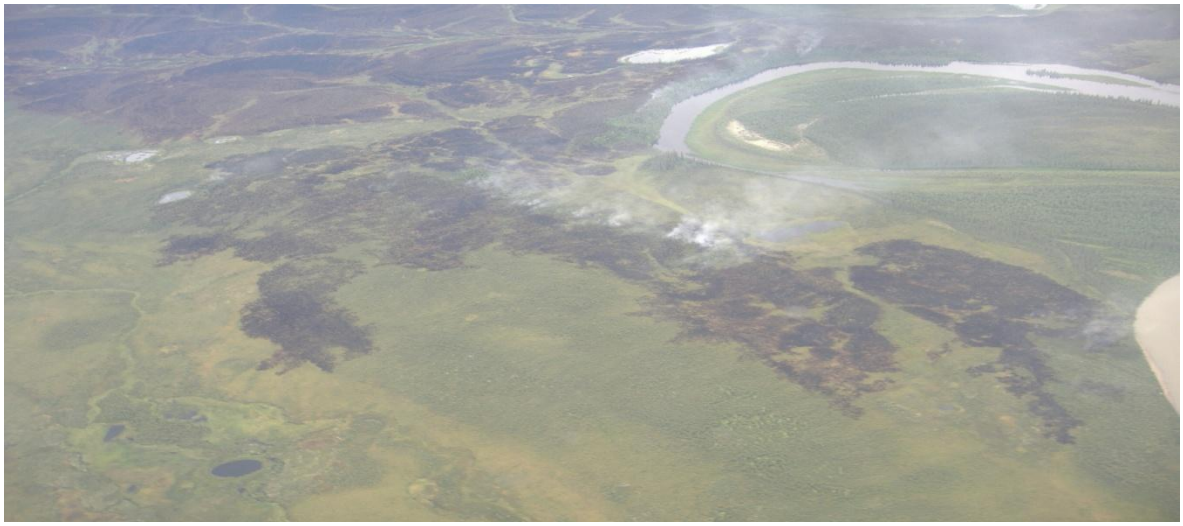
Three Lakes Fire #172
A Zone surveillance aircraft reported this fire June 3rd as a lightning holdover in a Limited protection area of the Upper Yukon Zone. The fire burned until October 15th reaching 35,118 acres.

Sullivan Fire #183
A private plane reported this lightning fire June 6th as burning in black spruce in a Limited protection area of Fairbanks Area Forestry. The fire continued burning until September 3rd and with a final total acreage of 1344 acres.

Venetie Village #245
This fire was originally reported as one acre escaped fire from the Venetie dump that was suppressed by locals with a dozer on June 22nd. On June 24th, a Warbelows flight reported the fire had spread to the north side of the runway with strong 25 mph easterly winds pushing it. The fire jumped the road and was running towards Venetie Lake when suppression resources arrived. The fire reached within 2 miles of Venetie village and within a half mile of structures scattered in the area. The fire grew to over 530 acres and was staffed for 9 days.

Porcupine Ridge #308
A 15 acre lightning fire in a Full protection area of the Southwest Area was less than 10 miles northwest of McGrath when helitack, smokejumpers and tankers responded. A total of 16 loads of retardant were dropped around the fire which was contained at 116 acres

Goose Slough #323
This .5 acre fire was discovered by a Zone surveillance aircraft investigating a smoke report near Bettles. The following day the fire had grown to 45 acres was 90% active with a high rate of spread. Shifting and erratic winds due to thunderstorms caused torching and running. Spotting was observed 100 feet from the head of the fire. Due to adjacent land manager concerns, action was taken on this fire. Crews provided allotment protection on the John River and the Wild River. The fire was contained at 2564 acres.



Weather systems moved in to Alaska in June, eliminating serious fire danger and freeing up Alaska resources to mobilize to the Lower 48. *In the interior, June skies were cloudy/partly cloudy on 22 days of the month with measurable rain falling on 15 of those days. According to the National Weather Service, July in the interior was the 6th wettest on record, and the coolest in seven years.

* Fairbanks News-Miner Aug 12th 2008

Mobilized to Northern California in 2008:

On June 26th Alaska sent the first of seven jet loads of T2 EFF Crews south, for a total of 35 T2 EFF crews dispatched to assist with fires in California. They had all returned by mid August.

