



Wildland Fire Updates

July 3, 2013
Last Updated: 1:45 p.m.

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

Updates are provided as significant changes in activity occur.

7/3 Evacuation Watch for MP 14-30 Chena Hot Springs Road

Stuart Creek 2 Fire (#280) – An Evacuation Watch, issued by the Fairbanks North Star Borough, remains in effect for those living in the area of Mile 14 to Mile 32 of the Chena Hot Springs Rd. An Evacuation Watch is an advisory intended to inform those living in the affected area of the possibility an evacuation so they can make appropriate preparations. Those who need to evacuate livestock, sled dogs, and other animals can take them to the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds.

The Stuart Creek 2 Fire, which has grown to 50,000 acres, began on military lands and spread to adjacent state lands. It is four miles from the Chena River. Growth Tuesday occurred to the south and east. Cooler temperatures, higher humidity and light winds should provide firefighters with some relief today. A Type 2 Incident Management Team has taken over management of fire operations and a Type 1 Team has been ordered. Smokejumpers, retardant tankers and military helicopters continue to attack the fire. In addition, crews have begun positioning pumps and hoses to protect structures ahead of the fire.

Additional Information on emergency preparedness is available from the Fairbanks North Star Borough <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/EmergencyOperations/default.htm>



Jason Buist Photo



Josh Marshal Photo



Please do your part to prevent human-caused fires this holiday weekend.

It is very important that homeowners take time to create defensible space. The Alaska Firewise brochure provides guidelines for emergency preparedness and measures that can be taken to prepare a home and property for wildland fire <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>.

Pilots! Check for Temporary Flight Restrictions at <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>.

7/3 – Fire Information Update

A total of **103** fires are active statewide, according to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. A total of **427** fires have burned **921,496** acres so far this year; **12** fires are staffed.

Skinny's Road Fire (#388) –The 1,806-acre fire is now 55 percent contained. The fire is near Mile 238 of the Parks Highway. Pilot cars are being used for travel between Milepost 322 on the south end and Milepost 332 on the north end of the Parks Highway during the hours of 6 a.m. to midnight. Travelers are reminded to use caution when driving through smoky conditions by driving with headlights on and watching for fire equipment and firefighters. Fire updates may be available on <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3456/>. A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place over Skinny's Road Fire to provide a safe environment for firefighting. More info: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>

Alaska Highway Conditions – The Alaska Highway is open and not affected by fires in the Tok Area. For information about the Moon Lake Fire and other fires in the Tok area managed by the Alaska Type 2 Incident Management Team, visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3459/>. Those fires include the Moon Lake (#414), Tetlin Junction (#401), Dennison Fork (#300), Billy Creek (#357), Ladue Fork (#386), South Junction Ladue (#448) and Big Timber Creek (#449).

Excelsior Fire (#444) – Smoke is visible along the Richardson Highway (in the Paxson and Meiers Lake area) due to the 1,465-acre fire. The fire is not staffed but is being monitored by the Alaska Division of Forestry.

7/2 Smoke Impacts Interior Alaska

Smoke from numerous fires burning statewide is visible throughout much of the state. Smoke is expected to persist in the Interior this week. In general, in areas where smoke impacts roadways, motorists are asked to use caution, slow down, and drive with their headlights on. Information on travel conditions and fire-related road closures can be found at <http://511.alaska.gov>.

Keep informed of local fire information sources and air quality reports. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has smoke information at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm> and <http://dec.alaska.gov/air/smokemain.htm>. For "Frequently Asked Questions" visit http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smoke_qa.htm.

Fallen Firefighters

The Alaska wildland firefighter community grieves with the family and friends of the 19 firefighters who died on the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona. The firefighters were part of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew from Prescott, Arizona, hosted by the Prescott Fire Department. To provide support to the families of the firefighters that were killed, visit the Wildland Firefighter Foundation at <http://www.wffoundation.org/>. The Wildland Firefighter Foundation's main focus is to help families of firefighters killed in the line of duty and to assist injured firefighters and their families.

John Segar, Chairman of the National Multi Agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group, has asked that the fire community take an operational pause in remembrance today. Segar wrote "The wildland fire community, and the nation, deeply mourns the loss of nineteen firefighters from Prescott Fire Department's Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew. Even as we mourn this tragic loss we must also remember and ...honor the other firefighters who have perished in the line of duty on other wildland fires this year. The 2013 fire season is well underway and is likely to continue at a high intensity level for several more months. With that in mind, NMAC requests that all wildland fire personnel in the United States observe an Operational Pause in Remembrance on the morning of Wednesday, July 3.

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