



Coffee Brief

Date: August 12, 2023

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 2 fires for 10.2 acres</p>

There are currently 10 staffed fires with 941 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~4,160 acres

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Air Tactical	1
ASM	1
BirdDog	4
Lats	5
FireBosses	4
Scoopers	2
SMKJ	3
Utility AC	4
Helicopter, Type 1	1
Helicopter, Type 2	9
Helicopter, Type 3	5
Total Aircraft	39

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	5
Type 2	21
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	7
Total Crews	35

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	
IMT 2	2
IMT 3	1
Total IMTs	3

AVIATION

- **#296(FAS):** AA-7MZ, S261/262 FB 211/214 and B-6 flew this incident until wx grounded them.
- **Red flag exercises through 8/25.**

AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201/290(FAS):** 3/0384
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/0799
- **#191(DAS):** 3/3115 - NEW
- **#299(DAS):** 3/3110 - NEW

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~33
SMKJ's committed: 27

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

- **#346(UYD):** 6

Planned for today:

CREWS

- 3 pending crew requests.
- Pioneer Peak IHC mobilized to Lost Horse Creek yesterday, 8/11.
- Midnight Sun IHC Reserved for Lost Horse Creek needed date today, 8/12.
- Chena IHC Reserved for UYD Support needed date tomorrow, 8/13.
- Gannett Glacier available 8/15.

NICC JET MOVEMENT

Jet #1

- Crews at Incident.
- All crews extended.

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

Jet #2

- Crews at Incident.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
WY East Wildlands T2C258	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-6	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
Franco Reforestation T2C052	257 - Anderson	C-7	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
N. Pacifico Reforestation T2C521	201 - McCoy	C-8	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
North Pacific T2C157	191 - Pogo Mine Rd	C-9	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
Willamette Val Reforestation T2C567	261 - Sand Lake	C-10	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27

* TBD per extension process

Jet #3

- Crews at Incident.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
CRW2 - T2C247 West Coast Reforestation	201 - McCoy Creek	C-10	At Incident	8/8	21	8/29
CRW2 - T2C062 Franco Reforestation	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-9	At Incident	8/8	21	8/29
CRW2 - T2C063 Franco Reforestation	257 - Teklanika	C-15	At Incident	8/8	21	8/29
CRW2 - T2C064 Franco Reforestation	299 - Mount Hayes	C-1	At Incident	8/8	21	8/29
CRW2 - T2C248 West Coast Reforestation	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-7	At Incident	8/8	21	8/29

* TBD per extension process

Jet #4

- Jet arrives today, 8/12.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
Texas Canyon IHC	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-14	En route	8/13	21	8/27
Arroyo Grande IHC	191 - Pogo Mine Rd	C-3	En route	8/13	21	8/27
Sierra IHC	299 - Mount Hayes	C-2	En route	8/13	21	8/27

* TBD per extension process

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 46 pending overhead requests.

TEAM	INCIDENT	O#	IC	Status	Current Location	Mob	Duration	LWD	Extension
IMT2 GB Team 3	Teklanika River	O-1	Brett Waters	At Incident	Anderson, AK	7/31	21	8/20	Yes
IMT2 AK Green	Lost Horse Creek	O-2	Peter Butteri	At Incident	Fairbanks, AK	8/4	14	8/18	
IMT3 - Local ad hoc AK	Pogo Mine Road/ Mt Hayes		Casey Boesflug	At Incident	Delta, AK	8/9	14	8/23	

Source: IROC Reports, [National Smokejumper Status Report](#), AK Incident Aircraft Tracking Spreadsheet & AICC Documentation, 2023 IMT Tracking Report

Weather Summary

High pressure over northwest Alaska stretching across the Brooks Range will keep warm temperatures across the north, with low 80s expected in the northeast Interior and 70s in the central and northwest Interior. Relative humidities will not be particularly dry, staying above 30%. Easterly winds will be breezy in the northeast Interior again today, gusting to around 20 mph. These winds are expected to strengthen today across a wider swath of the Interior, with gusts into the 30s in some locales. Spread potential on existing fires will become more of a concern by Saturday. Near Red Flag Warning criteria are expected across the northern Interior, though relative humidities are unlikely to drop below 30%.

There is the chance for thunderstorms across the Interior again today, and though it may be active, strike counts will not be as high as the previous few days. There is also a chance for thunderstorms throughout much of the Southwest and Susitna Valley. These storms are expected to be fairly wet.