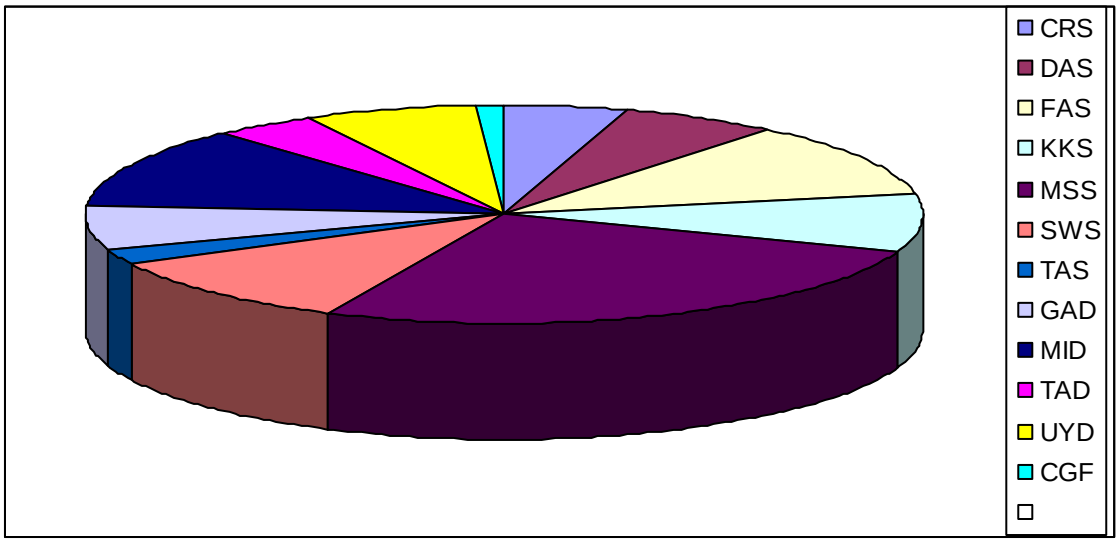
Alaska's three T1 crews, a T2 training crew and six T2 IA crews also went south in June to support fire fighting efforts in northern California.

Alaska's T1 Team was assigned to California on 7/6 and again on 7/31, for a total of 41 days.

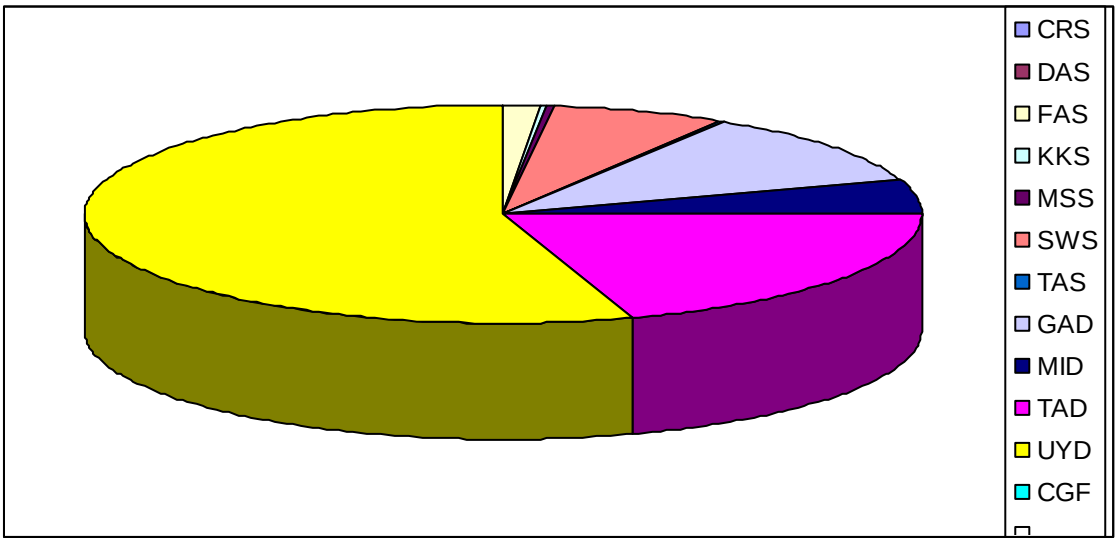
Numbers of fires and acres by Dispatch Office

