Coffee Brief

Date: July 6, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

Light Initial Attack Activity
New Fires and Acres: 13 fires for 206 acres

There are currently19 staffed fires and 5 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~34,763 acres

Bean Complex: S-261, 263 did two fuel cycles and S-262, 260 did one
Lime Complex: AA-7GB
#458 (UYD): Dropped 4 SMKJs on the fire for structure protection
#485 (UYD): ASM-B9, FB-208/209, FB-210/205
#489 (UYD): ASM-B4
#486 (CRA): AA-0AK, T-540, T-544, T-101, Lead A4, 1 load SMKJs, BD-125/FB Group, S-262, 260
#431 (TAD): AA-2GA

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

Prioritized Incident Details

Priority	Unit	Seq. #	Incident	Descriptive Location	Size in Acres	Yesterday's Acres	Change Since Last 209	% Contained/Completed	Expected Contain/Complete Date	Suppression Strategy	Complexity (Incident Management Organization)	IC	Total Personnel
2	AKFAS	346	Clear	10 NM from City of Anderson along the Teklanika River	52,987.0	51,352.0	1,635.0	8%	7/22	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC	492
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	34,386.0	32,828.0	1,558.0	0%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 1 Team	Jerry McGowan IC, Ken Kempter Deputy IC	289
4	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	782,468.0	782,468.0	-	0%	8/1	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butteri	187
5	AKTAD	898	Bean Complex	West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles.	141,004.0	128,982.0	12,022.0	1%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Knerr, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-t	243
6	AKDAS	894	Middle Tanana Complex	Nearest community is Delta, Alaska	1,292.2	1,292.2	-	0%	10/31	Various	Type 2 Team	TBD	0
7	AKTAD	896	Dalton Highway Complex	0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway & East of Rampart AK	69,872.0	68,618.0	1,254.0	0%	8/31	Various	Type 3 Team	McCowan GB Idaho Team 1	111
8	AKGAD	897	Poorman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	52,493.0	52,493.0	-	0%	8/1	Various	Type 3 Team	Mitch Ketron ICT3	104
9	AKTAD	225	Snohomish	15 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK	24,586.0	24,586.0	-	0%	8/31	Point Zone	Type 4 IC	0	41
10	AKTAD	431	Slathtouka	19 miles southwest of Allakaket, AK	158.6	158.6		0%	9/30	Point Zone	Type 5 IC	0	6
11	AKUYD	444	Bearman	25 miles northwest of Fort Yukon, AK	149.2	149.2		0%	9/30	Full Suppression Monitor	Type 3 IC	0	33

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Smokeumper	6
Air Tactical	11
Air Tankers	5
Scoopers	22
Utility	8
Helicopter, Type 1	2
Helicopter, Type 2	20
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	9
UAS	5
Total Aircraft	**88**

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	13
Type 1	19
Type 2	8
Type 1 Module	8
Type 2 Module	5
Total Crews	**53**

Incident Mangaement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	1
IMT2	6
IMT3	5
Total IMTs	**12**

AVIATION

AA-1MZ back on today

AIRSPACE/TFRs

2/7355 Minto Lakes
2/6808 Lime complex
2/7164 Clear
2/7502 Gilles Creek
2/7505 Gold Hub
2/7307 South Fork

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 17
~ 119 SMKJ's committed + 3 as single resources (2 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday: #315- 7; #444- 2; #185- 4, #352 - 4
Planned for today: None

CREWS

Today is the last working day for:

Redmond IHC

Prineville IHC
La Grande IHC
Vale IHC

Chena planning to work 21 days – Last working day on this roll is July 15

Midnight Sun working 16 days – Last working day on this roll is July 10

NICC JET MOVEMENT

7/8 - Jet #2 - Demob of Jet #2 out of FBK

Redmond IHC
Prineville IHC
La Grande IHC
Vale IHC

** Last workday = 7/6, travel to Fairbanks 7/7, fly out on the Jet 7/8*

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 87 pending overhead requests
- AK IMT2 Black extending the start date of the current roster/rotation to Thursday, July 14th
- The AK Green IMTs tentative last working day is 7/13 so this will provide coverage during their travel + days off

Source: IROC Reports, National Smokejumper Status Report, AK Incident Aircraft Tracking Spreadsheet & AICC Documentation

Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNING issued Tuesday afternoon and evening for portions of Alaska's Interior for widespread concentrated thunderstorms, a fair portion of which will be dry. A similar pattern will develop again today.

Visit NWS Alaska for the latest details at https://www.weather.gov/arh/fire

High pressure aloft is centered over northwest Canada and is providing very warm temperatures to mainland Alaska. Humidity is low but not terribly so.

Thunderstorms will mainly develop in the central and eastern Interior, and there will likely be several thousand strikes, with a good chance of starting new fires due to the dryness of the fuels and the limited potential for these thunderstorms to produce wetting rains. Temperatures will also be very warm for the Interior with widespread upper 70s and 80s.

By the end of the work week, low pressure may move into western Alaska from the Bering Sea. Such a development would bring wetter and cooler conditions to the western part of the state and South Central, but would leave much of the Interior and the Panhandle with continued warm and mainly dry conditions.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Surface fuels have begun to be affected by showery activity in the Interior. Highest FFMC values are in eastern portion of the State and Copper River. Surface fuels in southwest Alaska continue to moderate and slow fire spread temporarily. There will be continued large fire growth in areas with good ventilation. Fire growth can either be fuels or wind driven. Increased smoke production will continue to limit fire spread.

