



## Coffee Brief

**Date: August 6, 2023**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 2 fires for 2.1 acres</p>
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There are currently 14 staffed fires with 699 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~10,560 acres

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

### Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Air Tactical	2
Lead	1
ASM	1
Birddog	1
Large Air Tankers (LATs)	5
FireBosses	4
Scoopers	2
Utility AC	4
Helicopter, Type 1	1
Helicopter, Type 2	9
Helicopter, Type 3	5
<b>Total Aircraft</b>	<b>35</b>

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	4
Type 2	10
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	4
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>20</b>

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	
IMT2	2
IMT3	
<b>Total IMTs</b>	<b>2</b>

## AVIATION

- **#191(DAS):** FB 216/218 and BD135 worked this before getting smoked out. ASM B-6 responded to eval for scooper use (not used)
  - **#296(FAS):** AA-7MZ, S261/262, BD840, FB 211/214, T544, T542 all worked this fire today
  - **#201(FAS):** Lead A-4 and T544/T542 worked this before getting smoked out
  - **#261(TAS):** T-487 and BD-58 from PAQ
  - **#299(DAS):** ASM B-6 requested to recon after 191 but was canceled
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- FAI has 8 loads of retardant left- 2 for each tanker (542/544) and 4 in reserve, Next delivery is Sunday 8/6

## AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201(FAS):** 3/7011
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/6714

## SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~12  
SMKJ's committed: 37

- 10 SMKJ booster orders placed - NDT 8/7

## Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

- **#315(UYD):** 8
- **#320(FAS):** 5

Planned for today:

- **#322(UYD):** 3

## CREWS

- 23 pending crew requests

## NICC JET MOVEMENT

### Jet #1 - Crews at Incident

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
Union IHC	201 - McCoy Creek	C-1	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20
Lassen IHC	257 - Teklanika	C-2	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20
Shasta IHC	257 - Teklanika	C-3	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20

\* TBD – AICC will be starting extension process

### Jet #2 - Inbound to FAI today, 8/6 w/ 5 - T2 crews

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
WY East Wildlands T2C258	2023 DOF Crew Support	C-6	Reserved	8/6	21	8/27
Franco Reforestation T2C052	2023 DOF Crew Support	C-7	Reserved	8/6	21	8/27
N. Pacifico Reforestation T2C521	2023 DOF Crew Support	C-8	Reserved	8/6	21	8/27
North Pacific T2C157	2023 DOF Crew Support	C-9	Reserved	8/6	21	8/27
Willamette Val Reforestation T2C567	2023 DOF Crew Support	C-10	Reserved	8/6	21	8/27

\* TBD

### Jet #3 - Inbound to FAI on 8/8 w/ 5 - T2 Crews

\* 1 day earlier than originally requested date

## OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 80 pending overhead requests

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## Weather Summary

**RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 221, 223, 225 AND 226...**  
**...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 220, 222 AND 224**

The strong ridge setting up over mainland Alaska is bringing hot and dry weather with it. Temperatures as high as 90 degrees will develop for some areas of the Interior this weekend. Fewer thunderstorms are expected than last week, but isolated wet thunderstorms will pop up each afternoon and evening over the eastern Interior for the next several days.

The West Coast will see gusty winds and wetting rains increasing through the weekend and into early next week as a low pressure system in the Bering Sea approaches. This strong low will also setup a strong and long-lasting Chinook pattern for the weekend, with gusty southerly winds in the eastern Interior affecting many of the existing fires, and bringing downslope warming to the Tanana Valley.

In the longer term, persistent high pressure over the northern Interior will keep the Interior hot and mainly dry. While the record-setting heat of this coming weekend will fade somewhat during the coming work week, temperatures will remain will above normal. There will be a few showers and thunderstorms each day for the Interior next week, but no widespread wetting rains. Meanwhile, South Central and Southeast Alaska will enter a cooler and wetter period beginning late this weekend.

*Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook*

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## Fuels/Fire Potential

As this heat wave progresses, fuel conditions are moderately dry at the surface in most areas. Much drier conditions exist on the western side of the Yukon Flats, throughout the Tanana Valley, and parts of Copper River Basin.

Indices indicate that duff layers are now significantly dry in parts of the eastern and central Interior, leading to greater resistance to control. These are also the areas where most ignitions have occurred, and fire activity is focused.

With Chinook winds in the forecast beginning this weekend, existing fires north of the Alaska Range will become very difficult to manage as spread potential will be Very High. In addition, tight resources will make IA and established management very difficult into next week.

*Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook*

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Fuels Status [Alaska Fire and Fuels Map](#)

**A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued 8/04/23**

## Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

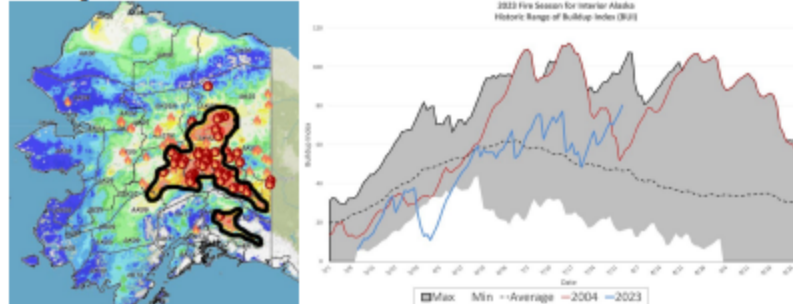
### Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

Valid: August 4 – August 18, 2023

**Subject:** Exceptional landscape flammability and widespread ongoing large fire growth.

**Discussion:** The Buildup Index (BUI) is the best indicator of seasonal severity and overall flammability of fuels in Alaska. It represents deeper drying in the duff layers and greater fuel availability. Large fire growth typically occurs from mid-June to mid-July when long days and rapid drying can produce elevated BUIs. The delayed onset of season-ending rains has resulted in BUI far above average for this time of year. There are already numerous fires near core population areas. New starts continue to be discovered in these areas and are resistant to containment.