CRS	DAS	FAS	KKS	MSS	SWS	TAS	GAD	MID	TAD	UYD	CGF
18	24	42	33	101	40	9	25	46	15	26	45
1.3	55.8	1,368.6	291.8	260.1	6,499.3	102.1	10,900.6	4,628.3	19,631.7	53,192.8	0.5

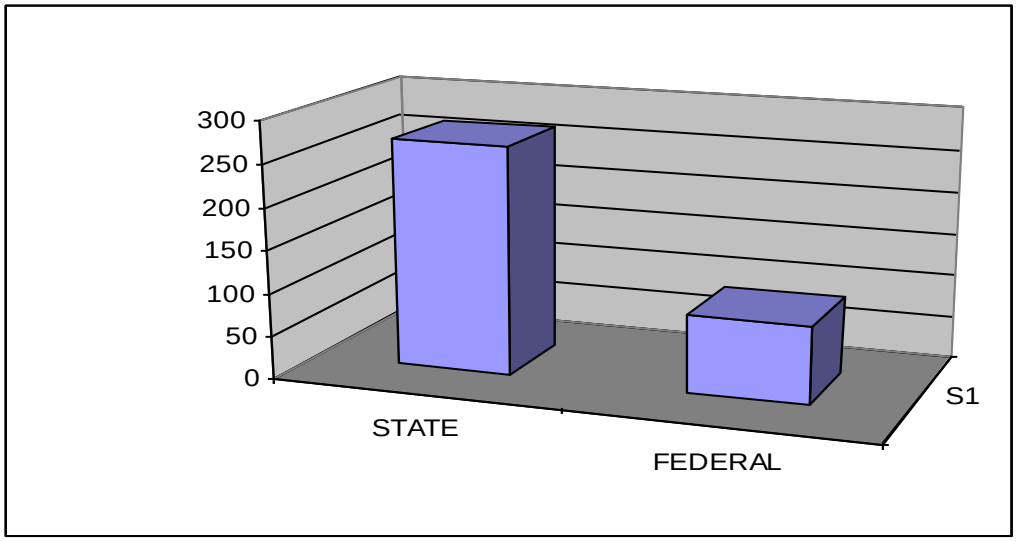
Number of Fires



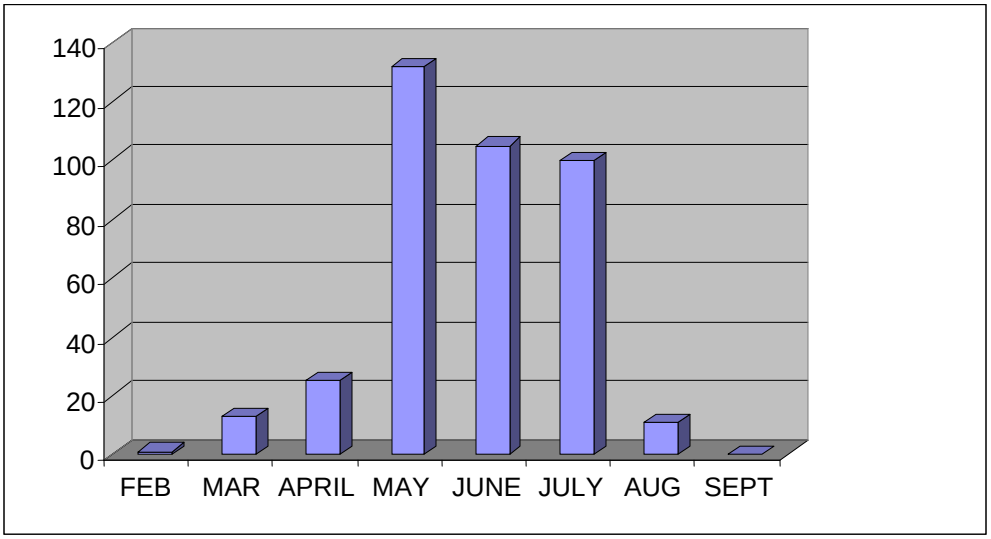
Number of Acres Burned



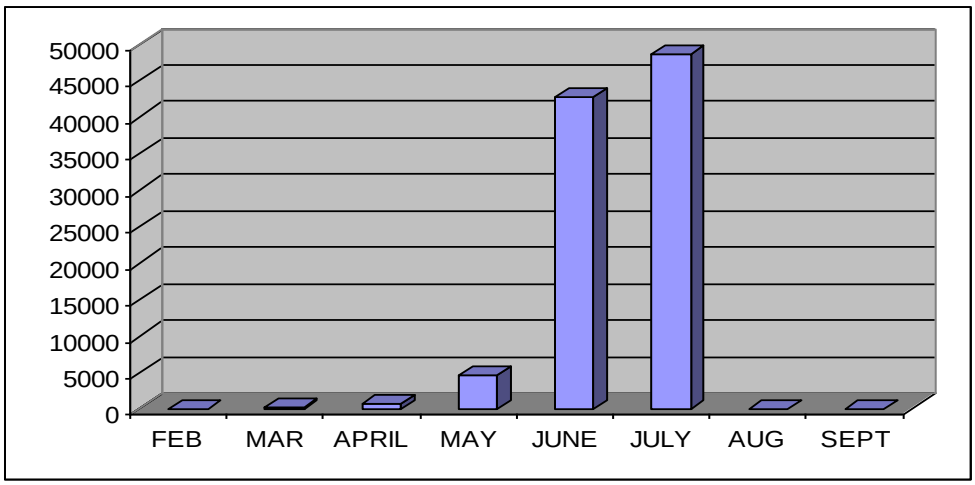
Total Fires by Suppression Responsibility



Fire Occurrence by Month



Acres Burned by Monthly Starts



Statewide
Fires and Acres Burned by Protection Agency
and Management Option
2008

Zone		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Alaska Fire Service	fires	7	43	10	48	**108**
	acres	5.7	3,192.9	2,304.2	89,617.2	**513,433.1**
State of Alaska	fires	177	44	8	25	**254**
	acres	388.9	454.1	22.6	7,663.1	**8528.7**
U.S. Forest Service	fires	2	3	0	0	**5**
	acres	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	**0.7**
Total Fires		**186**	**90**	**18**	**73**	**367**
Total Acres Burned		**394.8**	**3,647.5**	**2,326.8**	**97,280.3**	**103,649.4**

STA critical + full fires	221	BLM critical + full fires	50	USFS critical + full fires	5
STA critical + full acres	843.0	BLM critical + full acres	3193.6	USFS critical + full acres	0.7
Average Acres	**3.8**	**Average Acres**	**63.9**	**Average Acres**	**0.1**

Statewide
Fires and Acres Burned by Landowner
and Management Option
