



Coffee Brief

Date: August 14, 2023

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 1 fire for .5 acres</p>
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There are currently 8 staffed fires with 1,011 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~114 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
Total Aircraft	39

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	
Type 1	9
Type 2	20
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	4
Total Crews	34

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

AVIATION

- No tactical movement.
- DOF Aviation Drawdown Meeting today.
- Red flag military exercises ongoing through 8/25.

AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201/290(FAS):** 3/3351
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/0799
- **#191(DAS):** 3/3212
- **#299(DAS):** 3/3110

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~16
SMKJ's committed: 14

- 14 SMKJ boosters from L48 released to home yesterday.
- 8 SMKJ orders filled for RDD from AK.

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

- **#201(FAS):** 8
- **#345(UYD):** 4
- **#348(UYD):** 2

Planned for today:

CREWS

- Gannett Glacier available tomorrow, 8/15.

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	Length	Demob
Chena IHC	296 – Lost Horse	C-16	En Route	8/14	14	8/29
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

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

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

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

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

- 15 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

Weather Summary

High pressure over northwest Alaska will keep warmish temperatures across the north and west, with upper 70s in the western Interior and low to mid 70s in the east. Relative humidities will be as low as 35%. Winds have dropped off significantly since yesterday, 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 across much of the Interior for the next few days, though strike counts will be considerably diminished from earlier this week. These storms are expected to be wet.

The long-range forecast shows little change in the overall pattern through mid-week. Cool and wet weather will dominate southern Alaska while the northern Interior will remain fairly warm and dry. Thunderstorm activity will remain present, but low. Towards the end of the week, a westerly flow sets up, increasing the chances for rain across the Interior. The desired season-ending Southwest Flow regime still appears to be a bit elusive for now, but the pattern will be shifting ever-closer by next weekend.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Despite (yesterday's) strong winds, little growth on fires was observed. This is telling of the rest of the fire season, as it is unlikely that there will be any more extended warming and drying spells that can greatly impact fuel conditions and enhance fire activity.

Though gusty winds in the Alaska Range were expected (yesterday), the area of impact is minimal and the event will only last for about 12 hours.

The challenge for the rest of the season comes in that the deepest duff layers are extremely dry in the eastern Interior. The Drought Code (DC) represents these fuel layers and discloses that resistance to extinguishment is Very High. The upper and middle layers of duff are represented by Duff Moisture Code (DMC), and those values only show a few areas in the eastern Interior with Very High or Extreme values. DMC represents resistance to control. So, though fires may be more easily controlled from here forward, they will likely continue to burn in the deep layers until the snow flies. And, these fires may overwinter and lend early action to next year's fire season.

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

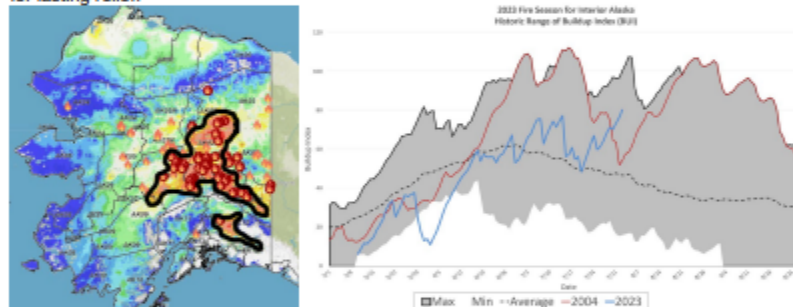
Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

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.

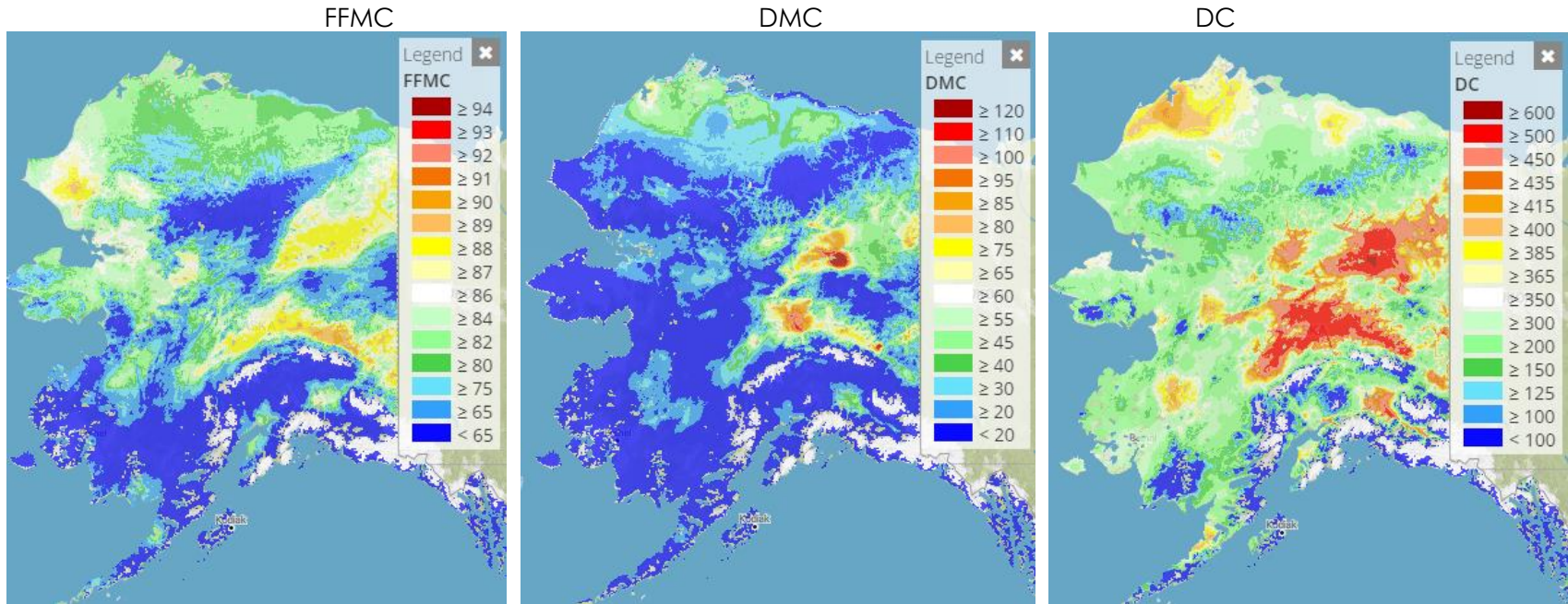
Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

