

Morning Highlights

June 28, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-63

Contact:
AFS/DOF, 356-5511

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE

Despite warmer, drier weather conditions Wednesday, the 55,222 acre Caribou Hills Fire did not cross any of the established containment lines. The fire is estimated to be 66-percent contained. Firefighters completed additional fireline, including a critical piece of line south of Deep Creek on the western edge of the fire. The steep terrain and snags make this a particularly difficult area in which to work for fire crews. Completed containment lines have reduced fire officials concern that the fire will spread west.

Personnel worked to locate and extinguish hot spots from the perimeter to 200 feet within the burn area, and around unburned structures. Ten firefighters completed work on the eastern edge of the fire near Trophy Lake, where they were protecting cabins in the area. Pockets of unburned vegetation located within the perimeter may flare up today. Firefighters will monitor the flare-ups and suppress any that pose a threat.

Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell was briefed Wednesday by Kenai-Kodiak Area Forester Ric Plate and Incident Commander Rob Allen on the suppression efforts and progress. The briefing was followed by a flight over the area to view the firefighter's work and to assess the property damage caused by the fire.

The road entering the fire area is expected to be open to the public daily from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am, as suppression work and fire conditions allow, and re-closed from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm daily to allow fire-related work to be carried out safely during the day. Please do not drive on Caribou Hills area roads during the day due to the heavy traffic and other hazards, including firefighting equipment and falling trees. From 10:00 pm to 8:00 am daily, the Temporary Flight Restriction will be lifted and pilots may fly into and land in the Caribou Hills area. 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

Crews continue to improve saw line, mop-up, grid for hot spots, and secure fireline. Fire personnel expect to have full containment by tomorrow evening. Hose-lays and sprinklers remain in place to protect structures. Crews are still camping along the fireline to allow timely access to morning work assignments. The Temporary Flight Restriction remains in place. Aircraft are advised to use extra caution in the Deshka Landing area, 12 miles south of the fire, due to heavy use by helicopters. Today's weather is predicted to be warmer and drier with higher fire danger. Lightning strikes started fires last week during similar weather conditions. Ignition and rates-of-spread can be expected to be greater until cool wet weather systems move back into the area. The public is reminded to use caution while out recreating and the while celebrating the upcoming holiday. 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. Fire air operations personnel ask that pilots please respect TFRs and avoid airspace over wildland fires even if a TFR is not in place because of safety concerns. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>.
- One new fire was reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Wednesday. State and local firefighters responded to a permitted burn that was not monitored and had escaped into the surrounding wildlands. They worked to suppress the fire and it is now in monitor status. So far this years 295 fires have burned roughly 162,800 acres statewide.
- 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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