

Morning Highlights

July 5, 2007
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FIRE INFORMATION

Twenty-one new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Wednesday. So far this year, 355 fires have burned nearly 210,900 acres statewide. Currently, 61 fires are active, of which 11 are staffed.

APLEGATE CREEK FIRE (#399):

Eight smokejumpers, three air tankers, and an Aerial Support Module responded Wednesday to the fire, reported at one-half acre, 100-percent active, and torching in black spruce and mixed hardwoods. Fire activity was such that after an hour and a half it had grown to 100 acres. The Midnight Sun Hotshot Crew and two State of Alaska engines were dispatched to the fire. By 10:30 pm the fire had grown to 500 acres and spotted across the Elliott Highway in a couple of places where a squad of firefighters had been deployed to extinguish the spot fires. The remaining firefighters made progress flanking the east and west sides of the fire with the priority being to keep the fire from spreading to the east.

TEKLANIKA FIRE (#408):

The fire was called in Wednesday by citizens of Anderson. Helitack responded and located the now 50-acre fire burning in mixed hardwoods, black spruce, tundra and tussocks, seven miles west of Anderson. Terrain is difficult to walk in due to tussocks, but there are good natural barriers. A helicopter did bucket work and additional resources are on order. Priorities are to secure the eastern and northern flanks.

FRANKLIN FIRE (#392):

Sixteen smokejumpers were deployed Wednesday and eight loads of retardant were dropped. Emphasis is on the east and south flanks of the fire to keep it from spreading towards Iditarod and native allotments. Iditarod is roughly seven miles to the southeast. Additional resources have been ordered.

TOLOVANA FIRE (#391):

Four smokejumpers responded Wednesday to the fire, west of the Minto State Game Refuge. Upon their arrival the fire was two to three acres, burning in white spruce stand mixed with black spruce. Smokejumpers made good progress on the fire and three will demob today.

HOLDEM CREEK FIRE (#393):

An individual reported seeing a fire in the hills near the town of Circle Hot Springs Wednesday. Four smokejumpers responded and were able to contain the fire Wednesday afternoon and begin mop up. They will demob today.

TOLOVANA CROSSING FIRE (#407):

Alaska Fire Service Transportation reported the fire Wednesday to be one-fourth of an acre, smoldering along the Elliott Highway near a structure. The fire is in a Limited management area, but due to the proximity of structures, suppression activities were

initiated. A person on scene was able to dig a line around the fire while State Forestry Prevention and a State engine responded. Containment was achieved and a mop-up squad was mobilized.

HUTLINANA FIRE (#401):

This fire was reportedly burning in black and white spruce and tundra Wednesday. Personnel will demob today. This fire is located west of the Dalton Highway.

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE (#278):

Progress has been made by firefighters who have completed rehabilitation of firelines made with hand tools. Dozer lines are still being rehabilitated. Four crews worked throughout the Ninilchik 40 Subdivision Wednesday cooling heat sources within five hundred feet of structures. Monitoring continues on the northeast flank of the fire in the uncontained portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The fire is still hot with some visible activity within the Refuge. Overall, the fire is 80-percent contained. Many resources will be released in the next few days.

The Kenai-Kodiak Area Office of the Division of Forestry partially lifted the open burn suspension and permitted burning may only occur from 5:00 am to 12:00 noon each day. Permits are required for all of the western Peninsula and the Seward area for burning of brush, grass, and yard debris during fire season. 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 (#048):

Fire activity was minimal on Wednesday. A few smokes were seen on the western flank. The fire continues to be monitored.

JORDAN CREEK FIRE (#372):

Tanana is experiencing smoke from the fire, which is still on the south side of the Yukon River, east of Tanana. The fire was burning actively Wednesday and torching was observed. The growth has been to the south and southwest and the fire is well established in the southern reaches of Jordan and Cheyenne creeks.

For additional fire information, please visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

For a map of where fires are located throughout the state, visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

OTHER

Pilots are advised to check NOTAMs as Temporary Flight Restrictions are in effect within the state. 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>

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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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