



Wildland Fire Updates

July 16, 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.

7/16 Stuart Creek 2 Fire (#280)

As of 8:00 p.m. July 15, an Evacuation Watch is in effect for Chena Hot Springs Road between Mileposts 27 and 39. Areas of active, uncontrolled fire threaten the Watch area.

The Evacuation Watch for residents of Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley along Chena Hot Springs Road between Mileposts 16 and 27 has been lifted.

The fire is 57% contained and is 85,475 acres. The west side of the fire is now fully contained. The fire is still expected to spread to the east and northeast.

Fire activity decreased yesterday with cooler temperatures and higher humidity over the fire area. There were isolated flare-ups on the interior of the fire. Firefighters and aerial resources kept two spot fires east of the South Fork of the Chena River near Marten Creek in check. One has been held at about 30 acres.

The fire is still south of the Chena River and east of Transmitter Road. There are 673 personnel assigned to the fire, including 21 hand crews, 15 engines, 5 dozers, 9 water tenders, and 5 helicopters. Air tankers are available to work on the fire as needed.

There will continue to be isolated flare-ups on the fire, including single and group tree torching. Fast-growing spot fires may also occur. 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/> .

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 .

7/16 Moon Lake Fire (#401)

The fire is 17,795 acres and remains north of the Tanana River. Crews performed a successful indirect firing operation on the northwest corner of the fire yesterday to stop the fire spread in that direction. A crew from the Tetlin Jct. Ridge Fire (#414) assisted with this activity. The weather was warm and dry yesterday with surface fire spread and some active crowning in interior pockets of black spruce on the north and east flanks. Smoke

columns attracted public interest along the Alaska Highway. **Please be careful while driving in the fire vicinity.**

Today's weather forecast calls for slightly cooler, more humid conditions with a chance of thunderstorms. Winds are expected to be from the west. Crews will continue work to tie the fire to the Eagle Trail Fire scar to the east. Much of the fire continues to be monitored by air and boat.

There are 126 personnel on this fire, including 4 crews and 3 helicopters. For more information please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3459/>.

New Fires

Five new fires were detected yesterday. The Big Fish Lake Fire (#551) is 600 acres about three miles north of Big Fish Lake. The nearby Koness Fire (#550) is 1,100 acres. Both are smoldering and creeping in tundra, with a low rate of spread to the east. Both are in monitor status.

The Co-op Fire (#548) is a 0.1 acre escaped construction debris fire near GlennRich. It has been cold trailed and declared out. The Mineral Lake Fire (#549) at 0.1 acre is a human-caused fire on an island. It is contained and controlled. The McGrath Road Fire (#553) is from a landowner burning tree stumps and piles during the burn suspension. It is 0.1 acre and being extinguished.

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>.

7/16 – Fire Information Update

A total of 80 fires are active statewide, according to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. A total of 468 fires have burned 1,063,471 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_qa.htm.

7/16 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