

# AICC

Alaska Interagency  
Coordination Center



# Morning Highlights

June 20, 2012  
Morning Highlights

**Contacts**  
Report Fires: 911  
DOF/AFS Public Affairs: (907) 356-5511

Highlights is updated Monday-Friday.

## Fire Information



The Mile 323 Parks Highway Fire started on Tuesday by a tree on a powerline and required a significant response from Fairbanks Area Forestry firefighters, the White Mountain Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, the Nenana Fire Department, and the Alaska State Troopers. The 1.5-acre fire was burning in spruce and mixed hardwoods. It continues to burn in the deeper organic layers. The White Mountain crew and a squad from Fairbanks Area Forestry remain staffing the fire. Photos provided by Tom Lesatz, Fairbanks Area Forestry.

Ten new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Monday. Five were lightning-caused, five were human-caused. Information about individual fires is available in the AICC Situation Report at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>. A map of statewide fire locations is at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>. Seven fires are currently staffed. According to AICC, a total of 224 fires have burned nearly 44,062 acres statewide.

## Fires on the North Slope

Fires on the North Slope, between the Chukchi Sea to the west and the Beaufort Sea to the northeast, tend to be smaller in the early season and burn for only a single burn period. Mid-season fires have potential to burn longer and to a greater area if conditions allow fire to penetrate and hold overnight in the duff (deeper organic layers). Fires are carried by the accumulation of cured, dead sedge foliage. The mean and median fire size is 60-80 acres.

The lightning season is mid-June to late July. Strike density decreases exponentially from the foothills of the Brooks Range out to the coastal plain. Although fire frequency has increased in the

last 40 years, the size of the fires detected has simultaneously decreased which suggests it may be explained by increased aircraft traffic and by better remote sensing technology.



- Earliest known fire: 6/21/1969
- Number of fires as of 6/21/2010: 34
- Median fire size: 80 acres
- Mean fire size (log transformed): 58 acres
- Largest known fire: Anaktuvuk River, 7/16/2007, 256,734 acres.

Is there a pattern to the timing and location of North Slope fires? No doubt ignitions are tied to patterns of lightning. The earliest detected lightning strike, between 1986-2009, was 25 May and the latest was 9 September. Ninety percent of lightning strikes occurred between 13 June and 25 July with a peak at 7 July. [Information provided by Eric Miller, Fire Ecologist, BLM-Alaska Fire Service.]

Photo: Burned tussocks. The fire consumed the “skirts” of dead foliage but left the living parts of the tussocks unburned (and mostly unharmed).

Current fires on the North Slope include: Itkillik River, West Colville, Alice Creek, Kigalik River, Kigalik River 2, Knifeblade Ridge, Kucher Creek. (See the AICC Situation Report for more information).

### **National Fire Information**

The National Situation Report (<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>) provides a daily overview of all wildland fire activity in the United States. It contains statistical information on new starts, year to date totals on acreage and areas burned, general weather forecast for the regions, and a safety message. The National Interagency Fire Center also provides national fire information at: [http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo\\_main.html](http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_main.html).

### **Information Gathering/Additional References**

[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Alaska Division of Forestry: @AK\_Forestry

Bureau of Land Management: @BLMAlaska

National Park Service: @AlaskaNPS

US Fish and Wildlife Service: @USFWSAlaska

Bureau of Indian Affairs: @BIA\_DFWFM

US Forest Service: @ChugachForestAK, @TongassNF, @AKForestService

Alaska Fire Consortium: @AKfirescience

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Alaska Division of Forestry: AK.Forestry

Bureau of Land Management: BLMAlaska

National Park Service: AlaskaNPS

US Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWSAlaska

Bureau of Indian Affairs: **BIA-Forestry-and-Wildland-Fire-Management**  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Alaska Division of Forestry: **AlaskaDNRDOF**

National Park Service: **AlaskaNPS**

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
  - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
  - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
  - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
  - Interagency Newsroom (Media Guide): <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Alaska Fire Consortium: <http://akfireconsortium.uaf.edu>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and
- <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):  
(907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- BLM Alaska Fire Service: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/afs/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry: <http://forestry.alaska.gov>
  - Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/nature/fire/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/visitor/fire/fire.htm>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Bureau of Indian Affairs: [www.bia.gov/nifc/](http://www.bia.gov/nifc/)
- Anchorage Fire Department: [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

**## AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service ##**