

ALASKA INTERAGENCY
COORDINATION CENTER
AICC



Wildland Fire Updates

June 23, 2013
Last Updated: 4:47 p.m.

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

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

6/23 – Wildland Firefighters arrive for the Lower 48



Interagency Hotshot Crews unloading NICC jet
Photo: Sarah Saarloos



Lower 48 wildland firefighters getting Alaska briefing
Photot: Mel Slater

Due to the high fire danger statewide firefighters from the lower 48 have been flown up to Fairbanks to assist with suppression efforts of multiple fires.

Interagency Hotshot Crews: Zig Zag (Zig Zag, OR), Rogue River (Prospect, OR), Wolf Creek (Glide, OR), Winema (Klamath Falls, OR) and Prineville (Prineville, OR).

6/23 – Warmer temperatures predicted for the coming week

An upper level ridge is predicted to build in to Alaska through the week for hot and dry weather again statewide. Vegetation in the central and eastern Interior to become very dry and susceptible for new fire starts. Thunderstorms are predicted again today in the northern and eastern interior. There is a potential for a thunderstorm bust the end of the week which could potentially start new wildland fires.

There were 5 new fires in Alaska Fire Service protection areas. Most of the fires were in limited management option areas and placed in monitor status. Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) protection areas reported 5 new fires. The Forest Service also reported a new start near Moose Pass. The fire was located at Upper Trail Lake and contained at .7 acres.

Village Creek Fire #289

Due to wind in the area the Village Creek fire picked up in activity yesterday. Multiple aircraft and a load of smokejumpers responded from McGrath. The fire grew 50 acres to a total of 130 but was moving into wet lands. Two fire crews (Chevak #2 and Scammon Bay) have been flown in to assist with the suppression efforts.

6/23 – The Lightning slows...

There were 97 lightning strikes on June 22. Few new fires occurred in the Alaska Fire Service protection areas. All five fires are in limited management option areas. The staffed fires are down to two:

Otter Creek Fire # 299

The fire was declared controlled. Smoke jumpers and aerial support has demobed. Tentative demob of the crew is scheduled for 6/23.

Skaktoolik River Fire # 292

The lightning-caused fire started on June 20 is listed at 2,387 acres and is 90 percent active. The fire is in a modified limited management option area and is under surveillance.

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 – 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>.

6/22 – AICC 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 306 fires have burned 366,684 acres statewide this year. Fire-related news releases are posted at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>.

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