



Coffee Brief

Date: June 12, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	2

Light Initial Attack Activity New Fires and Acres: 3 Fires for 1.4 Acres

There are currently 7 staffed fires with 328 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was 147,245 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

Resources

AVIATION:

4 Jump ships with ~12 SMJ's as of 1500 Have 4 SMJ booster orders filled ~ 60 SMJ's committed.

2 Air Attack, 1 ASM, 1 Lead Plane, 2 Large Air tankers, 1 additional Air tanker has been ordered, 6 Fire Bosses. (BC Group inbound – Birddog + 6 Fire Bosses on the Northwest Compact).

Currently have ordered 3 T-2 Helicopters and 1 T-3 Helicopter with modules coming from the L-48. State Forestry has hired 5 CWN helicopters throughout Alaska to support their fires.

CREWS:

Type 2 Crews Committed: 5
Type 2IA Crews Committed: 6
Type 1 Crews Committed: 3
Modules: 1

Crews arriving at FBK today and assignments:

Union IHC – DOF*
Winema IHC – DOF*
Zig Zag IHC – East Fork
Rogue River IHC – East Fork
Entiat IHC - TBD

Additional order for 5 T-1 or T2IA has been placed for 6/15 arrival into FBK.

MISCELLANEOUS:

State Forestry has augmented their fire staff with ~30+ overhead through the Northwest Compact.

IMT2 Butteri in briefed for the East Fork fire.

Source: ROSS Reports

Weather Summary

Wetting rains will be most widespread in Southeast Alaska again today, with showers over Copper River Basin and South Central Alaska. A few wet thunderstorms will develop again this afternoon in South Central and Southwest. The focus of instability starts to move farther north, with isolated storms expected through Copper River Basin, the Alaska Range, and into the southern Interior. That area will move northward tomorrow, accompanied by an increase in lightning activity.

Due to significant cooling in the west, there are no red flag warnings out today. However, west and southwest Alaska will continue to have dry (RH <25%) and windy conditions, so fire potential remains high there. Tomorrow will see more moderation of humidities there, while winds will turn to a southwesterly direction but remain gusty. There is also an increasing chance for showers moving into the west coast, though heaviest rain potential is in the northwest. Meanwhile, the central and eastern part of the state will begin to see a warming trend this weekend, and by Monday, temperatures will again be into the 70s for much of eastern Alaska.

With the low dropping into the west coast and bringing cooler temperatures and a damper air mass this weekend, the question is whether it will bring enough moisture to make an impact on the fires burning in Southwest and moderate the fuels there. At this time, it's difficult to estimate how much precipitation will fall and whether it will impact the areas with extensive fire activity; it looks like significant precipitation will be limited. Sunday night and into Monday looks like the best chance for wetting rains there. Meanwhile, high pressure builds into the east, which will keep warmer temperatures and a dry pattern for central and eastern Alaska through the middle of next week.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Fine fuels remain mostly moderated from the Panhandle through Copper River Basin and into South Central Alaska. Some areas around South Central have received little rain and are showing spots of drier fine fuels. The mid and deeper duff layers there continue to dry.

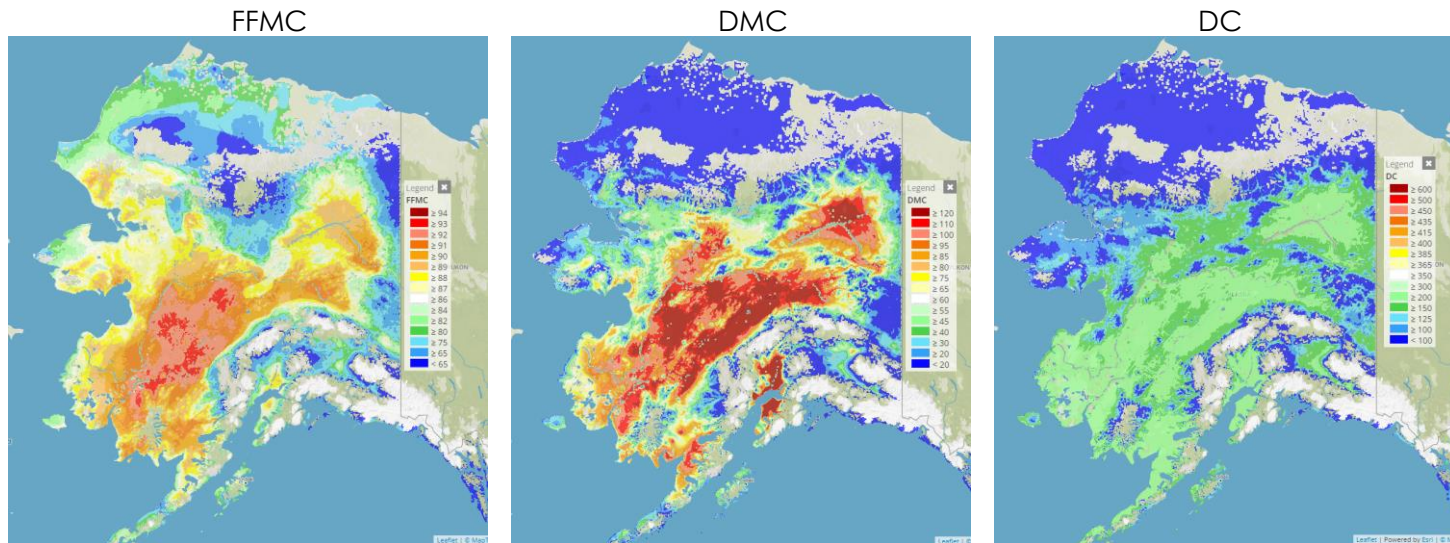
The most concerning fuels are in the central and western Interior and down to Southwest. Surface fuels are extremely dry, and strong, gusty winds are boosting the Initial Spread Index to Extreme values, enhancing the potential for wind-driven fires.

The deeper duff layers continue to warm and dry in the Interior, Southwest, and South Central. Many stations in these areas now have values of the Build-up Index (BUI) above the critical threshold of 80 and pushing over 100, indicating that the deeper layers will contribute to wildfire behavior, and some fires may be increasingly resistant to control. Fuels that are normally barriers to fire may not slow fire spread due to this long-term drying trend.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory has not been issue for Alaska.

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



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

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

Prioritized Incident Details

This information will be available after the next AMAC meeting.

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

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

