

May 23, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-12

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Public Affairs, 356-5511

Prevent Wildland Fires Memorial Day Weekend!

use caution with fire in the outdoors

- Ensure all campfires are out before you leave them
- Contact your local Division of Forestry office for burn permit information
- You are responsible for fires that you start!

**67% of wildland fires
in Alaska are human
caused- an average
of 341 preventable
fires each year**

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY!
This report will next be updated Tuesday, 5/27

FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A Chinook wind event is setting up for portions of Alaska. Fire Weather Watches are in effect until 10:00 pm Saturday, May 28, for strong winds in the Deltana and Tanana Flats, Denali area, and northeastern slopes of the eastern Alaska Range. The watches mean that fires that start under the windy conditions will have increased potential for growth. Use caution this holiday weekend with any recreational activity that could start a fire, no matter what area of the state you are in.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

<i>Fairbanks Area:</i>	907-451-2626
<i>Delta Area:</i>	907-895-2106
<i>Tok Area:</i>	907-883-5134
<i>Mat-Su District:</i>	907-761-6312
<i>Kenai-Kodiak Area:</i>	907-260-4269
<i>Valdez/ Copper River Area:</i>	907-822-5536
<i>Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):</i>	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

**In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.*

FIRE UPDATE

Nine new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Thursday. Four lightning-caused fires were reported in an area roughly 25 miles south of Nulato. Five human-caused fires were reported (four in the Mat-Su Area, one in the northern Southeast Area), all which were less than an acre and are now out. So far this year, 124 fires have burned nearly 843 acres statewide and nine fires are active; only the Homestead Fire is staffed.

The Homestead Fire, burning on the Kenai Peninsula, was declared contained at 8:00 pm on Thursday. Crews are continuing to extinguish hot spots. Resources are being released. For information, call 907-260-4261 or email homesteadfire@gmail.com

SAFETY MESSAGE TO PILOTS

Pilots, please report fires to the nearest FSS or ATC facility and stay 5 Nautical Miles away from any wildland fire you encounter. Be cautious around fires and check for Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) as private aircraft that intrude on wildland fire airspace create dangerous situations with firefighting aircraft at work. For specific TFR information, visit: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc>

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See next page for additional references

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://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
 - Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
 - National Parks Service: <http://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/>
 - Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
 - Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
 - Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service.