



Wildland Fire Updates

August 10, 2013
Last Updated: 10:45 p.m.

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

An update will not be provided unless significant changes in activity occur.

8/10 The 2013 Alaska fire season...Part II

For a moment it looked as if the 2013 fire season was in rapid descent. Many of the fires were either contained or showed only minor activity. Media and public interest waned. Crews and equipment were being demobilized and resources were in discussion for assignment to the Lower-48. And then the Chinook winds arrived.

The strong Chinook winds with gusts up to 45 mph have resulted in flare-ups within existing fires across the state. Multiple fires have increased significantly in fire activity. Alaska is now upgraded to Preparedness Level 4 and resources are being ramped up as a response. Incident Management Teams and other organizations are being assigned to several fires. An AICC Situation Report summary of several fires affected by recent winds are listed below:

Mississippi #117

The fire is now being managed by a Type 3 organization. The Alaska Type 1 Team has been ordered for 8/9/13. The fire has escaped military restricted area, threatening numerous structures and state timber units. Observed fire behavior was running, spotting and torching. The fire has moved out of old growth timber and into open tundra, spruce and hardwoods. The fire is wind driven. Large growth is expected as weather conditions remain hot, dry and windy. Pioneer Peak IHC and 8 smokejumpers were deployed for cabin protection. Firefighters will continue to do site protection and to utilize air resources to slow the spread north. Chena IHC was reassigned to this fire.

Crater Creek #661

The Chena IHC was reassigned to Fire 117 for structure protection. Six smokejumpers were demobilized for higher priority fires. The fire grew to the west and northwest. Firefighters will continue to construct and hold line along with aerial support from CL215 water-scoopers.

Birch Creek #506

A type 3 organization assumed command at on Aug. 9. A type 2 team has been ordered for Sunday, Aug. 11. The observed fire behavior was isolated and group torching, runs through black spruce and active backing. Numerous resources have been ordered to assist with cabin protection.

Stuart Creek #280

Temperatures and humidity moderated fire activity due to a heavy inversion and trace precipitation. Smoke reduced visibility, limiting flight opportunities and aerial monitoring until late in the shift. The evening fire behavior was observed as open flame backing actively in green hardwood stands.

Continued monitoring will be essential to evaluate trigger points for future suppression efforts. Part of the Midnight Sun IHC mopped up areas of heat near containment lines in Division M. The remainder of the crew prepped military assets and tested hydraulics at multiple locations in Division B. Engines patrolled Quarry and Brigadier Roads in Division C. Various military sites in and around the Impact Area remain threatened, and aerial and ground-based military training exercises are requiring extensive coordination. An incoming Airspace Coordinator will facilitate airspace issues between the incident and military beginning 8/10. The Midnight Sun IHC will demobilize Aug. 10. A TFR remains in place.

Moon Lake #401

In Division W, Yukon and half of Gannett Glacier continued securing and mopping up the area around H-20 and the slopover in the 2010 Eagle Trail fire scar. The other half of Gannett Glacier was flown to Division T to secure the slopover near H-30. Upper Tanana #2 has nearly completed plumbing the structures in Mansfield Village.

8/10 State Fire Activity

This summer has been exceptionally hot and dry, and continues that trend in the Interior! A variety of record high temperatures were set in June, July, and August at several locations around the state, including Fairbanks, Anchorage and McGrath: three centers of Alaskan fire activity. Fairbanks had only 55% of normal rainfall for June/July, while Anchorage has had only 40% of its normal. Some rain has helped moderate conditions in the southern and western part of the state, but strong southerly winds continue to dry the air mass north of the Alaska Range, through the central and eastern Interior. Additionally, these winds will cause fires to burn very quickly through fuels that are already dried to near-record levels. This exceptionally dry start to August will continue as no rain is in sight with the weather pattern keeping warm, dry weather over Interior Alaska for the next 10 days.

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, so far this year 576 fires have burned 1,215,585 acres statewide. Information about individual fires is located at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>.

Fire Information Gathering

- **Moon Lake/ Tetlin Junction Ridge**– <http://inciweb.org/incident/3459/>, 907-699-6411
- **Stuart Creek 2**– <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3468/> , 907-356-5885
- **Mississippi** – 907-750-1639

Smoke can pose health concerns for the public. Visit the “Protect Yourself from Smoke” website for information at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Wildfires/>. 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.

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“You are responsible for every fire you start”

Information Gathering/Additional References

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

www.twitter.com

Alaska Fire Service account: **@BLM_AFS**

Alaska Division of Forestry account:

@AK_Forestry Bureau of Land

Management account: **@BLMAAlaska**

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>
 - o 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