2008

Owner		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Bureau of Indian Affairs	fires	0	0	0	0	0
	acres	0.0	205.3	0.0	0.0	205.3
Bureau of Land Management	fires	1	4	4	12	21
	acres	1.0	84.3	4.3	7,893.9	7,983.5
City/Borough	fires	10	1	0.0	0	11
	acres	11.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	14.5
Fish and Wildlife Service	fires	0	6	6	24	34
	acres	0.0	9152.1	2,340.0	45,976.5	57,468.6
Military Lands	fires	3	28	0	7	38
	acres	0.4	86.9	0.0	551.8	639.1
Native Claims Act Lands	fires	8	23	4	2	37
	acres	160.3	3,531.6	1,683.5	476.2	5,851.9
National Park Service	fires	0	0	2	4	6
	acres	0.0	0.0	1.1	1,473.3	1,474.4
Private	fires	138	8	0	1	148
	acres	170.7	13.4	0.0	20.0	204.1
State of Alaska	fires	25	17	5	22	69
	acres	50.8	14.5	8,416.0	21,326.4	29,807.7
U.S. Forest Service	fires	1	2	0	0	3
	acres	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total Fires		**177**	**44**	**8**	**24**	**254**
Total Acres		**388.9**	**454.1**	**22.6**	**7,663.1**	**8,528.7**

Number of fires is based on ownership and management option at point of origin.
Acreage shown is actual acres burned by owner and Management option, i.e. fires that burned on multiple ownerships are counted as fires based on the ownership at point of origin, but the acreage burned is divided and shown based on the owner where the acres burned.

