



Wildland Fire Updates

August 12, 2013
Last Updated: Noon

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

Updates will be provided as significant changes in activity occur.



Firefighters from Near and Far

With no sign of an end to Alaska’s fire season, Alaska firefighters are getting some help from the Lower 48. Crews from Allakaket, Marshall, St. Michael, Nulato and Tanana are being joined by crews from North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Maine and Arizona. A crew from Mississippi has been assigned to the Mississippi Fire, burning near Delta Junction.

For many of the firefighters from the Lower 48 it is their first trip to Alaska and, despite the hard work ahead of them, they are excited to be here.

They start their assignment by viewing a video that details how fighting fires in Alaska is different from elsewhere. The video includes information on everything from Alaska topography, weather and vegetation to dealing with wildlife in fire camp.



Above: The fire crew from the village of Marshall being briefed at the Alaska Fire Service Sunday before being sent to the Birch Creek Fire south of Circle Hot Springs./Photo by Maureen Clark

Below: Five crews from around the Lower 48 arriving at the Alaska Fire Service Monday afternoon./Photo by Matt Vos

Attention Pilots!

Six Temporary Flight Restrictions are in place for fires burning in Alaska and additional TFRs may be added, depending upon fire activity. Please check for TFRs at <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.jsp>

Fires that do not have a TFR in place may still have fire aircraft working in the area, including fixed-wing and/or helicopters. Please stay at least 5 nautical miles away from ALL wildland fires to keep the airspace safe for everyone.

8/13 Caribou Creek Fire #679

The Caribou Creek Fire near Salcha grew to 1,100 acres Monday, spreading slowly to the northeast. The fire remains two-to-three-miles north of the Salcha River. About 60 firefighters are working on the fire. Fire managers are focusing their efforts on assessing and protecting structures in the area. Heavy smoke is making it difficult to accurately map the fire. A Temporary Flight Restriction has been put in place over the fire area. Fire managers are warning hunters and cabin owners that traveling to the area is unsafe at this time. The fire has the potential to spread rapidly and cut off escape routes.

8/13 Mississippi Fire #117

The wind-driven Mississippi Fire near Delta has grown to 52,539 acres. Firefighters are working to protect structures in the Clear Creek, Whitestone Farms and South Bank areas. Fire managers are using aviation resources to reduce the probability of the fire crossing the Tanana and Delta Rivers. They are also preparing for a burn-out operation near Whitestone Farms. Information on the fire can be found at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3618/> or by calling 907-750-1639

8/13 Birch Creek Fire #506

Crews on the Birch Creek Fire, southeast of Circle Hot Springs, are working to build indirect line to Medicine Lake from the Portage Creek drainage. The fire is at 24,673 acres. A Type 2 Incident Management Team is managing the fire. The team held a community meeting last night and will hold another Thursday night at 6 p.m. behind the museum in Central.

8/13 Stuart Creek 2 Fire #280

With continued warm, dry weather, the Stuart Creek 2 Fire is spreading slowly to the east, within and beyond the military impact area where the fire began. Crews are continuing efforts to protect military assets in the fire and to locate and extinguish hot spots. Meanwhile, the Temporary Flight Restriction over the fire has been reduced slightly to accommodate military exercises and civil air traffic. The new TFR is now south of the Chena Hot Springs Road. A map of the Stuart Creek 2 Fire TFR and other temporary flight restrictions in Alaska can be found at: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.jsp>



Incident Commander Dan Dallas briefs community members about the Birch Creek Fire in Central Monday night./ Photo by Chris Barth

8/13 Tabert Lake Fire#625

The 283-acre Tabert Lake Fire is burning four miles due west of little Louise Lake in the Copper River Basin. It is unstaffed, but personnel from the Division of Forestry are monitoring it closely and structure assessments have been done for all known sites in the area. The Lake Louise Volunteer Fire Department has a fire boat equipped with a pump and has access to other boats for support.

8/13 Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory is in effect for the central and eastern Interior. Find more information at: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/outlooks/FFBehavior.pdf>

Hunters – Please Be Careful with Your Campfire!



With the start of hunting season, hunters are urged to be extra careful with campfires and with anything that could start a fire. Extremely warm, dry conditions in the central and eastern Interior and limited firefighting resources make it urgent that those traveling in the backcountry use extra caution with anything that could cause a wildfire.

You are responsible for every fire you start. Make sure your campfire is dead out!

8/13 By the numbers

So far this year 582 fires have burned 1,241,774 acres statewide. Information about individual fires is located at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>.

8/13 Smoke

Smoke from wildland fires in the Interior is predicted to be heaviest in the morning due to more stable air, with improvement in the afternoon as smoke has the potential to lift. The smokiest conditions will likely be in the Upper Tanana Valley. General information about wildland fire smoke is available at

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Wildfires/>.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

<http://dec.alaska.gov/air/smokemain.htm>

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smoke_ga.htm

Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality Index

<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>

<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/Alaska_Wildland_Fire_Guide_2013.pdf (page 5)

Motorists that are driving in smoky conditions are asked to drive with headlights on and to use caution. Updates on conditions are posted to <http://511.alaska.gov/alaska511/mappingcomponent/index>.

Smoke is not only an impact to the public and to motorists, it also impacts the firefighting community. When smoke is heavy, aircraft cannot fly to look for new fires, map existing fires, fight fires, or deliver people and supplies to fires. In situations where aerial firefighting and logistics are on hold due to smoke, fire managers prepare to be ready and take action as soon as conditions change and aircraft can once again fly.

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

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