

AICC

Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

July 2, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-41

Contact:
Public Affairs, 356-5511

Alaskans! As we come upon the 4th of July holiday, please remember to use caution in the outdoors with anything that could start a fire. Weather conditions are predicted to be warmer and drier in central and northern portions of the state.

Have a safe, fun celebration and do your part to prevent fires.

ALASKAN RESOURCES IN THE LOWER-48

The Alaska Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service have sent people to help with the fire situation in California and the other western and southwestern states.

EFF CREWS: Today the Scammon Bay, Noorvik #1, Allakaket #1, Kaltag #2 and Tanana #2 Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews left to be prepositioned in California where they will then be assigned to fires. EFF crews already in California include Tanacross, St. Michael, Ambler, Hooper Bay #1, Nondalton #1, Lower Kalskag #2, Shageluk, Chevak #2, Allakaket and Fort Yukon #3.

AGENCY CREWS: The Division of Forestry-sponsored Gannett Glacier crew will also be prepositioned in California. Other agency-sponsored crews on fires outside of Alaska include the Yukon, Chena and Midnight Suns.

SMOKEJUMPERS: 26 jumpers are outside of Alaska.

INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED: (As of July 1) 144 people from agencies in Alaska are on individual orders for assignment to wildland fires in the western and southwestern states.

In total, over 530 Alaskans are on fire assignment outside of Alaska. The number will frequently change as orders are filled and people return.

ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

One new fire was reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Tuesday. State and local firefighters responded to a .1-acre fire in the Mat-Su Area. The 641-acre Venetie Village Fire, just east of the village, is contained. All visible smokes were extinguished within 300 or 500 feet of the perimeter. Three crews have been released and five remain. So far this year 244 fires have burned nearly 8,235 acres statewide.

NATIONAL SITUATION

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group has put the nation in Preparedness Level (PL) 5. PL 5 is the highest level and represents severe, major fire activity in several geographic areas that have the potential to exhaust agency fire resources. The wildland fire season in the western and southern states has started early and is expected to have a long duration. This is the second earliest date since 1990 that PL 5 has been reached. Only on June 21, 2002, was it reached earlier. For more information, visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/07-01-08%20National%20Situation%20-%20Key%20Messages.pdf>

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, moderate wildland fire activity was reported nationally on Tuesday. A total of 85 large fires are burning throughout the country, which includes all large fires within the complexes. These fires are burning a total of 546,010 acres. The military continues to provide support for the firefighting effort. Large fires are burning in (state + number of fires): Arizona (6), California (27), Georgia (1), Louisiana (1), New Mexico (1), North Carolina (1), Oregon (4), Tennessee (1), Texas (1), Utah (1), Virginia (1), Washington (1).

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. Note: Fire acreage estimates frequently change due to more accurate mapping and other factors.

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