



# Wildland Fire Updates

August 14, 2013  
Last Updated: Noon

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

The Wildland Fire Update may be updated during the day as significant changes in fire activity occur.



The Tabert Lake Fire, #625, burning near Lake Louise in the Copper River Basin. Photo by Ashley Dale, AKDOF

### 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.

### Smoke

The Upper Tanana River Valley is experiencing smoky conditions from wildfires today, with very heavy smoke reported in the Delta Junction area. An air quality advisory is in effect for the Central and Eastern Interior due to smoke from fires. More information can be found at <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories>

Drivers in and around the Delta Junction and the Alaska and Richardson Highways areas are asked to keep their headlights on, drive slowly and use caution due to limited visibility caused by smoke.

Information about driving conditions can be found at:

<http://511.alaska.gov/alaska511/mappingcomponent/index>

Increased air stability is making the smoke heaviest in the morning, with conditions generally improving by afternoon.

Smoke is not only an impact to the public and to motorists; it also impacts the firefighting community. Heavy smoke can affect the ability of fire managers to fly to look for new fires, map existing fires, fight fires or deliver people and supplies to fires.

#### **8/14 Tabert Lake Fire #625**

The fire, burning East of Lake Louise, is estimated at approximately 1,200 acres. Heavy smoke and fire intensity have made it difficult to map the fire and get a more precise estimate of its size. The fire made a substantial run to the north Tuesday and a 10,000-foot smoke column was visible from most of the western Copper River valley.

#### **8/14 Caribou Creek Fire #679**

The Caribou Creek Fire near Salcha saw limited spread Tuesday. The fire is estimated at 1,150 acres. Heavy smoke is making it difficult to accurately map the fire. Fire managers are focusing their efforts on assessing and protecting structures in the area. About 60 firefighters are working on 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.

#### **8/14 Mississippi Fire #117**

The Mississippi Fire near Delta has grown to 56,666 acres. The fire is causing very smoky conditions in and around the Delta Junction area. Firefighters are working to protect structures in the Clear Creek, Whitestone Farms and South Bank areas. Additional crews on the fire, combined with light winds out of the northwest have given fire managers additional tactics for fighting the fire. The dozer line completed on the west side of Whitestone Farms is being extended westward toward the fire's perimeter. Dozer line is to be constructed around the northeast section of the fire to help prevent fire spread to the north. The fire is expected to continue to grow slowly due to shifting winds, low relative humidity and very dry fuels. It remains between the Delta River, Delta Creek and the Tanana River. Structure defense for the Richardson Clearwater (Clear Creek), Whitestone Farms and South Bank homestead areas is nearing completion and will be assessed and improved as needed. Structure protection assessment work continues between Tenderfoot and Fort Greely on the north and east side of the rivers. Information about the fire can be found at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3618/> or by calling 907-750-1639

#### **8/14 Birch Creek Fire #506**

The fire is currently estimated at 24,673 acres. Crews are working to build indirect line from Medicine Lake to the Portage Creek drainage for the protection of Circle Hot Springs. The Type 2 Incident Management Team managing the fire will hold another public meeting Thursday night at 6 p.m. behind the Central museum to provide a fire briefing and answer questions from the public. Information about the fire can be found at <http://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/3625/>

#### **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. 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> Information about the fire can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3468/>

### **8/14 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!*

### **8/14 By the numbers**

So far this year 583 fires have burned 1,247,350 acres statewide. Information about individual fires is located at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>.

### **8/14 Smoke**

Information about smoke from wildland fires can be found 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\\_qa.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smoke_qa.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](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>.

### **Additional References**

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

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>
  - 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](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 ##**

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