

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Alaska has passed the normal peak of fire season. August typically heralds the end of fire season with activity significantly decreasing due to less solar radiation and shifting weather patterns. This year, the current end of July dry period may keep potential up a bit longer in the eastern Interior, though it will likely remain slower than normal for the rest of the state.

Factors:

- Though the U.S. Drought Monitor shows an area of Abnormally Dry (D0) on the western Kenai Peninsula and the Panhandle, it is unlikely that either of these areas will sustain much fire activity prior to an influx of precipitation this weekend.
- Though much of the Interior and Panhandle have been under the influence of high pressure, sustaining hot, dry weather for a number of days, it is evident that fire behavior is no longer indicative of mid-summer conditions. Good overnight humidity recovery has managed to moderate fuel moistures despite near-record 85 degree daytime temperatures.
- Given the forecast persistence for the long wave trough over Alaska over the next week and the lack of fires on the ground, we can expect a slower than normal fire season to continue over most of western Alaska.

- ▶ Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system show that only in the eastern Interior are fuels particularly dry at all levels. With rain on the way, the west will remain wet while the east will moderate somewhat, at least in the fine fuels.