State of Alaska Protection
Fires and Acres Burned by Region/Area
and Management Option

2008

Area		**Critical**	**Full**	**Modified**	**Limited**	**Totals**
Northern Region						
Copper River	fires	12	0	1	0	**13**
	acres	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	**1.4**
Delta	fires	17	2	2	1	**22**
	acres	38.3	.3	17.2	0.1	**55.9**
Fairbanks	fires	30	11	1	1	**43**
	acres	10.0	18.4	0.1	1344.0	**1,372.5**
Tok	fires	4	4	0	1	**9**
	acres	1.7	0.5	0.0	326.6	**328.8**
Coastal Region						
Anchorage-Matsu	fires	83	7	1	0	**91**
	acres	45.9	213.3	1.0	0.0	**260.2**
Kenai-Kodiak	fires	26	4	0	1	**31**
	acres	290.9	0.4	0.0	0.3	**291.6**
Southwest	fires	1	16	3	20	**41**
	acres	0.1	221.2	4.2	5,992.1	**6,217.6**
Haines	fires	4	0	0	0	**4**
	acres	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.7**
Total Fires		**177**	**44**	**8**	**24**	**254**
Total Acres Burned		**388.9**	**454.1**	**22.6**	**7,663.1**	**8,528.7**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fires and Acres Burned by Refuge
and Management Option
2008

Refuge		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Innoko	fires	0	0	0	7	**7**
	acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	451.8	**451.8**
Kenai	fires	0	1	0	2	**3**
	acres	0.0	0.1	0.0	2,309.3	**2,309.4**
Koyukuk	fires	0	0	2	0	**2**
	acres	0.0	0.0	232.0	0.0	**232.0**
Yukon Delta	fires	0	4	0	10	**14**
	acres	0.0	21.2	0.0	4,566.0	**4,587.2**
Yukon Flats	fires	0	1	1	6	**8**
	acres	0.0	0.3	345.4	25,605.4	**25,951.1**
Total Fires		**0**	**6**	**3**	**25**	**34**
Total Acres Burned		**0.0**	**21.6**	**577.4**	**32,932.5**	**33,513.5**

National Park Service
Fires and Acres Burned by Park or Preserve Owner
and Management Option
2008

National Park or Preserve		**Critical**	**Full**	**Modified**	**Limited**	**Total**
Denali	fires	0	0	0	1	**1**
	acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	107.1	**107.1**
Kobuk Valley	fires	0	0	0	1	**1**
	acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	686	**686.0**
Yukon Charlie	fires	0	0	2	2	**4**
	acres	0.0	0.0	1.1	626.2	**627.3**
Total Fires		**0**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**6**
Total Acres Burned		**0.0**	**0**	**1.1**	**1419.3**	**1420.4**

Bureau of Land Management
Fires and Acres Burned by Field Office
and Management Option
2008

Administrative Office		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Anchorage Field Office	fires	0	1	3	4	**8**
	acres	0.0	1.0	4.2	429.5	**433.71**
Glennalllen Field Office	Fires	0	0	1	0	**1**
	Acres	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	**0.1**
Northern Field Office	fires	1	3	0	8	**12**
	acres	1.0	208.3	0.0	7397.4	**7606.7**
Total Fires		**1**	**4**	**3**	**12**	**21**
Total Acres Burned		**1.0**	**209.3**	**4.2**	**7826.9**	**8041.5**

U.S. Forest Service Protection
Fires and Acres Burned by Forest
and Management Option
2008

Forest		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	TOTALS
Chugach	fires	1	2	0	0	**3**
National Forest	acres	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	**0.3**
Tongass	fires	0	0	0	0	**0**
National Forest	acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Total Fires		**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Total Acres Burned		**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.3**

Alaska Fire Service Protection
Fires and Acres Burned by Zone
and Management Option

