



## Coffee Brief

**Date: August 13, 2023**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 1 fire for 3 acres</p>
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There are currently 10 staffed fires with 1,026 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~2,490 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
<b>Total Aircraft</b>	<b>39</b>

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	8
Type 2	21
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	5
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>36</b>

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

## AVIATION

- **#191(DAS):** S-262 flew, 261 o/s due to "fried gps", FB-211/214, BD135 relieved AA 7MZ
- **Red flag exercises through 8/25.**

## AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201/290(FAS):** 3/0384
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/0799
- **#191(DAS):** 3/3197
- **#299(DAS):** 3/3110

## SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~37  
SMKJ's committed: 27

## Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

Planned for today:

- **#201(FAS):** 8
- **#345(UYD):** 4

## CREWS

- Gannett Glacier available 8/15.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	Length	Demob
Chena IHC	2023 UYD Multifire Support	C-1	At Incident	8/13	14	8/27
Midnight Sun IHC	296 - Lost Horse	C-13	At Incident	8/12	14	8/26
Pioneer Peak IHC	296 - Lost Horse	C-10	At incident	8/11	14	8/25

## 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	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-8	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 arrived yesterday, 8/12.
- Crews at incident.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
Texas Canyon IHC	261 – Sand Lake	C-6	At Incident	8/12	14	8/26
Arroyo Grande IHC	191 - Pogo Mine Rd	C-3	At Incident	8/12	14	8/26
Sierra IHC	299 - Mount Hayes	C-10	At Incident	8/12	14	8/26

\* TBD per extension process

## OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 33 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

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## 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%. Today, winds will decrease, though some gap winds north of the Alaska Range could be problematic for small areas of the southern Interior.

There is the chance for thunderstorms mainly in the west with much fewer strikes than seen in recent days. The footprint expands back across the Interior today, though still of lesser import. 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 remain present, but low.

*Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook*

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## Fuels/Fire Potential

Fine fuels across the northern Interior have had a couple of days of warming and drying and strong easterly winds today will test exactly how much drying has occurred. ISIs showed Extreme spread potential across a wide swath, even westward into the Galena Zone where fuels aren't quite as dry. The areas of note include existing fires in the eastern and central Interior which may become active with these winds.

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 today with the stronger winds, warmer temperatures, and lower humidities.

After yesterday, it is likely that fire activity will decrease statewide, with cooler temperatures and higher humidities.

*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

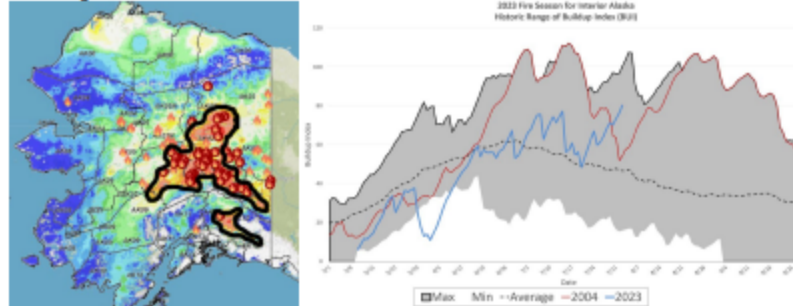
### Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

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.

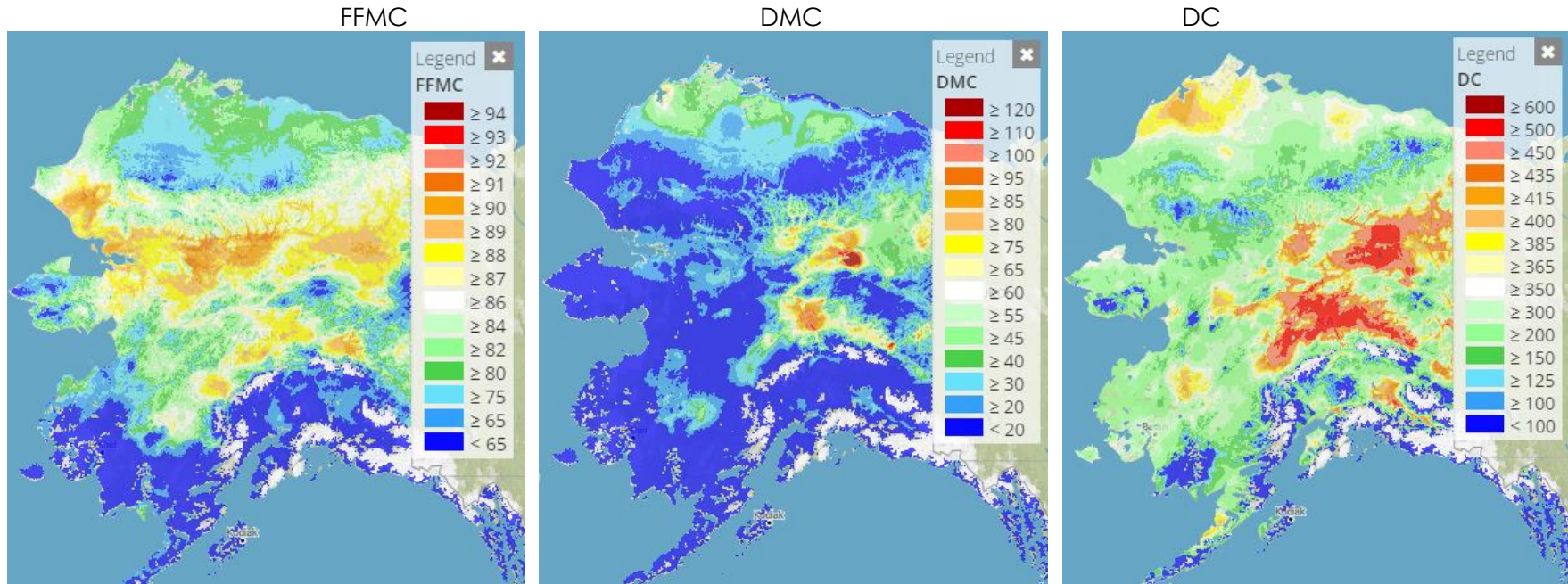
#### Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

