



Coffee Brief

Date: 6/13/2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	2

Light Initial Attack Activity New Fires and Acres: 2 Fires for 184 Acres

There are currently 7 staffed fires with 363 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was 217,033 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

Resources

AVIATION:

5 Jump ships with ~ 41 SMJ's, 56 SMJ's committed.

2 Air Attack, 1 ASM, 3 Bird Dogs, 3 Air Tankers, 1 additional Air tanker has been ordered, 6 Fire bosses + 6 fire bosses (State only).

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: 2
Type 1 Crews Committed: 8
Modules: 1

5 IHC's from L-48 arrived yesterday and have been assigned. 5 additional IHC's from L-48 are scheduled to arrive at FBK on 6/15.

MISCELLANEOUS:

AK IMT2 Black Team is assigned to the Aghaluk Mountain Incident and will in-brief tomorrow.

AK IMT2 Green Team is currently in command of the East Fork incident.

Source: ROSS Reports

Weather Summary

Though it will be cooler in western Alaska, the West and Southwest will remain dry and windy for one more day, keeping high fire potential. Winds have changed or are changing direction to be more southwesterly, so fire movement will begin to change on many fires. Tomorrow brings substantial rain to Northwest and the best chance for rain to parts of Southwest. However, the rain in Southwest will only be enough to slow fire activity for a day or so and not enough to cause long-term subjugation of fires there.

Meanwhile, the central and eastern part of the state will be seeing a significant warming trend, with temperatures into the 70s for much of the central and eastern Interior by Monday. With this somewhat disorganized ridge that sets up over the east, instability will abound. Thus the chance for afternoon showers and thunderstorms will be increasing dramatically over the next few days, with Tuesday expected to be quite active.

With the change in flow to a southerly component and the ridge building in the east, stronger winds are expected through much of the mainland tomorrow. Funneling through the passes of the Alaska Range, as well as downsloping effects are likely to bring near Red Flag criteria to the north side of the mountains, specifically in the area from Healy to Delta and towards Tok.

Wetting rains will continue to be focused in the Panhandle and Copper River Basin again today, with lesser showers tomorrow. More wet thunderstorms are expected this afternoon in parts of South Central, up through the Alaska Range and into the central Interior. Tomorrow and Tuesday the area of instability expands across the Interior, and the number of storm cells and lightning strikes will be on the rise.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Fine fuels remain mostly moderated from the Panhandle through Copper River Basin. Much of South Central has received little rain in the last few days, and many stations are showing that fine fuels are burnable. Mid and deeper duff layers there have continued to dry over the last week, despite the cooler and damper weather.

The most concerning fuels are in the central and western Interior and down to Southwest. Surface fuels are extremely dry, and gusty winds are boosting the Initial Spread Index to Extreme values throughout much of inland Southwest, enhancing the potential for significant fire spread again today. Tomorrow, moisture coming into that area will slow fire progression, though it won't be enough rain for long-term impacts to the fires there.

The deeper duff layers continue to dry in the Interior, Southwest, and South Central. Many stations in these areas now have values of the Buildup Index (BUI) above the critical threshold of 80 and pushing over 100, indicating that the deeper layers will contribute to wildfire behavior and lightning holdover potential. Many fires will be increasingly resistant to control.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

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

[A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory has been issued for Alaska.](#)

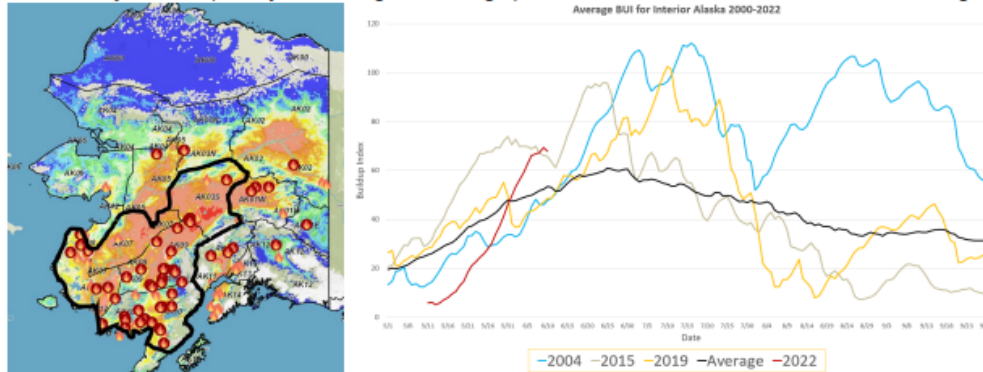
Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Southwest and Central Interior Alaska