Zone		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Galena	fires	2	4	4	17	**26**
	acres	0.3	3.8	282.1	10,966.5	**11,252.7**
Military	fires	3	27	0	7	**37**
	acres	0.4	86.7	0.0	551.8	**638.9**
Tanana	fires	1	3	2	10	**16**
	acres	4.0	2,566.7	1,675.5	16,313.7	**20,559.9**
Upper Yukon	fires	1	10	4	14	**29**
	acres	1.0	535.7	346.6	61,785.2	**62,668.5**
Total Fires		**7**	**44**	**18**	**48**	**109**
Total Acres Burned		**5.7**	**3,192.9**	**2,326.8**	**89,617.2**	**95,120.0**

2008
Native Corportation Lands
Burned by Corporation and Management Option

Administrative Office		Critical	Full	Modified	Limited	Total
Aniak	fires	0	1	0	0	**1**
	acres	0	5	0	0	**5**
Bristol Bay	fires	0	2	0	0	**2**
	acres	0	11.6	0	0	**11.6**
Calis	fires	0	2	0	0	**2**
	acres	0	60.1	0	0	**60.1**
Ciri	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	260	0	0	0	**260**
Deneega	fires	1	1	0	0	**2**
	acres	.1	1	0	0	**1.1**
Doyon	fires	0	3	2	2	**7**
	acres	0	2564.44	1660.51	476.5	**4,701.45**
Fort Yukon	fires	0	2	0	0	**2**
	acres	0	.2	0	0	**.2**
Hughes	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	4	0	0	0	**4**
Koyuk	fires	0	0	1	0	**1**
	acres	0	0	.1	0	**.1**
Koyukuk	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	.2	0	0	0	**.2**
Lime	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	.1	0	0	0	**.1**
MTNT	fires	0	1	0	0	**1**
	acres	0	.1	0	0	**.1**
NANA	fires	0	0	1	0	**1**
	acres	0	0	50	0	**50**
Nenana	fires	1	1	0	0	**2**
	acres	.3	.1	0	0	**.4**
Pedro Bay	fires	0	1	0	0	**1**
	acres	0	1.5	0	0	**1.5**
Tanacross	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	.1	0	0	0	**.1**
Tetlin	fires	1	0	0	0	**1**
	acres	.5	0	0	0	**.5**
Twin Hills	fires	0	1	0	0	**1**
	acres	0	1	0	0	**1**
Venetie	fires	0	3	0	0	**3**
	acres	0	532.8	0	0	**532.8**
Total Fires		**8**	**18**	**4**	**2**	**32**
Total Acres		265.3	**3177.84**	**1710.61**	**476.5**	**5630.25**

Weather
2008

Fire activity during the 2008 season was extremely minimal- fires burned the second lowest acreage since 1985, with only 1995 coming in with less.

The weather in Alaska this summer was particularly damp and cool, and was not conducive to widespread fire activity. An upper level trough that settled in over Alaska for much of the summer kept conditions statewide cool and damp. 2008 was the wettest year in Fairbanks since 1990, with 14 inches of precipitation for the year far exceeding the annual average of 10.52 inches; 9.39 inches of that fell from May – August. May started on the cool side, with the last freeze of the spring in Fairbanks occurring on May 30th, almost two weeks later than average, and the second latest in the previous 40 years. Anchorage had a cool summer with June and July about 2 to 3 degrees colder than the average temps of 54.7 F and 58.4 F. Fairbanks mean temperatures were near normal for June, but in July were about 1.8 degrees below the normal of 62.4 F. The Interior was wet for both months; the Fairbanks airport received the most rain for June (2.08 inches) since 1994, and in July, 4.12 inches more than doubled that month's average of 1.94 inches, making for the 6th wettest July on record. Temperatures moderated in South Central for August, but the Fairbanks area remained cool and wet, with average temps nearly a degree below average at 55.0 F, and more excess rain. From June through August, Fairbanks received 8.86 inches of rain, which was 3.78 inches above the average for that time frame. As a result of the never-ending precipitation, flooding occurred along many rivers of the Interior during the last week of July and first week of August. For many, fire season never came, and resources were sent to the Lower 48 by the beginning of July.

