

Morning Highlights

July 2, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-66

Contact:
AFS/DOF, 356-5511

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE

Firefighters continue to strengthen firelines around the perimeter. The fire is currently 76-percent contained and 55,438 acres. All activity on the fireline remains within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, where Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) are being used by hand crews on the northernmost portion of the perimeter. MIST refers to firefighting efforts that will cause the least amount of impact to the natural environment. The rest of the perimeter in the refuge will be monitored daily. If the fire reaches a pre-set point within the refuge chosen by the refuge managers, appropriate suppression measures will take place. Residents and visitors to the peninsula will continue to see smoke from the eastern flank as green islands of fuel burn within the fire.

Mop up, 200 feet or more inside the remainder of the perimeter and around structures, is nearly complete and resources are being released. Tomorrow morning at 7:00 am the fire will transition to a Type 3 organization and remaining fire personnel will consist of four crews, a medium helicopter, a dozer, two excavators and required overhead. Additional resources will be available if needed.

Oilwell Road will open permanently this evening at 7:00 pm and the Temporary Flight Restriction will be lifted permanently starting tonight at 10:00 pm. Tuesday morning, when the fire transitions to the Type 3 Team, the information function will be handled by the Soldotna Division of Forestry at 907-262-4124. For today's information, contact: **907-714-2484**; visit <http://inciweb.org> or www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency to find news releases, maps and photos.

SU RIVER FIRE

The fire is fully contained at nearly 8,500 acres. Precipitation has accelerated the demobilization of resources. The Central Oregon Incident Management Team is being released and management of the fire will transition back to the Division of Forestry and a local Type 3 organization in Palmer.

Due to the current and expected weather pattern, all crews have been removed off the firelines. All spike camps have been broken down. Camp gear and supplies have been removed. Sprinkler and hose around the structures in the Trapper Lake area remain. The entire fire perimeter will remain in patrol status, checked by air, and personnel will look for smokes that would indicate hot spots. Visit <http://inciweb.org>.

OTHER

- Pilots are advised to check NOTAMs as a Temporary Flight Restriction remains in effect. For specific information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>.

- Five new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Sunday:
 - Two lightning-caused fires started in the northeastern portion of the state. One fire, northeast of Pump Station 6, received initial attack due to the proximity of native allotments and is expected to be contained today. The other is in monitor status.
 - Helitack checked an area with two torched black spruce trees in the Fairbanks Area and declared the fire out.
 - Locals reported a less-than-an-acre fire smoldering off the Taylor Highway south of Chicken. It is in monitor status.
 - A human-caused fire in the Chugach was reported to the USDA Forest Service. There is no additional information available.

- So far this year, 331 fires have burned nearly 186,450 acres statewide. Forty-six fires are active statewide while three are staffed. This year 215 fires have been human-caused and 116 have been lightning-caused.

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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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