



# Wildland Fire Updates

June 24, 2013  
Last Updated: 11:30 a.m.

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

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

## 6/24 – Canadian and U.S. Fire Managers Join Forces to Manage Chisana River Fire



**6/24** – Several factors are expected to lead to another busy week for the firefighting community. The warm, dry conditions continue with lightning forecasted to be focused in the southern half of the state. Fires that are burning will grow and new fires that start will be resistant to control. Smoke may be visible to the public and could impact areas in proximity to fires. If smoke impacts roadways, motorists are asked to use caution, slow down, and drive with their headlights on. Updated information on travel conditions can be found at <http://511.alaska.gov>. For general fire information support, please call 907-356-5511.

Photo: Ansel Siegenthaler – NPS

Ten new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center on Sunday. Fourteen fires are staffed statewide, but this number will change as new fires start throughout the day that require response. Fire managers are prioritizing the movement of aircraft and personnel to be positioned to respond to new fires. So far this year, 317 fires statewide have burned 379,644 acres.

**Tok Area** – Alaska Division of Forestry is monitoring two wildfires that are visible from the communities of Dot Lake and Chicken. The Billy Creek Fire is burning approximately 15 miles northeast of Dot Lake and is visible from the Alaska Highway. The 100-acre fire was started by lightning Saturday. The Dennison Fork Fire is burning approximately seven miles southeast of Chicken. The 10-acre fire was started by lightning on June 20. Since both fires are burning in areas of limited protection and no values are at risk the fires are being allowed to take their natural course.

**Chisana River Fire #145** – Due to the forecast for continued hot, dry weather, fire managers with the Alaska Division of Forestry are increasing their capability to do long-range planning for the Chisana River Fire. A team from Alaska and Canada will take over management of the fire by midweek and operations will shift from Tok to Beaver Creek, Yukon, Canada for closer proximity to the fire. The 29, 910-acre fire is approximately 13 miles west of the Canadian border, 18 miles west of Beaver Creek, Yukon, Canada and 21 miles northeast of Chisana.

While growth of the fire has slowed in recent days, the high temperatures and low relative humidity forecasted for the coming week will lead to fire growth. Fire managers have developed contingency plans, positioned resources, and have identified management action points to work from should backcountry improvements or natural or cultural resources are threatened. Currently no resources are threatened and smoke will be visible at times.

## **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](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](http://www.inciweb.nwcg.gov)

[www.twitter.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 ##**