



June 30, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-65

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HIGHLIGHTS

• A total of 305 fires have been reported this year. Total acreage burned is 185,874. 5 acres. There were 5 new fires reported yesterday. 2 were in the Mat-Su Area and 3 in the Fairbanks Area. There are 36 active fires in the state; 6 in the Tanana Zone, 1 in the Galena Zone, and 8 in the Upper Yukon Zone, 2 in the Delta Area, 7 in the Fairbanks Area, 1 in the Kenai Peninsula, 5 in the Mat-Su Area and 6 in the Tok area. All are being monitored closely.

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY (Valid until July 2, 2007)

Fire activity in the vicinity of the Little Delta Fire has picked up with warmer and drier conditions. As a result, more smoke is entering the airshed, and with the light wind flow expected throughout the weekend, smoke may infiltrate areas around Nenana, Fairbanks, and Big Delta. Air quality will be predominantly good to moderate, with some areas experiencing conditions unhealthy for sensitive individuals over the weekend. By Sunday evening, some areas may even have unhealthy conditions.

Since surface winds are expected to be light and variable through the weekend, smoke will move around the flats and will affect different areas at different times. As conditions continue to dry out through Monday, more smoke will be generated, leading to deteriorating air quality as the weekend wears on.

Keep in mind that areas immediately downwind of any fire will experience hazardous levels of smoke. Also, worse conditions generally occur during the nighttime to early morning hours, as the atmosphere cools and brings smoke to the surface. During the day, surface heating will mix smoke and carry it upwards, temporarily improving air quality.

SMOKE AND PUBLIC IMPACT: This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for portions of Interior Alaska. Smoke intensity will vary depending on precise location and local wind flow patterns. Smoke concentrations will be such that they could impact public health at times. It is advised that travelers check local weather as smoke conditions may vary considerably from one locality to the next. The most recent weather observations may be found on National Weather Service's homepage at <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>.

Caribou Hills Fire (Kenai Peninsula)

Work continues on the fire as smoldering and creeping behavior was observed with interior islands continuing to burn out with torching and short runs. Some residents were allowed to remain at their

homes during fire operational periods. The dozers and excavator are beginning to work on unnecessary containment lines and road rehabilitation. The Oilwell road closure remains in effect today from 7 AM to 7 PM. Demobilization of the site is scheduled to begin on 06/30/07. Over 600 firefighters still remain on site.

Su River (Mat-Su Area)

The fire has been declared 100% contained; one Type II crew was demobed. The remaining personnel are dismantling spike camps with backhaul of equipment and supplies. 307 personnel remain on duty at the site.

The five new fires reported were all located on Alaska Division of Forestry lands:

- **Kantishna River (Tok Area)**

Fire was reported to Upper Yukon Zone dispatchers. Smokejumpers were dispatched to the fire. Fire was 2 acres, burning in hardwoods and spruce, 4.5 miles from the Kantishna River and 6.5 miles from Dune Lake. Detection will fly fire 6/30 to monitor.

- **Mink Fire (Fairbanks Area)**

Fire reported by local resident as a power line fire running in the grass with structures threatened. DOF engines and Helitack responded. Locals were on scene upon arrival. Fire was quickly contained. The IA squad gridded and mopped up the fire area. Fire was controlled and remains in monitor status.

- **Elk Fire (Mat-Su Area)**

Forestry engine/prevention along with local VFDs responded to a reported smoke on Elk Street. On arrival a class A burn pile had escaped into the wild lands. Fire suppressed and turned over to the landowner. Administratively out at 12:15 6/29/07.

Other Information

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>.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>
 - o Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - o 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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