



## Coffee Brief

**Date: August 7, 2023**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 5 fires for 21.1 acres</p>
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There are currently 14 staffed fires with 799 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~34,662 acres

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

### Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Air Tactical	2
Lead	1
ASM	1
BirdDog	4
LATs	5
FireBosses	4
Scoopers	2
Utility AC	4
Helicopter, Type 3	1
Helicopter, Type 2	9
Helicopter, Type 3	5
<b>Total Aircraft</b>	<b>38</b>

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	4
Type 2	15
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	4
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>25</b>

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	
IMT 2	2
IMT 3	
<b>Total IMTs</b>	<b>2</b>

## AVIATION

- **#345(UYD):** J-90 w/ 12 SMKJs, AA-7MZ, and S-261/262 responded to this fire
- **#346(UYD):** J-92 responded and kicked 6 SMKJs on this fire (originally requested to #348 close by but would not have been able to catch the fire so diverted to #346)
- **#201(FAS):** 1 pounder load SMKJs to assist w/ burn-out/cabin pro. BD-135 assessed fire but vis. was too poor to launch anything else
- **#296(FAS):** ASM-B6 assessed fire but vis. was too poor to launch anything else... twice
- **#191(DAS):** BD-135 assessed fire but vis. was too poor to launch anything else. B6 went later in the evening for eyes in the sky
- **#299(DAS):** Requested AA and scoops, did not launch anything. Tried again late, rolled Lead-A4, and T-542/T-544 w/ Blazetamer
- **#261(TAS):** SK Tanker Group (BD-167/T-471/T-473) responded to this fire

## AIRSPACE/TFRs

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

## SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~10  
SMKJ's committed: 60

- 10 SMKJ booster orders placed - NDT 8/7 - *PENDING in IROC*

## Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

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

Planned for today:

## CREWS

- 18 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 - Arrived yesterday, 8/6 w/ 5 - T2 crews

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
WY East Wildlands T2C258	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-6	Reserved		8/6	21 8/27
Franco Reforestation T2C052	257 - Anderson	C-7	Reserved		8/6	21 8/27
N. Pacifico Reforestation T2C521	201 - McCoy	C-8	Reserved		8/6	21 8/27
North Pacific T2C157	191 - Pogo Mine Rd	C-9	Reserved		8/6	21 8/27
Willamette Val Reforestation T2C567	261 - Sand Lake	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

- 77 pending overhead requests

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## Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 219, 220,221, 222 AND 223...

...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONE 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 today. Fewer thunderstorms are expected than last week, but isolated wet thunderstorms will pop up each afternoon and evening over the eastern Interior and eastern North Slope for the next several days. A more prominent outbreak of wet thunderstorms is possible on Monday and Tuesday.

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

Winds over the Interior will be much quieter on Monday as the Chinook ends. Monday and Tuesday will also see higher humidity and scattered showers and some wet thunderstorms. Meanwhile, South Central and Southeast Alaska will enter a cooler and wetter period beginning Sunday and then continuing through the coming work week.

*Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook*

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## Fuels/Fire Potential

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. Fine fuels are very dry across the Interior, with the exception of the far western Interior. Fine fuels are very dry over the inland North Slope as well, although deeper fuels in that area are not as dry as parts of the Interior.

With Chinook winds again today, 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.

*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

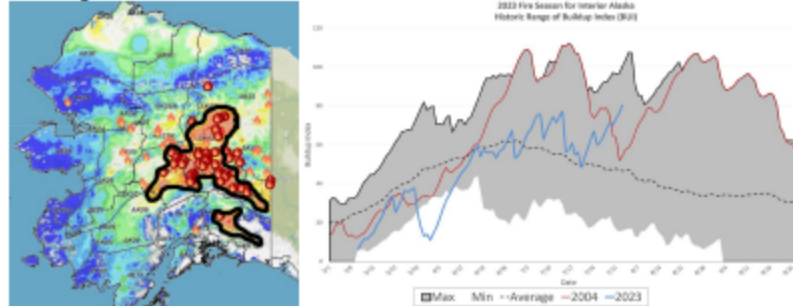
### Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

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.

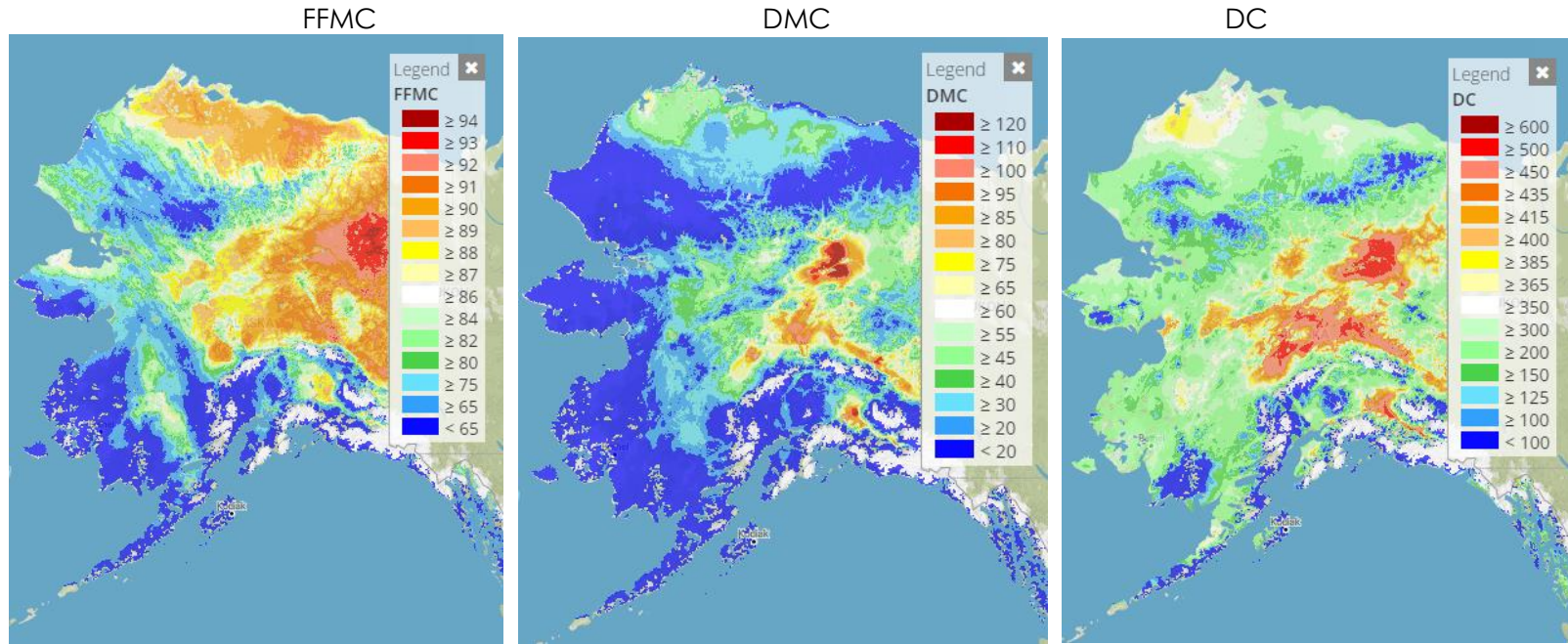
#### Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

