

The logo for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) features the letters "AICC" in a large, blue, sans-serif font with a slight shadow effect.

Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

July 14, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-48

Contact:
Public Affairs, 356-5511

WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

Alaska

One new fire was reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Sunday. The Chahalie Fire, roughly 8 miles NE of Chalkyitsik (NE of Ft. Yukon), was reported as .1 acres and burning in white spruce and hardwoods. A smokejumper aircraft was unable to locate the fire and returned to base with a mechanical issue. Later, the fire was found by firefighters in a helicopter that deployed to the fire. The helicopter made 23 bucket drops on the fire, which is contained at .3 acres. The only other staffed fire in Alaska is Goose Slough (six miles NE of Bettles) with 68 people assigned to it. The 2,552 acre fire received a moderate amount of rain Sunday and fire activity was significantly slowed. The Denali, North Star and Pioneer Peak fire crews continue to build fireline and look for hotspots along the perimeter.

According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center a statewide total of 310 fires to date have burned approximately 71,460 acres.

Lower- 48

As of July 12, a total of 706 Alaskans from State and Federal agencies are assigned to fires outside of Alaska.

Initial attack activity across the country was light yesterday with 136 new fires reported. Currently, 35 large fires, or complexes, have burned more than 717,000 acres. Firefighters have been able to make good progress on line construction on several large fires in the West. Nine large fires are expected to be contained within four days. Fire managers are preparing for extreme weather conditions and possible dry lightning in Oregon, Nevada, Washington, and parts of California.

Nearly 45 fire specialists from Australia and New Zealand arrived at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise yesterday to prepare for fire assignments throughout California. Fourteen firefighters from Canada were ordered through NIFC by FEMA and deployed in California. Two highly skilled Canadian firefighting crews are also assigned to fires in northern California.

Eight Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) C-130 airtankers are supporting California. The aircraft are based at McClellan Airport in Sacramento, California. The Mission Commander is LTC Roger Williams, 145th Air Wing Air National Guard, North Carolina. Aircraft are provided by the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte North Carolina, the 302nd Airlift Wing, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The following table lists the number of personnel assigned to the wildland fires in California. This information was provided by the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region and CalFire:

July 14, 2008				
Resource	Federal	State	Other	Total
Total Personnel	6,720	6,846	7,689	21,255
Helicopters	58	4	58	120
Hand Crews	174	157	151	482
Engines	232	363	918	1,513
Dozers	14	28	185	227
Water Tenders	12	20	359	391
Overhead	1,835	1,054	1,239	4,128
NOTE: Total personnel includes all personnel assigned. Individuals assigned to resources such as engines, dozers, overhead, etc. are included in the "total personnel" category. The "other" category includes contractors, military, and local government.				

EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTER CREW UPDATE

Five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews will return from their assignment in California. The returning crews are Lower Kalskag #2, Shageluk, Chevak #2, Allkaket and Fort Yukon #3. They make up the second group of EFF crews that left this summer.

Tomorrow, the fifth group of five EFF crews to go to the Lower-48 this summer will depart in the morning. The five groups are: Koyuk, Minto #1, Koyukuk, Mat-Su and Nulato #1.

ATTENTION PILOTS!

Please avoid ALL wildland fires, even if there are no TFRs, as firefighters may be taking action to suppress, monitor and map fires. Remember to check NOTAMS.

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:

Fairbanks Area:	907-451-2626
Delta Area:	907-895-2106
Tok Area:	907-883-5134
Mat-Su District:	907-761-6312
Kenai-Kodiak Area:	907-260-4269
Valdez/ Copper River Area:	907-822-5536
Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):	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>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.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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