

July 6, 2007
Morning Highlights 2007-70

Contact:
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FIRE INFORMATION

NEW FIRES:

Ten new lightning-caused fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Thursday. Personnel responded to two of the new fires:

- An AFS surveillance flight detected the lightning-caused Big Creek Fire (#420), located east of Ruby on the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. It is burning in black spruce. The Incident Commander reports the perimeter is 50-percent active. The fire is out on the southern perimeter, while the western flank is intermittently active. Flame intensity has moderated by increased humidity, and hardwoods on the north end should slow the fire. Two loads of smokejumpers were dispatched Thursday, along with two loads of retardant. One Hotshot and three Emergency Firefighter crews have been ordered for this morning.
- One new fire was reported in the Fairbanks Area where lightning struck a mailbox and a tree caught on fire. Firefighters responded, but neighbors had already cut the tree down and put the fire out.

So far this year, 364 fires have burned nearly 220,515 acres statewide. Currently, 62 fires are active, of which eight are staffed. Humans have caused 214 fires and lightning has started 150 fires.

APLEGATE CREEK FIRE (#399):

The fire made significant runs to the northeast and southwest. Crews have been pulled off the line and plans for indirect attack are underway while in addition to structure protection evaluation near Eureka. The Midnight Sun Hotshots are re-assigned to the Big Creek Fire. The fire is currently 800 acres and 55 personnel are assigned. The fire received significant precipitation last night.

TEKLANIKA FIRE (#408):

The 45-acre fire is 50-percent contained. Emergency Firefighter crews were shuttled to the fire while two helicopters made bucket drops and helped move gear. Personnel expect containment this evening.

FRANKLIN FIRE (#392):

Three Emergency Firefighter crews (Lower Kalskag, Nikolai and Shageluk), eight smokejumpers and seven other fire personnel are staffing the fire. The fireline on the south and east flanks held through Thursday and the fire behavior consisted of creeping and short runs along the north and west perimeters where it is burning in an area that is not of concern. Personnel estimate containment for tomorrow evening and no problems are anticipated based on weather conditions and resources available.

DUGAN HILLS FIRE (#385):

The Northstar Agency Type 2 crew replaced smokejumpers and continues to secure and mop up the four-acre, lightning-caused fire located southwest of Minto.

JORDAN CREEK FIRE (#372):

The fire was flown by AFS aircraft Thursday, but the east side of the fire was not visible due to smoke. The fire was 50-percent active and spread to the north, south and west. Winds were predominately out of the northwest. The fire has crossed the Cheyenne Creek drainage and is burning up against an old 1991 burn which it has not moved through. The fire is located northwest of Manley Hot Springs and is 11,280 acres.

CARIBOU HILLS FIRE (#278):

Wetting rain and on-going cooler weather assisted the firefighting efforts Thursday. Some crews and equipment have demobilized from the fire and demobilization will continue through the weekend. The only active part of the fire is on the northeast flank in the uncontained monitored portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. 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.

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 (TFRs) are in effect over the Applegate and Dugan Hills fires. 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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