



Wildland Fire Updates

June 21, 2013
Last Updated: 4:03 p.m.

Contacts
Report Fires: 911
AFS/DOF Public Affairs: (907) 356-5511

Future updates will be provided when significant changes in activity occur.

6/21 – The Lightning Came...

And on June 20 the impact was felt as 28 lightning-caused fires erupted in the Alaska Fire Service protection areas during the evening hours. There were 10 new fires in the Galena Zone, 10 new fires in the Upper Yukon Zone and nine fires in the Tanana Zone. Most of the fires were in limited management option areas and placed in monitor status. Action was taken on two of the fires:

Otter Creek Fire # 299

Fairbanks Flight Service reported the fire at 3:45 p.m. in the Upper Yukon Zone. An Air Attack aircraft responded and reported two fires in the vicinity. A load of smokejumpers responded from Bettles. A tanker dropped two loads of retardant on the fire. A Helicopter shuttled Fort Yukon #1 crew in after it demobed from fire #245. The Chena IHC has been assigned to the fire. Firefighters will continue working the fire. The fire is listed at 160 acres.

Stove Creek Fire # 294

At 1:10 p.m. the fire was reported in the Galena Zone by a smokejumper aircraft. The fire was 50 acres, burning in black spruce and tundra with a 60 percent active perimeter. The fire plotted in a Full suppression management area and it was determined that action needed to be taken. Two loads of smokejumpers, two CL-215 Scoopers, one retardant tanker, Air Attack and one Fire Boss SEAT responded. Resources achieved 40% containment by 10 p.m. The fire is listed at 65 acres.

There were also 8 new fires in the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) protection areas.

6/21 – The Alaska Fire Situation

Thanks to the public for their efforts in preventing fires thus far. The majority of the human-caused fires have been the result of less-preventable sources such as off-roading, power lines, and structure fires spreading to wildlands. Please continue to exercise diligence in preventing fires as the Solstice celebration weekend could lead to new fires from campfires and other recreational fun. Ensure that campfires are legal before you build them and fully extinguished when you leave. If you plan to burn debris, obtain and adhere to Alaska Division of Forestry guidelines and suspensions as outlined by <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn>. For information about emergency closures for campfires in National Parks in Alaska, visit <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>.

The cloud cover and light rain will make little difference in the fire situation because of the dry conditions. Cloudy skies and scattered precipitation may lead to the misconception that vegetation is less dry and result in human-caused fires. The precipitation could also lead to additional convection and lightning-caused fires. The partly-cloudy weekend will transition into another hot, dry week and any fires that start now could continue to grow exponentially next week. Fire growth on Thursday demonstrated resistance to control and the fire behavior and growth that was seen by personnel staffing fires reinforced the severity of dryness in not only the black spruce, but

also in the grasses, lichens, and tundra.

One June 19, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services issued a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory for all of Alaska, excluding the coastal areas and panhandle. Record heat and dry fuels for much of Alaska producing record-setting fire spread potential and rapidly rising resistance to suppression efforts across boreal spruce and tussock tundra fuels. Read more

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/outlooks/FFBehavior.pdf>.

Alaskan agencies are supplementing firefighting resources and are prepared to address the situation, though multiple fire starts, no matter what the cause, could lead to resource shortages. Alaska has added additional air tankers (including water scooping, and retardant), smokejumpers, helicopters (including the Canadian Rappattack helirappelers crew), and over head to its existing firefighting forces. A task force of engines is being formed and will include U.S Forest Service, Division of Forestry, and cooperator engines. They will be available for statewide initial attack. In general, it is crucial that rapid response occur on new fires that require response.

6/21 – Fire Information

The primary source for fire information is <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>. The Alaska Situation Report has information about individual fires <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and a map is available at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>. As of today, according to the AICC a total of 282 fires have burned 274,771 acres statewide this year. Fire-related news releases are posted at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>.

6/21 – Emergency Planning

Alaskans are asked to be proactive and consider emergency planning measures. Information about emergency planning can be found in the Wildland Fire Guide at http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/Alaska_Wildland_Fire_Guide_2013.pdf (p. 7).

You may also call the Alaska Fire Service/Division of Forestry combined Fire Information Office at 907-356-5511. If we get new fire starts and the call volume is heavy, please keep calling back if you do not initially reach us. Southwest Alaska also has a Public Information Officer in place at 907-524-0060. Information about the Chisana River Fire, which is highly visible from the Yukon Territory and into Alaska, is available at <http://inciweb.org/incident/3440/>. For information about fires in the Fairbanks Area, call 907 451-2704. Information about fires burning on National Park Service lands throughout Alaska is provided at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>.

6/21 - Fairbanks and nearby areas

Activity in the Fairbanks area is minimal and the rain is providing needed moisture in the area.

Information Gathering/Additional References

www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

www.twitter.com

Alaska Fire Service account: **@BLM_AFS**

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **@AK_Forestry**

Bureau of Land Management account: **@BLMAlaska**

National Park Service account: **@AlaskaNPS**

US Fish and Wildlife Service account: **@USFWSAlaska**

Alaska Fire Consortium: **@AKfirescience**

www.facebook.com

BLM Alaska Fire Service account: **BLM Alaska Fire Service**

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **AK.Forestry**

Bureau of Land Management account: **BLMAlaska**

National Park Service account: **AlaskaNPS**

US Fish and Wildlife Service account: **USFWSAlaska**

www.youtube.com

Alaska Division of Forestry account: **AlaskaDNRDOF**

National Park Service account: **AlaskaNPS**

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
- Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
- Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Interagency Newsroom (Media Guide): <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Alaska Fire Consortium: <http://akfireconsortium.uaf.edu>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and
- <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- BLM Alaska Fire Service: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/afs/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry: <http://forestry.alaska.gov>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/nature/fire/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Wildland Fire Update is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service