The long-range forecast shows little change in the overall pattern. Cool and damp weather will dominate southern Alaska while the northern Interior will remain fairly warm and dry. Thunderstorm activity will decrease through the weekend.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Fine fuels are mainly burnable only over the north central to northeast Interior. ISIs show some higher spread potential in these areas today due to stronger winds. Today, very strong easterly winds across the northern Interior will increase ISIs into the Extreme Range, even westward into the Galena Zone where fuels aren't quite as dry. These winds and warmer temperatures will lend to drying of surface fuels across much of the Interior this weekend.

Deeper fuels in the eastern Interior continue to dry in many areas. Deepest duff layers are not impacted by rain amounts less than 0.11 inch, and with the spotty nature of the recent rains, a lot of locations have not picked up even that much precipitation. Within the large fire footprints, heavy rains may have hit some areas while others have stayed mostly dry. These differences will come to light this weekend with the stronger winds, warmer temperatures, and lower humidities.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

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

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

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

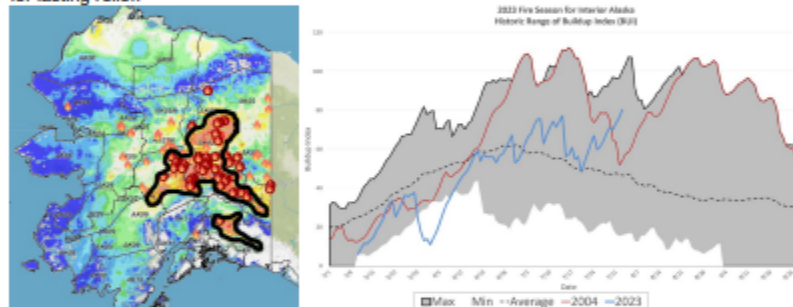
Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

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.

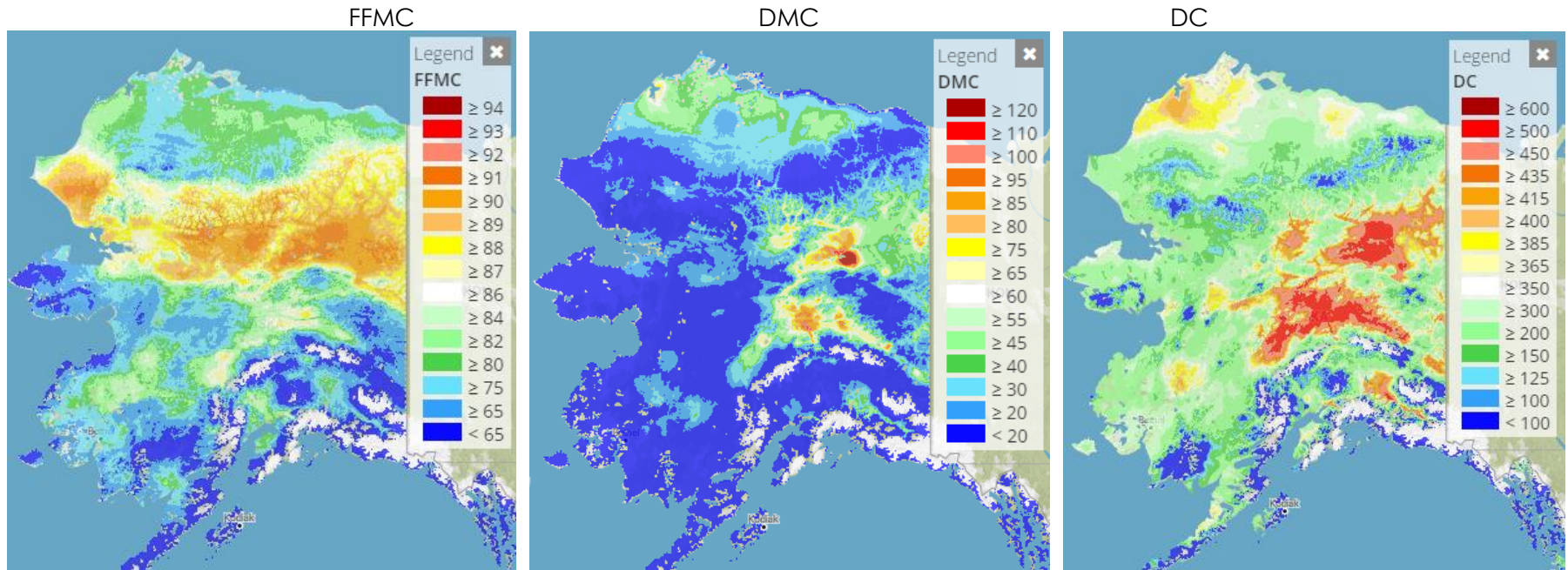
Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