Valid: June 12 – June 25, 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 BUI levels. Southwest Alaska normally experiences shorter periods of high flammability as they are prone to intermittent rain due to marine influences. Beginning in the middle of May, southwest Alaska has experienced continued hot, dry, and windy conditions, drying out fuels, retarding green-up and producing significant large fire growth. Many fires in southwest Alaska have experienced exceptionally large fire growth over the last week, which is unusual for the area.

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 2015 levels since June 6. Southwest Alaska has already experienced abnormally large fire growth for this time of year. 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.
- Green fuels are stressed and encouraging spread into riparian areas and less flammable hardwood forests.

Mitigation Measures:

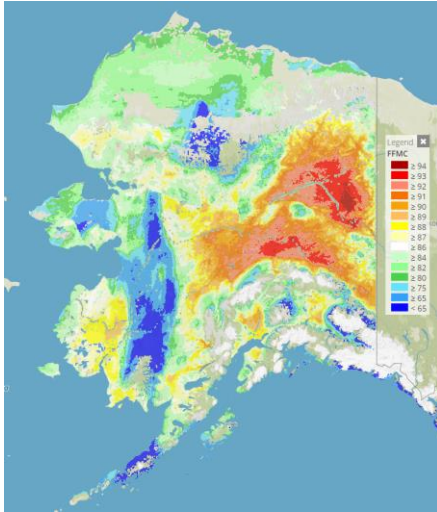
- Ensure that you can recognize hazardous fuel types including tundra that is exceptionally dry.
- Understand the triggers and thresholds for problem fire behavior.
- Monitor forecasts and indices to anticipate areas of increased flammability and extreme fire behavior.
- Maintain clear communications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

Area of Concern: Southwest Alaska, and the central Interior. Conditions over the next few weeks may spread to include a wider portion of Alaska.

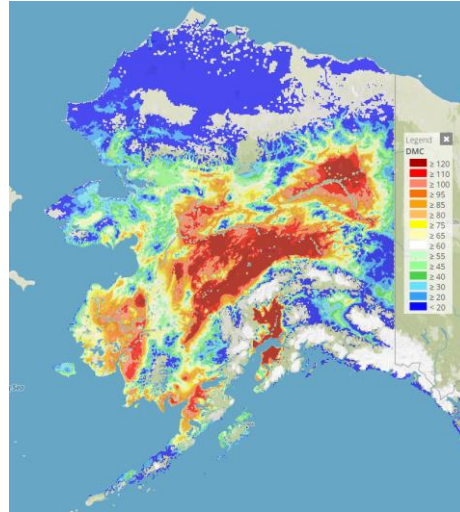
Issued By: Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

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

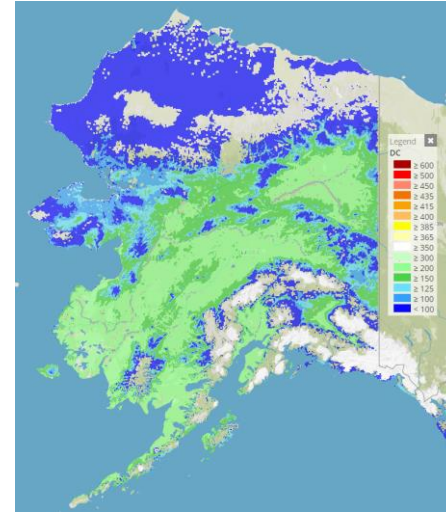
FFMC



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

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.