OVERHEAD ASSIGNMENTS 2008

OFFICE	# PEOPLE	REGULAR AGENCY	EFF	ASSIGNMENTS ON CREW ORDER	L-48 ASSIGNMENTS	AK ASSIGNMENTS	AVERAGE ASSIGNMENTS PER PERSON	AVERAGE L-48 ASSIGNMENTS PER PERSON	UTF	
GAD	26	15	11	0	76	17	3.57	2.9	35	
YTD	34	23	11	5	92	56	4.35	2.7	59	
FWS	14	13	1	6	25	17	3	1.8	5	
NPS	28	28	0	26	48	11	2.1	1.6		INCL IN BLM
USFS	104	101	3	131	257	23	2.69	2.47	68	
BLM	275	225	50	421	760	386	4.17	2.76	2631	
FEDERAL TOTALS	**481**	**405**	**76**	**589**	**1258**	**510**	**3.31**	**2.37**	2798	
SLC	34	25	9	0	69	28	2.85	2.02	314	
SCS	8	7	1	0	14	7	2.6	1.75		INCL IN SLC
NRS	34	7	27	0	66	20	2.5	1.9		INCL IN SLC
CRS	26	9	17	44	68	19	3.35	2.62	20	
DAS	43	13	30	60	64	77	3.28	1.5	13	
FAS	39	21	18	5	94	29	3.15	2.4	55	
TAS	60	10	50	61	73	56	2.15	1.02	21	
KKS	50	36	14	257	116	192	6.16	2.32	28	
MSS	84	55	29	178	225	272	5.92	2.68	48	
SWS	31	13	18	0	57	32	2.87	1.8	44	
HNS	8	6	2	0	3	7	1.25	0.37		INCL IN SLC
STATE TOTALS	**417**	**202**	**215**	**605**	**849**	**739**	**3.28**	**1.85**	543	
DIFFERENCE	64	203	139	16	409	229	0.03	0.52	2255	

ALASKA CREW ASSIGNMENTS 2008			
		TOTAL DAYS 2008	
Crew Name	**Airport**	**AK**	**L48**
Allakaket #1	(6A4)		18
Allakaket #2	(6A4)		17
Ambler	(AFM)		17
Arctic Village	(ARC)	6	
Beaver-Stevens	(WBQ)	6	
Buckland	(BVK)		18
Chevak #1	(VAK)	9	
Chevak #2	(VAK)		20
Copper River	(Z93)		
Delta #1	(BIG)		
Delta #2	(BIG)		
Fairbanks #1	(FAI)		
Fairbanks #2	(FAI)		
Fairbanks #3	(FAI)		
Fairbanks #4	(FAI)		
Fort Yukon #1	(FYU)		
Fort Yukon #2	(FYU)	8	
Fort Yukon #3	(FYU)		17
Galena	(GAL)		
Grayling	(KGX)		17
Holy Cross	(4Z4)		18
Hooper Bay #1	(HPB)		17
Hooper Bay #2	(HPB)		18
Hooper Bay #3	(HPB)		18
Huslia #1	(HSL)		17
Huslia #2	(HSL)		
Kaltag #1	(KAL)		17
Crew Name	**Airport**	**AK**	**L48**
Kaltag #2	(KAL)		18
Kiana #1	(IAN)		
Kiana #2	(IAN)		
Koyuk	(KKA)		16
Koyukuk	(KYU)		16
Lower Kalskag	(KLG)		17
Marshall	(MLL)		
Mat-Su	(BGQ)		16
Minto #1	(51Z)		16
Minto #2	(51Z)	4	
Mt. Village	(MOU)		18
Nikolai	(5NI)	5	
Nondalton #1	(5NN)		17
Nondalton #2	(5NN)		17
Noorvik #1	(ORV)		18
Noorvik #2	(ORV)		17
Northway #1	(ORT)		
Northway #2	(ORT)		
Nulato #1	(NUL)		16
Nulato #2	(NUL)		
Pilot Station	(OAK)		
Ruby	(RBY)		
Scammon Bay	(SCM)		19
Selawik #1	(WLK)		
Selawik #2	(WLK)		
Shageluk	(SHX)		17
Shungnak	(SHG)		
St. Mary's AFS GAD	(KSM)		17
St. Michael AFS GAD	(5S8)		17
Crew Name	**Airport**	**Days Out**	**L48**
Stebbins #1	(WBB)		18
Stebbins #2	(WBB)		17
Tanacross	(TSG)		17
Tanana #1	(TAL)		
Tanana #2	(TAL)		18
Tetlin	(5TE)		
Tok	(6K8)		18
Upper Kalskag	(KLG)		18
Venetie #1	(VEE)	7	
Venetie #2 (VEE) AFS UYD	(VEE)		
TOTAL PER YEAR		45	607

