

Morning Highlights

June 23, 2007
Morning Highlights 2006-67

Contact:
AFS/DOF, 356-5511

HIGHLIGHTS

- The vast majority of wildland fire activity is in the Mat-Su Valley and on the Kenai Peninsula. Smoke from the Su River and Caribou Hills fires has been persistent in these areas. Light winds are still expected to be carrying smoke in a northerly direction. Precipitation predicted for the area should help moderate fire activity and lessen smoke. For more information, please visit: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>.
- The Su River Fire was reported Friday evening to be 9,700 acres and actively burning in black spruce and a mixed birch/spruce hardwood forest. It is currently burning on both sides of Trapper Lake, west of the Susitna River. Personnel continue work on structure protection. Safety of the public and firefighters is a priority. The fire has not crossed the Susitna River and no evacuations in the Mat-Su Valley have been authorized or advised. Additional firefighting resources are being added and tonight a Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) from Oregon will take over management of the fire. For more information, call **907-354-1955**.
- The Caribou Hills Fire, managed by an Alaska Type 2 IMT, is estimated at 50,000 acres and has destroyed 30 residences and 40 outbuildings at initial assessment. An assessment team is in the area today continuing to determine the complete extent of the damages. The most recent growth was toward the north, pushing the fire's northern edge just south of the southeastern portion of Tustumena Lake. Crews will continue work today to protect structures in the Ninilchik 40 subdivision and to mop up in areas that have already burned. A major push will be made on the western perimeter where the fire still burns south of Deep Creek. Resources will also build line and keep the fire from pushing north across Deep Creek and back into the Ninilchik 40 subdivision. Residents will not be allowed in to their homes and cabins until this perimeter is secure and the area is safe. Two crews are continuing structure protection work with local residents in the Caribou Lake and Moose Horn subdivisions. Dozer line is being built west of the subdivisions and ahead of the fire. Fire activity in this area has been minimal for the last two days and it remains about three miles west of the lake. There is another public meeting tonight at 7 pm at Ninilchik School in Ninilchik, in the gym. For more information contact: **907-714-2484** or visit www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency.

- The Wild Lake Fire, caused by lightning and estimated to be less than an acre, is 2.5 miles south east of the nearest structures. The fire's growth is very slow.
- Burn restrictions are in place. Please contact your local Division of Forestry for information or look on the back of your burn permit for the number to call.
- Pilots are advised to check NOTAMs as Temporary Flight Restrictions are over multiple incidents in Alaska. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>
- See Additional References on next page.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
- National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>

- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/pdfs/02firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov>
- Division of Forestry, Burn Permit Info: (907) 451-2626, <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fire/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov>

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