

Morning Highlights

July 4, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-68

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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Have a safe, happy holiday and enjoy your time outdoors in Alaska.

Please be especially cautious with any recreational activities that could start new fires. This year a total of 215 fires have been human-caused, and 121 lightning-caused. Weather conditions, especially in the northern two-thirds of the state, are warm and dry and it only takes a spark to start a wildland fire. The National Weather Service has issued Red Flag Warnings (from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm) for low humidities for portions of the central and northern Interior, the southeastern Brooks Range, the Upper Koyukuk Valley, and the Yukon Flats and surrounding uplands. The warnings mean that conditions exist that could lead to the development of large, dangerous wildfires. The State of Alaska reminds you that burn permits are required and local restrictions may apply.

SMOKE

Due to an easterly wind component, smoke from various fires throughout the state may be present:

- Smoke from the Ladue Fire is following the Alaska Highway corridor and may impact Tetlin Junction, Northway, Tok, Tanacross and Delta Junction.
- The Kones River Fire may impact Arctic Village.
- Johnnie the Frog Fire may impact Beaver and Steven's Village.
- The Jordan Creek and Raven Ridge fires may impact Tanana.
- The Woodchopper 2 Fire may impact Circle Hot Springs and Central.

See additional references on page 4 for additional smoke information.

FIRE INFORMATION

A map of fire locations may be found at: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

NEW FIRES: Six were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Tuesday.

- The Dugan Hills Fire was four acres and burning in dense black spruce and hardwoods. Sixteen smokejumpers and aircraft responded. Spread potential was high upon arrival, but reduced after winds died down. There is a Temporary Flight Restriction in place over the fire. See additional references for information.
- Two fires were found in the Southwest Area and are in monitor status.
- Two different fires in the Southwest area are now staffed. The 5-acre Shageluk Fire was initially attacked by Galena Helitack, while smokejumpers responded to the North Fork Fire.
- The Fairbanks Area has 12 personnel staffing the 10 Mile Salcha River Fire. The fire was one acre and burning within ¼ mile of cabins and 100 yards off the pipeline at 10 Mile Salcha River. Firefighting aircraft, an engine, and an initial attack squad worked through the night to secure the perimeter. It is expected to be contained today.

So far this year, 336 fires have burned 202,500 acres statewide. Currently, forty-six fires are active, of which six are staffed.

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE:

Monday was busy as personnel spent the day transitioning the fire's management from the Alaska Type 2 Incident Management Team back to the Soldotna Division of Forestry. The 55,438-acre fire is now 80-percent contained. In addition to the ongoing containment efforts on the eastern and southern flanks, the four remaining crews worked steadily to accomplish rehabilitation objectives such as mitigating the erosion of sediment along hand and dozer firelines. The uncontained portion, burning in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, continues to be monitored as it reaches natural barriers like alpine vegetation, wetlands, and previously burned areas. Though all areas continue to be monitored, some smoke and active fire will be observed. Oilwell Road is open permanently and the Temporary Flight Restriction over the fire has been lifted. Information is being handled by the Soldotna Division of Forestry at 907-262-4124, or visit <http://inciweb.org> to find past news releases, maps and photos.

LITTLE DELTA FIRE:

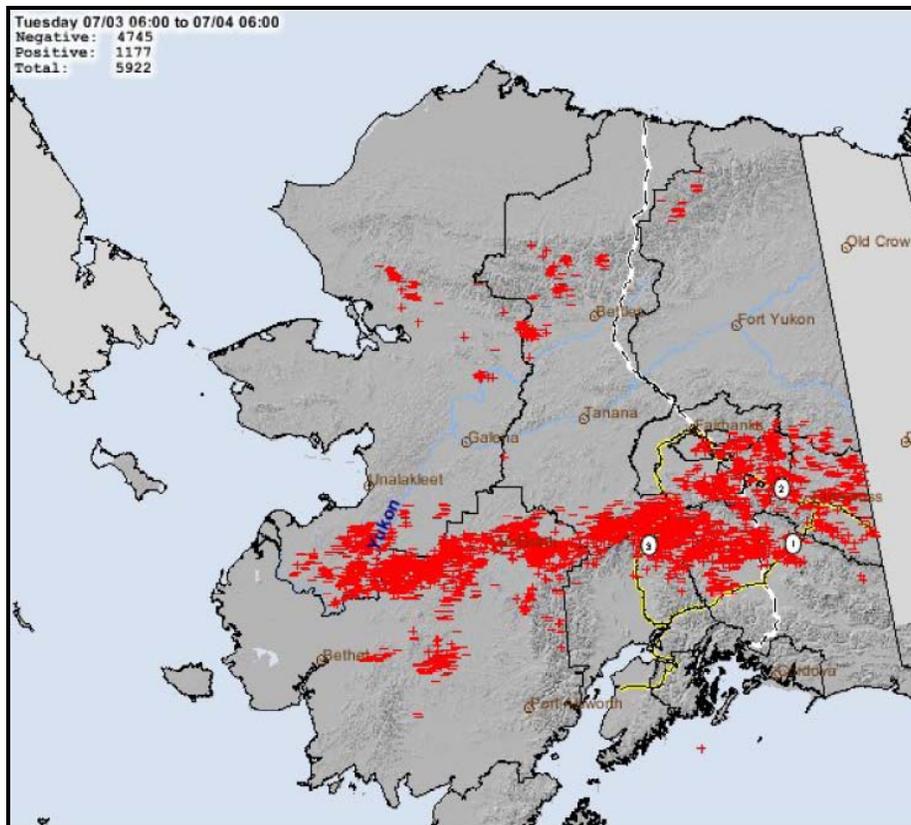
The fire was flown Tuesday and smokes were seen on the northwest corner and southwest flank of the fire, which continues to be actively monitored.

JORDAN CREEK FIRE:

The Minto Emergency Firefighter crew was released and three people remain on the fire. Native allotment and structure protection is still in place in the area.

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Additional References on Page 3



Map shows the 5,922 lightning strikes across the state from 7/3-7/4.

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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