2008 EFF Payroll		Federal Paid		State Paid	
Location	**Crew Designator**	**Hours Worked**	**Gross Wages**	**Hours Worked**	**Gross Wages**
Alakanuk					
Allakaket	AK TAD		$167,071.85		
Anchorage			$22,381.72		
Angoon					
Ambler	AK GAD		$42,950.85		
Anvik			$4,746.09		
Artic Village	AK UYD		$19,915.46		
Beaver	AK UYD		$5,698.68		
Bethel					
Bettles					
Big Lake					
Buckland	AK GAD		$84,721.96		
Central			$336.60		
Chalkyitsik					
Chevak	AK SWS		$1,206.40	8,945.5	$157,154.89
Chugiak					
Circle City					
Copper River	AK CRS				
Delta	AK DAS			12,039.5	$228,411.67
Eagle River			$15,057.98		
Ester			$5,992.26		
Eagle					
Fairbanks	AK FAS		$198,110.00	29,245.5	$685,967.56
Fortuna Lodge					
Ft Wainwright					
Fort Yukon	AK UYD		$118,293.37		
Gakona				7,616	$147,185.09
Galena	AK GAD		$35,210.36		
Girdwood			$13,747.08		
Glennallen					
Grayling	AK GAD		$74,790.46		
Gustavus					
Haines/Juneau					
Holy Cross	AK GAD		$69,908.10		
Homer				1,109.5	$24,600.23
Hooper Bay	AK SWS			10,993	$200,048.28
Hughes			$8,899.36		
Huslia	AK GAD		$104,831.17		
Iliamna					
Juneau					
Kalskag, Lower	AK SWS			7,277.5	$129,344.39
Kalskag, Upper	AK SWS			3,282.5	$59,455.56
Kaltag	AK GAD		$202,205.03		
Kasilof					
Kenai				5,319	$108,181.17
Kiana	AK GAD		$16,927.44		
Kobuk					

2008 EFF Payroll		Federal Paid		State Paid	
Location	**Crew Designator**	**Hours Worked**	**Gross Wages**	**Hours Worked**	**Gross Wages**
Kotlik					
Kotzebue			$8,902.08		
Mat-Su					
McGrath				5,976.5	$125,815.70
Mentasta	AK TAS			2,629	$46,135.89
Minto	AK TAD		$100,948.13		
Moose Pass					
Mt. Mckinley					
Mtn. Village	AK GAD		$113,203.03		
Nenana					
Nikolai	AK SWS			4,245	$74,224.95
Noatak					
Nondalton	AK SWS			5,879	$105,531.39
Noorvik	AK GAD		$94,605.24		
North Pole			$12,332.17		
Northway	AK TAS			845	$13,918.53
Nulato	AK GAD		$94,822.91		
Palmer				17,957	$340,764.13
Petersburg					
Pilot Station	AK GAD		$6,708.54		
Point Hope					
Ruby	AK GAD		$19,206.20		
Russian Mission					
St. Mary's	AK GAD		$67,005.33		
St. Michael			$75,339.35		
Scammon Bay	AK SWS			9,574.5	$174,594.76
Selawik	AK GAD		$54,678.68		
Seward					
Shageluk	AK SWS		$8,430.00	4,715	$84,397.92
Shungnak	AK GAD		$22,365.59		
Sleetmute	AK SWS				
Soldotna			$252.45		
Stebbins	AK GAD		$185,179.82		
Sterling					
Stevens Village	AK UYD		$5,525.39		
Talketna					
Tanacross	AK TAS			2,012.5	$34,363.09
Tanana	AK TAD		$99,789.65		
Tetlin	AK TAS			674	$10,447.33
Tok	AK TAS			12,519.5	$226,983.57
Venetie	AK UYD		$39,573.28		
Wasilla			$24,498.36		
Willow					
Total			**$2,382,029.19**	**152,855**	**$2,977,566.10**