Subsurface drying continues to drive fire spread. The Duff Moisture Code (DMC), which is the main component of the Buildup Index (BUI) this time of year, is extremely dry across areas of the Interior, Southwest and South Central. The footprint of extreme values is increasing daily given current weather. The dry duff layers increase fireline intensity and resistance to control, requiring more time and effort to manage. As the drying continues, the increasing resistance to control will slowly begin to increase the resistance to extinguishment as deeper fuels dry. Fires around Delta have reported active burning in hardwood stands and 2004 burn scars which are normally barriers to fire spread. South Central currently does not have large fires, but fuels are conducive to support spruce-driven fire spread with any new ignitions. Copper River continues to dry and DMCs are becoming for flammable.

BUIs are increasing across greater areas of Alaska and continue to support large fire growth across the state.

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.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels Status Alaska Fire and Fuels Map

An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued 6/25/22

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

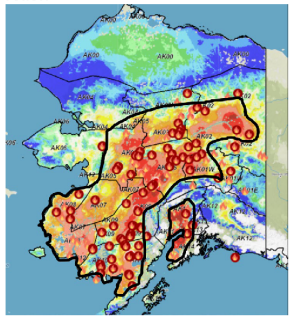
Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska

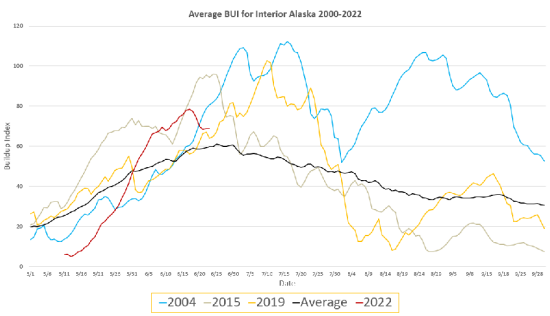
Valid: June 25 – July 8, 2022

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 occurs from mid-June to mid-July surrounding the summer solstice when long days and rapid drying can produce elevated BUIs. Southwest Alaska normally experiences shorter periods of high flammability but has had numerous fires burning since the end of May. By mid-June fire activity began to spread eastward in the Interior. Numerous fires are now burning in the central Interior. The area of activity is expected to expand eastward into the Yukon Flats. South Central has been drying rapidly and BUIs are now at record levels.

Difference from normal conditions: The attached graph shows the current 2022 BUI trend for the Interior of Alaska compared to other busy fire seasons. 2022 has been above average BUI since May 31, and higher than 2019 levels for the same period. Convective precipitation has moderated values in some areas but forecast high pressure will rapidly increase values. Much of the landscape has experienced large fire growth earlier than usual. 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, exhibit rates of spread more than one mile per hour, torch, and spot prolifically up to ¼ mile or more, and exhibit intense crown fire behavior.
- Temperatures above 80 degrees and RH below 30% are important thresholds for rapid spread and crown fire behavior. Strong winds are not required for large fire growth.
- Long-term drying has stressed green fuels and is encouraging spread into riparian areas and less flammable hardwood forests. These fuel types may no longer be barriers to fire spread.

Mitigation Measures:

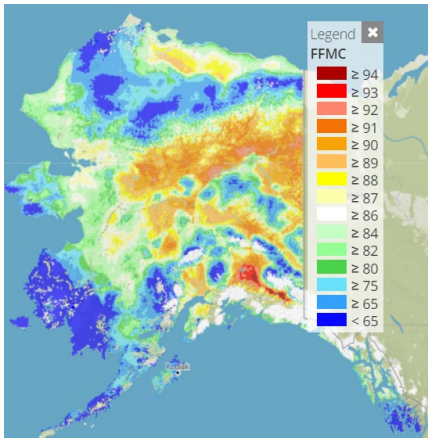
- Ensure that you can recognize hazardous fuel types including tundra that is exceptionally dry.
- Understand the triggers and thresholds for problem fire behavior.
- Monitor forecasts and indices to anticipate areas of increased flammability and extreme fire behavior.
- Maintain clear communications when working around active fires.

Area of Concern: Interior, Southwest and South Central Alaska

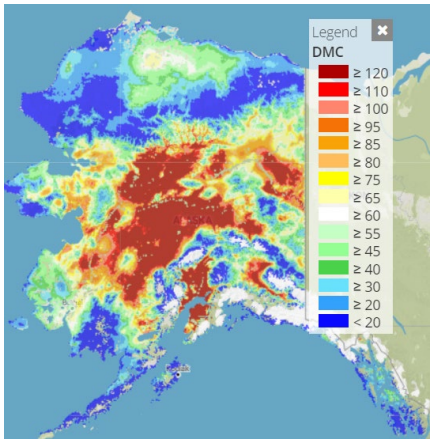
Issued By: Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

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

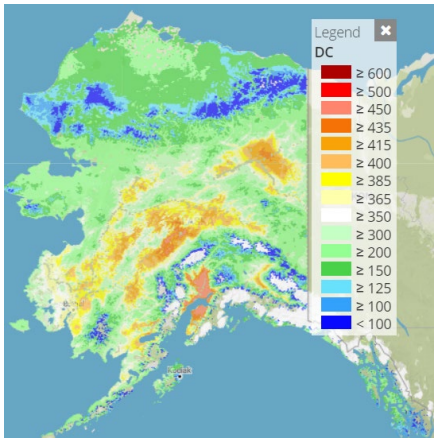
FFMC



DMC



DC



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.