

June 26, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-36

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ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

Three new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Wednesday. Two of the new fires were under an acre: one was a lightning-caused fire located in a Limited fire management option that is being monitored; the second, a human caused fire on the Kenai Peninsula burning in brush that was controlled. The third fire, the Nonzianuk Fire, was reported by AK State Troopers near Kulik Lake, south of Iliamna Lake in the Katmai National Park and Preserve. A lodge and structures were threatened and smokejumpers responded but upon arrival found local residents on the scene and the fire burning in black spruce and grass and driven by winds. Efforts were focused on protecting the lodge. Personnel continue to put out hot spots. The fire is an estimated 20 acres.

The Venetie Village Fire that started in a dump on June 22 was initially thought to be suppressed by locals with a dozer. However, winds caused the fire to run into black spruce and then carried burning materials across the old airstrip and Winter Trail at Venetie, to the north where the main fire started. The fire was reported by a commercial aircraft on the 24th and it burned to the NE where it ran into Venetie Lake. The Alaska Fire Service responded to the fire with 12 smokejumpers, 4 fire crews (North Stars, Denali, Pioneer Peak and Ft. Yukon #2) and water and retardant tankers. The fire is approximately 700 acres in size. Two additional fire crews and additional tanker support has been ordered for today. There are 102 individuals currently assigned to the fire.

EFF CREWS TO LOWER-48

Five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Crews were mobilized Wednesday and sent to California this morning. The crews that are going out are: Tanacross, St. Michael, Ambler, Hooper Bay #1 and Nondalton #1. They will be pre-positioned in Redding California and assigned to fires from there.

An additional five EFF crews have been ordered for this weekend.

NATIONAL SITUATION

The Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) has been made available for assignment to the Lower-48 and is 4th on a national rotation list. Incident Management Teams are pre-established teams that are configured with Command and General Staff, and other leadership support positions. The Alaska IMT fills orders not only for wildland fires, but for other emergency situations as well.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 10 new large fires were reported yesterday in Alaska, Arizona, California, Georgia, New Mexico, and Texas. The

situation in California continues to escalate where 34 fires have burned more than one-quarter million acres. Large fires in Arizona, California, and New Mexico have forced the evacuation of residences in several communities. As fire managers try to get a handle on all the fires, they are also preparing for critical weather events forecast for the next couple days.

The U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE have opened a "Joint Information Center" (JIC) in northern California to provide fire information and a big picture summary of the current fire situation. The JIC will be available 24 hours a day until conditions change. Local fire public information centers are still available where citizens can get specific fire information details and updates.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, 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.

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>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- 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.

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