**Difference from normal conditions:** The attached graph shows the current 2023 BUI trend for the Interior of Alaska compared to other busy fire seasons. This fire season started below average, but July was abnormally dry and the last week of July saw high temperatures with numerous lightning ignitions. While most seasons have seen wetting rains by this time, BUI remains elevated with no significant precipitation expected for this area in the forecast period. Multiple days of wetting rain adding up to more than one inch will be needed for lasting relief.



#### Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- Spruce stands are extremely flammable, will ignite readily, may exhibit rates of spread more than one mile per hour, spot prolifically up to ¼ mile or more, and exhibit intense crown fire behavior.
- Temperatures above 80 degrees and RH at or below 30% are important thresholds for rapid spread and crown fire behavior. Strong winds are not required for large fire growth in these conditions but forecast for the area includes sustained strong winds.
- Long-term drying has stressed green fuels may allow spread into riparian areas and less flammable hardwood forests. With continued drying, these fuel types may no longer be barriers to fire spread.

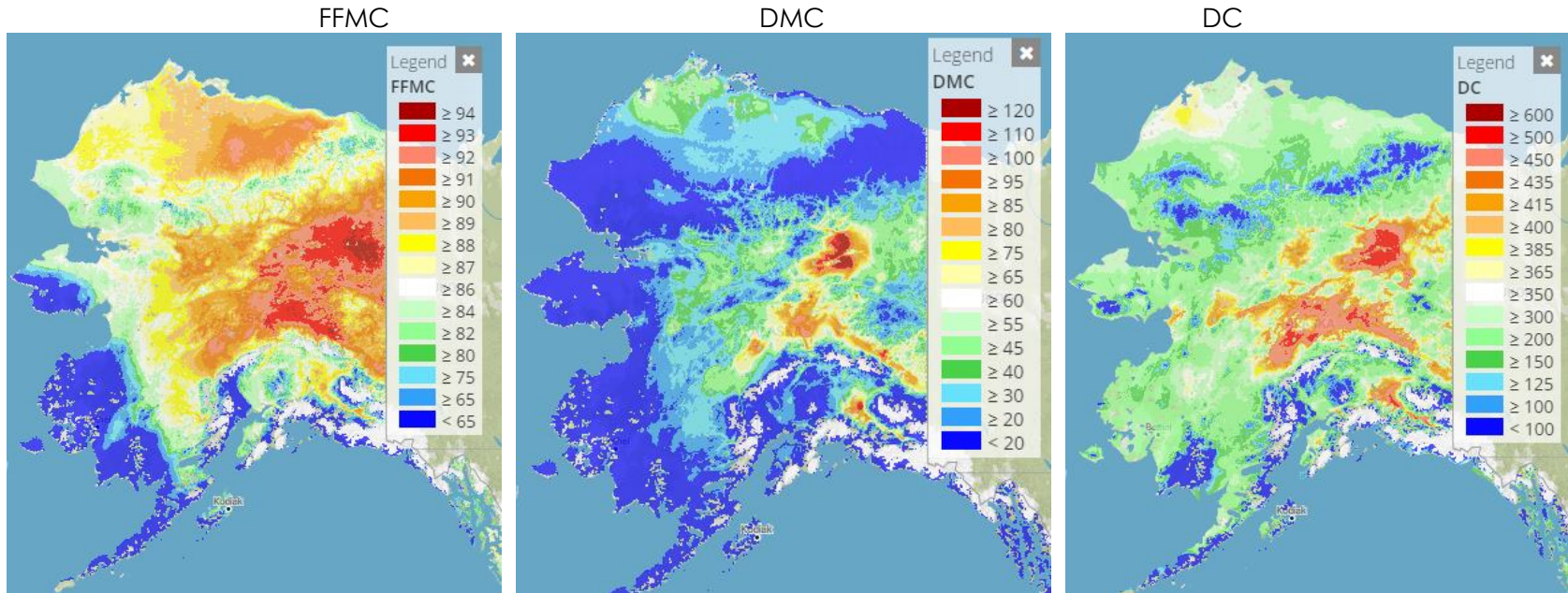
#### Mitigation Measures:

- Understand the triggers and thresholds for problem fire behavior.
- Monitor forecasts and indices to anticipate areas of increased flammability and extreme fire behavior.
- Maintain clear communications when working around active fires.

**Area of Concern:** Central and Eastern Interior to include the Yukon Flats, Tanana Valley and Copper River Basin.

**Issued By:** Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

Click on the following images for direct links to the maps.



**When encountering a mismatch between a point value based on actual weather observations and the background grid, please discount the grid and go with the points.**

For additional fuels information visit <https://akff.mesowest.org/>

Sources: AICC Predictive Services – Fuels/Fire Danger web page, Alaska Fire & Fuels web page

The Coffee Brief is posted at PLs 4 and 5 only.

