



Wildland Fire Updates

July 17, 2013
Last Updated: 10:20 a.m.

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

Updates are provided as significant changes in activity occur.

Firewise Film Nights now showing in Fairbanks

Local residents gathered last night at Skinny's Halfway Inn on the Parks Highway for a fun Firewise film event. Join us tonight at 6pm at the North Pole Fire Station and Thursday, June 18 at 6pm at Pleasant Valley Community Center! Learn how to prepare for evacuations and simple to do steps to make your home better survive a wildfire in a fun setting.

New Fires

Yesterday, there was one new lightning caused fire located during a detection flight. This fire is 40 acres in size on the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge in a limited protection area.

7/16 Stuart Creek 2 Fire (#280)

An Evacuation Watch in effect for Chena Hot Springs Road between Mileposts 27 and 39. Areas of active, uncontrolled fire threaten the watch area. The Chena River State Recreation Area is closed, for information contact: 907- 451-2695. The Chena Hot Springs Road and the Chena Hot Springs Resort remain open.

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.

Today, the Type 2 Alaska (Green) Team (Kurth) will assume command of the fire, while air resources work to contain spot fires on the northeast flank. Crew resources continue to secure and monitor established containment lines on the west flank of the fire.

The fire is still south of the Chena River and east of Transmitter Road. There are 615 personnel assigned to the fire, including 17 hand crews, 14 engines, 5 dozers, 10 water tenders, and 5 helicopters. Air tankers are available to work on the fire as needed.

For more information please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3468/> .

7/17 Moon Lake Fire (#401)

The fire is 17,795 acres and remains north of the Tanana River. The fire is 10% contained. The crews are working on securing the fire line with construction on the east flank working towards the 2010 Eagle Trail fire perimeter and along the previous day's indirect firing operation. Rappellers will be inserted on the northeast

flank to construct helispots and secure line to protect Mansfield Lake Village. The fire will continue to be monitored by air and boat. The fire is managed by a Type 3 Team. There are 130 personnel on this fire, including 4 crews and 2 helicopters. For more information please visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3459/> .

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>.

7/17 Statewide Fire Update

A total of 76 fires are active statewide with 4 fires are staffed, according to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. A total of 469 fires have burned 1,071,055 acres so far this year.

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.

7/17 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