



Morning Highlights

June 27, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-62

Contact:
AFS/DOF, 356-5511

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE

With mixed emotions, hundreds of residents and landowners from the Ninilchik 40 Subdivision and the Caribou Hills took advantage Oilwell Road opening so they could access their property on Tuesday evening. Those that stayed at their property are asked to remain off of the roads and trails from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, due to firefighting efforts. The roads are expected to be open daily from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. as suppression work and fire conditions allow. Please drive with care in the area as there will be traffic, firefighting equipment, and other driving hazards such as fallen trees.

Crews will work today to connect several sections of fireline as containment efforts continue. Mop-up work will extend further into the burned areas and the objective is to extinguish all remaining embers for 200 feet within the fireline. Structure protection is ongoing. Steep slopes with heavy fuels, including the area south of Deep Creek, remain an obstacle to containment.

Yesterday, fire activity was generally quiet, with a small increase in size to 55,265 acres. The acreage will continue to change as the northeast corner of the fire burns into the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and as the fire is more accurately mapped. The fire is estimated to be 61-percent contained. Today's forecast calls for warmer, drier, and windier conditions that will test containment lines. With the stronger winds comes an increased danger of falling dead or fire-damaged trees and branches. People within the vicinity of the fire need to be aware of these dangers as well as the possibility of increased fire activity.

This morning, Lt. Governor Sean Parnell will be flying over the Caribou Hills Fire. He will survey the area and report back to Governor Sarah Palin about the extent of the fire damage.

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

SU RIVER FIRE

A helicopter flight over the fire perimeter Tuesday, using a Global Positioning System, recalculated the fire size at 8,498 acres. Crews continue to build and improve firelines, mop up, monitor areas to protect structures, and extinguish hot spots around the entire burn perimeter. Crews are also looking for smoldering, unidentified hotspots by thorough and systematic grid mopping and cold trailing. In this tactic, a firefighter cold trails by checking for hot embers by feeling the surface of the blackened fireline with an ungloved hand. In addition, a flight with an infrared camera is scheduled for today to detect heat. Hot spots often smolder for days until hot, dry weather causes them to flare up.

Five remote camps allow crews to remain near the firelines at night, reduces travel time and increases productivity. Helicopters help with crew support and aid in overall fire line monitoring. For more information, call **907-495-6235** or visit <http://inciweb.org>.

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>

- 293 fires have been reported this year to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) for a total of over 162,250 acres burned. Statewide, 42 fires are active of which five are staffed and the rest are in monitor status. There were four new lightning-caused fires reported to AICC Tuesday, one in the Delta Area, one in the Fairbanks Area, and two in the Tok Area. A Canadian Heli-Rappel crew discovered the 1.8-acre Delta Area fire on the Northeast side of Lake George. They responded to the fire and later were replaced by a helitack crew from Delta. The other three fires did not receive initial attack and are in monitor status.

- It is Lightning Safety Week; Alaska has many lightning strikes during the summer. An information sheet has been posted on: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>.

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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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