



Morning Highlights

June 25, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-60

Contact:
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CARIBOU HILLS FIRE

500 personnel now work to suppress the 52,000-acre fire and protect structures in the area. Significant progress was made yesterday as crews worked to improve fireline along the western perimeter of the fire, through the Ninilchik 40 subdivision. They also widened a fireline from Boxcar Hills southwest to the high country in the Caribou Lake and Moosehorn subdivision areas. Structure protection, assessment and mop-up in these areas will continue today. The Jesse's Trail area on the northwest corner appears to be holding where the fire burned slowly to the natural barrier of the trail. An old burn from 1996 has slowed the fire's spread to the west/northwest. South of Deep Creek, firefighters are continuing their attempts to secure the southwest corner. A lack of predicted east winds this morning will give crews and dozers more time to complete line to prevent the fire from moving west down the drainage. Morning rains along the coast have not reached the fire area. For more information contact: **907-714-2484** or visit www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency to find the latest news releases, maps and photos.

As a reminder, the public meeting will be held at Tustumena Elementary School in Kasilof tonight, at 7:00 pm. There will be no public meeting in Ninilchik.

SU RIVER FIRE

An evacuation order remains in effect for residences surrounding the Trapper Lake Area. Fire activity has been minimal due to cool, rainy weather over the area and suppression resources have taken advantage of the conditions because it is predicted to get warmer and drier. However, fireline personnel report that even though it has rained, beneath the wet duff layer there are still a number of hot spots in the dry duff layer. The priorities are human safety, structure protection and the use of Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics during firefighting efforts. Type 1 and 2 fire crews are currently concentrating suppression efforts on the north and south ends of the fire. Crews also continue working on cabin protection— improving defensible space, mopping up hot spots, and reducing fuels between the main fire and structures. For more information, call **907-495-6235**.

WILDERNESS RESCUE

The BLM-AFS Upper Yukon Zone helped coordinate the rescue of a "Wilderness Racer" with Alaska state agencies. The race participant became lost and used his satellite phone to call for assistance. An Upper Yukon Zone aircraft flew the area and was able to locate the person and transport him to Circle City, where State Troopers provided him with additional assistance.

OTHER

- Pilots are advised to check NOTAMs as Temporary Flight Restrictions are in effect over multiple incidents in Alaska. Fire air operations personnel ask that pilots please respect TFRs as there have been numerous incursions of private aircraft that create dangerous situations in areas where firefighting aircraft are at work. An example of this is when smokejumpers responded to the Caribou Hills Fire and were unable to jump upon arrival because of a private aircraft below. Not only is this dangerous for those in the air, it delays initial attack operations. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>
- An Air Quality Advisory for the western Kenai Peninsula has been issued and will be effective from Monday, June 25, 2007 to Wednesday, June 27, 2007. For specifics, please visit: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- A Red Flag Warning is in effect today for south central Alaska for gusty winds. 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.
- 286 fires have been reported this year to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center for a total of 161,563.9 acres. There were no new fires reported Sunday. Of the total, 202 fires are human-caused and 82 are lightning-caused. Fourteen fires are in Wildland Fire Use status.
- There are 39 active fires in the state; 1 in the Galena Zone, 7 in the Tanana Zone, 8 in the Upper Yukon Zone 5 in the Fairbanks Area, 1 in the Delta Area, 5 in the Tok Area, 1 on the Kenai Peninsula, 10 in the Mat-Su Area and 1 in the Southwest Area.

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Additional References on Page 3

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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