



# *Wildland Fire Updates*

July 15, 2013  
Last Updated: 2:00 p.m.

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

*Updates are provided as significant changes in activity occur.*

## **7/15 Stuart Creek 2 Fire (#280)**

There will be a community meeting today at the Pleasant Valley Community Center (7234 Anders Ave.) starting at 6:30 p.m.

The evacuation watch is still in effect for mileposts 16-34 of the Chena Hot Springs Road. The fire is 57% contained and is 85,475 acres.

Fire activity increased with yesterday's warm, dry weather and periods of gusty wind. Late yesterday afternoon, the fire spotted across the South Fork of the Chena River near Marten Creek, over four miles south of the main fork of the Chena River. As of this morning, a spot on the north side of Marten Creek is estimated at 30 acres, while a spot south of Marten Creek is about 5 acres. Helicopters and crews will be working to check the growth of these spot fires.

The fire is still south of the Chena River and east of Transmitter Road. The fire continues to back down the hill toward the South Fork of the Chena River. Crews continue to hold the fire on the Quarry and Brigadier Road on the fire's south flank. Today's temperatures will be near record highs, and humidity will be low. Winds are expected to be from the southwest. There is a chance of isolate thunderstorms.

There are 733 personnel assigned to the fire, including 22 hand crews, 23 engines, 8 dozers, 12 water tenders, and 8 helicopters. Air tankers are available to work on the fire as needed.

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

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 contact: (907) 451-2695 or visit: [www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm) .

### 7/15 Moon Lake Fire (#401)

The fire is 17,155 acres and remains north of the Tanana River. The warmer and drier weather yesterday created more fire activity. Isolated uphill runs and torching were observed on the northwest portion of the fire. Surface fire spread and torching were observed on the north and east flanks. This increased activity attracted the interest of the public along the Alaska Highway. **Please be careful while driving in the fire vicinity.**

Today's weather forecast calls for more warm, dry weather with west winds. Crews will prepare for burnout on the northwest part of the fire to stop westward movement of the fire. They will continue to secure the east flank, tying to the 2010 Eagle Trail burn scar. Much of the fire continues to be monitored by air and boat.

There are 174 personnel on this fire, including 5 crews and 3 helicopters. A Type 3 Incident Management Team has assumed command of the Moon Lake Fire. For more information please visit:

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3459/> .

### 7/15 Excelsior Fire (#444)

The fire was started by lightning 6/27/13 and is about 18 miles west of Chistochina. It is now 3,860 acres. A flight yesterday showed increased activity and smoke columns up to 5,000 feet. The main fire was active on the southeast flank, and a spot across the Gakona River was mostly active on the southwest perimeter. Individual tree torching was seen.



Excelsior Fire - July 14, 2013

### New Fires

Two new fires were detected yesterday. The Russian River Fire (#545) was smoldering in duff and was controlled at 0.1 acre. The Horse Fire (#547) was caused by arcing from an electric fence and was controlled at 0.1 acre. Both are in monitor status.

### 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>.

### 7/15 – Fire Information Update

A total of 77 fires are active statewide, according to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. A total of 462 fires have burned 1,060,522 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](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smoke_ga.htm).

## 7/15 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](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 ##**