



Wildland Fire Updates

July 14, 2013
Last Updated: 9:00 a.m.

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

Updates are provided as significant changes in activity occur.

7/14 Stuart Creek 2 Fire (#280)

The evacuation watch is still in effect for mileposts 16-34 of the Chena Hot Springs Road. The fire is **38% contained** and is **84,275 acres** with no growth in acreage mapped yesterday. Yesterday's warmer and drier weather caused some increase in fire activity. Late Saturday a smoke column developed within the interior, near the northeast fire perimeter.

The fire is still south of the Chena River and east of Transmitter Road. The fire has been backing down the hill toward the South Fork of the Chena River. The forecast today is for winds from the south and west, which will push some smoke into areas along the Chena Hot Springs Road. It will also push the fire closer to the South Fork of the Chena River. Fire crews and the C-215 "ducks" (water scooping airplanes) will be used as needed to hold the fire west of the South Fork.

Crews continue to hold the fire on the Quarry and Brigadier Road on the fire's south flank, and have extended the containment north to Moose Creek. There are 730 personnel assigned to the fire, 22 hand crews, 23 engines, 9 dozers, 12 water tenders, and 8 helicopters. Air tankers are available to work on the fire as needed.

Firefighters will continue to provide structure protection in the threatened communities. Isolated flare-ups will continue to occur on the fire, including single and group tree torching. There are extensive areas within the burned area where shallow-rooted spruce trees are toppling, further complicating the fire suppression efforts. Special safety precautions are required in the Military Impact Area due to dangerous and unexploded ordnances.

Plans for today include continuing to work on the additional 35 miles of direct hand and dozer line construction, plus securing and mopping up completed containment line. Today's clear skies will allow air operations to assist ground resources as needed. Tomorrow's forecast calls for a chance of dry lightning. For more information please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3468/>.

The Tanana Fairground remains open to hosting animals for residents within the evacuation watch area. Chena Hot Springs Road and the Chena Hot Springs Resort are open. There is a closure in effect for the Chena River State Recreation Area. For more information, please visit: www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm or contact: (907) 451-2695.

7/14 Moon Lake (#401)

The fire is 17,155 acres and remains north of the Tanana River. The warmer and drier weather yesterday created more fire activity, including single tree torching. This increased activity attracted the interest of the

public along the Alaska Highway. The weather forecast calls for similar warm, dry weather to continue through at least Monday. Areas of heavy blowdown are making containment efforts difficult.

Crews will continue today with direct line construction and mop up on the east side of the fire, where they are tying the fire to the area burned in the 2010 Eagle Trail Fire. Hotshot crews are monitoring the northwest corner of the fire, preparing for a possible burnout operation. Much of the fire continues to be monitored by air and boat. There are 256 personnel on this fire, including 11 crews and 4 helicopters. A Type 3 Incident Management Team from Indiana is shadowing the Alaska Incident Management Team to learn management techniques. For more information please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3459/>.

New Fires

Two new fires were detected yesterday. The West Fork Fire (#538) is 800 acres, creeping and backing in black spruce and tundra. It is in limited protection in the Tanana Zone. Eight smokejumpers were dropped near the fire to protect a cabin north of the fire.

The Main Creek Fire (#540) is approximately 14 miles southeast of the village of Ruby. It is about 300 acres, creeping and backing in black spruce and tundra, spreading to the southeast.

Smoke

All communities near the fires should expect to be impacted by smoke. In the evenings and morning, smoke sinks to the lower elevation communities like North Pole, Fairbanks, and Eielson AFB. For information on smoke conditions, visit this website: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>. Smoke can pose health concerns for the public. Residents are encouraged to visit the "Protect Yourself from Smoke" website for smoke protection information at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Wildfires/>.

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>.

7/14 – Fire Information Update

A total of 74 fires are active statewide, according to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. A total of 460 fires have burned 1,051,253 acres so far this year; 7 fires are staffed.

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_ga.htm.

7/14 Keeping Campfires Safe This Fire Season

The warmer and drier weather is rapidly drying out mosses, grasses, and other light fuels. These light fuels are the carriers of fire. Fire personnel have suppressed numerous human caused fires across Alaska this fire season. Currently, any spark can cause a fire.

Campers are advised that campfires are dangerous this time of year. Large fires and bonfires, fires that are throwing embers, or any fires that cannot be completely extinguished quickly create a serious risk.

Due to the severe potential for damage to natural resources, property, and human life, penalties may be imposed including fines and possible imprisonment (AS4115.140).

All burning permits remain suspended until further notice due to potential fire severity.

Preventing human-caused wildfires requires awareness and responsibility, and benefits our state resources and the safety of our communities.

"You are responsible for every fire you start"

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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