

Morning Highlights

June 26, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-61

Contact:
AFS/DOF, 356-5511

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE

Good progress on the Caribou Hills Fire and more stable weather than predicted will allow residents of the Ninilchik 40 subdivision and other cabins in the Caribou Hills back into the fire area on a limited basis. The Oilwell Road will open to residents and cabin owners at 7:00 pm tonight to allow them to access their homes and properties. The roads will close again to public access at 7:00 am on Wednesday morning, to allow fire personnel to work safely in the fire area. Residents who choose to stay at their properties after 7:00 am are asked to keep the roads and trails clear in order to not interfere with fire traffic. The roads are expected to be open daily from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am as work and fire conditions allow.

Predicted winds did not occur, which allowed the firefighters to reach 43-percent containment on the fire. Fireline is nearly completed along the entire west edge of the fire. Structure protection continues, with crews mopping up around the cabins. Near Caribou Lake and the Moosehorn subdivision, line is almost completed from the southeast corner of the fire north to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Structure assessment is nearly complete in the subdivisions as well.

Within the boundaries of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, which includes the area burned by the 2005 Fox Creek Fire, the fire continues to spread slowly to the north and east. Fire incident management and refuge officials are developing a contingency plan for this area. It will prioritize human safety while mitigating negative wilderness impacts. The refuge intends to monitor the fire conditions in the area daily throughout the rest of fire season.

The weather forecast calls for a warming and drying trend for the next few days, but no strong or gusty winds. Predicted conditions should help expose remaining hot spots without making the fire area too unsafe for firefighters and limited public access.

For more information contact: **907-714-2484** or visit www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency to find the latest news releases, maps and photos.

****There will no public meeting tonight due to the 7:00 pm limited opening of the road into the Ninilchik 40 Subdivision.****

SU RIVER FIRE

Significant progress, aided by the weather, was made by all crews working along both sides of Trapper Lake. Crews are mopping and monitoring the northwest side of the fire along the lake and will continue fireline construction and mop-up along the southwest side. The northeast side, at the head of the fire, has been suppressed and mopped up. Fireline was also completed on the south flank of the fire. Crews are moving north up the west flank, building line and putting out hot spots. Fire activity has diminished along most of the east flank, which is being monitored by air. Mop up continues around

Trapper Lake structures. Five remote camps have been established with crews remaining near the firelines at night to reduce amount of travel time to the lines. Helicopters are supporting the crews with supplies food, water, and by removing back haul including trash. Warming temperatures and lower humidity may increase fire behavior over the next two days. In areas with high concentration of black spruce and remaining heat, individual tree torching and the potential for short range spotting is possible. For more information, call **907-495-6235**.

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 and avoid airspace over wildland fires, even if a TFR is not in place as safety is a concern. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>

- 289 fires have been reported this year to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) for over 161,500 acres burned statewide. There were three new fires reported Monday to AICC. An 80-acre fire burning in an area of Limited suppression in the AFS Upper Yukon Zone was spotted by an aircraft enroute from Fort Yukon to Eagle. In the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, a local reported a smoldering area along the bluff in the Point Mack area. An engine crew responded to what looked like an abandoned campfire and will work today to mop-up the area. And, a Canadian Heli-Rappel Crew responded to a fire burning in the Delta Area. Personnel worked through the night on creating a fireline and cutting a helispot. Currently, 41 fires are active statewide and four are staffed. This year to date, a total of 204 fires have been human-caused, 84 lightning-caused and 14 fires are in Wildland Fire Use status.

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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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