



Coffee Brief

Date: August 8, 2023

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 2 fires for 13.6 acres</p>

There are currently 17 staffed fires with 893 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~129,087 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	2
Helicopter, Type 2	9
Helicopter, Type 3	5
Total Aircraft	40

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	4
Type 2	16
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	4
Total Crews	26

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

AVIATION

- **#251(FAS):** Requested AA/tankers– all declined to respond due to poor vis/Wx/no boots on the ground
- **#299(DAS):** BD-135, T-542, T-544, AB Tanker Group, SK Tanker Group all responded to this fire for a bit this evening before losing visibility
- **#261(TAS):** Rolled BD-58 to assess vis for tankers in the morning, they returned PAQ due to no visibility
- **#348(UYD):** Rolled J-90 w/ 12 SKMJs, they kicked 4
- **#221(MID):** J-90 kicked 8 out on this fire
- **FireBosses:** repositioned yesterday due to smoke (FB-211/214>BTT, FB-216/218>FYU)
- **5AK:** repositioned > PAQ

AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201(FAS):** 3/7011
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/6714

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~12
SMKJ's committed: 54

- 10 NEW SMKJ booster orders placed 8/7 - *PENDING w/ NICC in IROC*

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

- **#271(FAS):** 5
- **#345(UYD):** 8

Planned for today:

CREWS

- 22 pending crew requests

NICC JET MOVEMENT

Jet #1 - Crews at Incident

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob	Extension Approved
Union IHC	201 - McCoy Creek	C-1	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20	waiting on
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	waiting on

* TBD – AICC will be starting extension process

Jet #2 – Crews at

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

Jet #3 - Inbound to FAI on 8/8 w/ 5 - T2 Crews

* 1 day earlier than originally requested date

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 76 pending overhead requests

TEAM	INCIDENT	O#	IC	Status	Current Location	Mob Date	Duration	Last Work Day
IMT2 GB	Teklanika River	O-1	Brett Waters	At Incident	Anderson, AK	7/31	14	8/14/2023
IMT2 AK Green	Lost Horse Creek	O-2	Peter Butteri	At Incident	Fairbanks, AK	8/4	14	8/18/2023

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

Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONE 220...

A significant outbreak of lightning was expected yesterday afternoon and evening as an upper level weather disturbance moves into the Interior from the southeast. The moisture content of the atmosphere is rising, and the majority of thunderstorms will be wet. While the overall wind pattern is much lighter today than it was over the weekend, thunderstorms can produce brief gusty outflow winds. Meanwhile, southwestern Alaska, South Central, and the Southeast Panhandle are cooler and much more moist with areas of rain.

In the longer term, the absence of the southwesterly flow that typically brings steady rains in August and effectively ends Alaska's wildfire season is nowhere in sight. Rather, high pressure aloft will hold over the Brooks Range and North Slope for several more days, with closed low pressure systems in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska persisting as well. This pattern will keep the southern half of Alaska comparatively wet and cool, while the Interior, especially in the north and along the Brooks Range, will remain warm and dry except for some afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Duff layers are now significantly dry in parts of the eastern and central Interior, leading to greater resistance to control. These are also the areas where most ignitions have occurred, and fire activity is focused. Fine fuels are very dry across the Interior, with the exception of the far western Interior. Fine fuels are very dry over the inland North Slope as well, although deeper fuels in that area are not as dry as parts of the Interior.

Increasing moisture and prominent showers and wet thunderstorms has the potential to bring down some of the fire weather indices in coming days, especially the parameters that emphasize surface fuels such as Fine Fuel Moisture Code and Initial Spread Index.

Today's scenario is problematic for Initial Attack, less so for the behavior of existing fires.

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

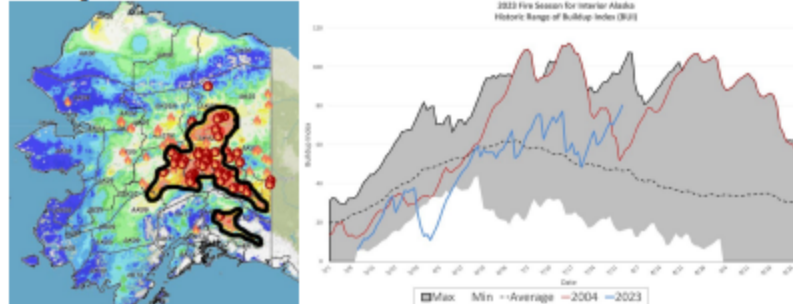
Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

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.

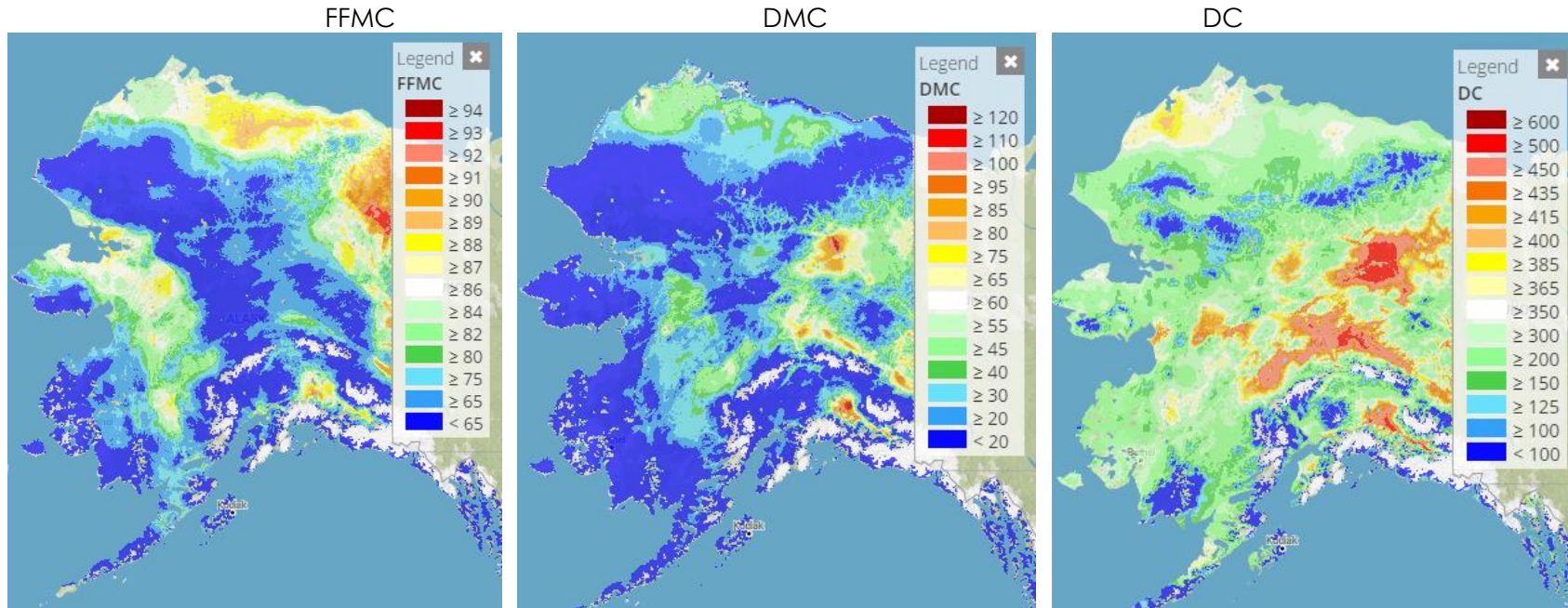
Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

