



Coffee Brief

Date: July 10, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

| | |
|----------|---|
| Alaska | 5 |
| National | 2 |

| |
|--|
| Light Initial Attack Activity New Fires and Acres: 4 fires for 80 acres |
|--|

There are currently 17 staffed fires and 6 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~24,218 acres

#349 (FAS): AA-1BR

#528 (UYD): AA-1MZ, FB-205/210, FB-208/209, J-90 dropped 12 SMKJs, AA-0AX, S-260/262

#244 (Lime): AA-0AK

#531 (SWS): AA-0AK, T-540, T-544 (tankers cancelled before drop) J-90 dropped 7 SMKJs and RON in MCG.

#530 (UYD): J-92 dropped 4 SMKJs

Prioritized Incident Details

| Priority | Unit | Seq. # | Incident | Descriptive Location | Size in Acres | Yesterday's Acres | Change Since Last 209 | % Contained/C completed | Expected Contain/Complete Date | Suppression Strategy | Complexity (Incident Management Organization) | IC | Total Personnel | Crews Assigned | | | Helicopters Assigned | | |
|----------|-------|--------|------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|-----------------|----------------|----|------|----------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | T-1 | T2 | T2IA | T-1 | T-2 | T-3 |
| 2 | AKFAS | 346 | Clear | 10 NM from City of Anderson along the Teklanika River | 69,748.0 | 65,884.0 | 3,864.0 | 15% | 7/30 | Point Zone | Type 2 Team | Al Lawson - IC Nathan Rabe - Deputy IC | 532 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | AKFAS | 349 | Minto Lakes | Minto Lakes/Chatanika River | 36,753.0 | 35,367.0 | 1,386.0 | 0% | 7/30 | Point Zone | Type 1 Team | Jerry McGowan IC, Ken Kempter Deputy IC | 282 | 1 | 5 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | AKTAD | 898 | Bean Complex | West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles. | 160,713.0 | 155,302.0 | 5,411.0 | 0% | 10/1 | Various | Type 2 Team | Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Knerr, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-t | 248 | 9 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | AKDAS | 894 | Middle Tanana Complex | Nearest community is Delta, Alaska | 50,274.3 | 30,526.3 | 19,748.0 | 0% | 10/31 | Various | Type 2 Team | Almas, Northern Rockies Team 3 | 160 | 3 | 6 | | | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | AKSWS | 899 | Lime Complex | Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napalmute to Port Alsworth | 787,135.0 | 785,539.0 | 1,596.0 | 35% | 8/1 | Various | Type 2 Team | IC Butteri | 164 | | | | | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | AKTAD | 896 | Dalton Highway Complex | 0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway & East of Rampart AK | 76,209.0 | 75,722.0 | 487.0 | 0% | 8/31 | Various | Type 3 Team | McCowan GB Idaho Team 1 | 91 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | AKTAD | 431 | Slathrouka | 19 miles southwest of Allakaket, AK. | 4,190.7 | 2,564.4 | 1,626.3 | 1% | 9/30 | Various | Type 3 Team | unknown | 44 | | | | | | |
| 9 | AKGAD | 897 | Poorman Complex | Ruby, AK is the closest civilization. | 64,641.0 | 55,504.0 | 9,137.0 | 0% | 8/1 | Point Zone | Type 3 Team | Mitch Ketron ICT3 | 103 | 4 | | | | | 2 |
| 10 | AKTAD | 893 | Paradise Complex | 6 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK | 241,463.6 | 237,989.2 | 3,474.4 | 0% | 9/1 | Point Zone | Type 3 IC | D. Jones, E Karp(t) | 67 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 11 | AKFAS | 499 | Little Chena River | 0 | 33.8 | - | 33.8 | 0% | 1/0 | Point Zone | unknown | Prax, E | 0 | | | | | | |
| 12 | AKUYD | 444 | Bearman | 25 miles northwest of Fort Yukon, AK | 193.9 | 193.9 | - | 0% | 10/1 | Point Zone | Type 3 IC | unknown | 36 | 1 | | | | | |

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

Resources

| Aviation within Alaska | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Smokeumper | 6 |
| Air Tactical | 12 |
| Air Tankers | 5 |
| Scoopers | 23 |
| Utility | 8 |
| Helicopter, Type 1 | 2 |
| Helicopter, Type 2 | 20 |
| Helicopter, Type 3 Standard | 12 |
| UAS | 4 |
| Total Aircraft | 92 |

| Crews Committed within Alaska | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Type2IA | 13 |
| Type 1 | 20 |
| Type 2 | 9 |
| Type 1 Module | 8 |
| Type 2 Module | 9 |
| Total Crews | 59 |

| Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| CIMT | |
| IMT 1 | 2 |
| IMT2 | 5 |
| IMT3 | 4 |
| Total IMTs | 11 |

AVIATION

5AK is in PAQ for maintenance and might be unavailable for a couple days

7MZ was released from Lime and is now Minto AA. This should (hopefully) curb the requests from Minto from the Tactical pool

FB-205/210 and FB-208/209 could not get back to FBK due to visibility. Planes remained FYU overnight and the pilots were shuffled back into FBK. Will need to double check they are on normal time tomorrow

AIRSPACE/TFRs

2/7355 Minto Lakes

2/6808 Lime complex

2/8031 Clear

2/9217 Little Chena River

2/7505 Gold Hub

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 18

~ 106 SMKJ's committed + 4 as single resources (3 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday: #465 – 3, Bean – 4 (?)

Planned for today:

CREWS

Gannet Glacier on days off – anticipated availability ~July 11

5 additional T2IA crews ordered for 7/13

Smith River IHC will mobilize to Slathtouka (431) on 6A8 today

NICC JET MOVEMENT

7/10 - Jet #2 - Departure of Jet #2 out of FBK

Redmond IHC

Prineville IHC

La Grande IHC

Vale IHC

7/11 - Jet #9 Arriving

NW - CGF

Mt. Baker T2IA

OWF Methow

UMF - VET

Crew 2 FWF NWR 2 – Fremont

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 80 pending overhead requests
- 16 SMKJs Booster ordered for 7/11, 7 UTF'd
- MSS requested a T3 IMT for Lime Complex to replace the outgoing T2 Green team

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

Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNING...

Abundant lightning over dry fuels for the central and eastern Interior through Sunday

High pressure aloft over northwest Canada is creating hot weather over Interior Alaska yet again. Temperatures will be in the low to mid 80s with minimum humidities ranging from the low 20s to mid 30s.

Thunderstorms will develop over much of the Mainland today, and with several thousand strikes there is a good chance of new ignitions in the very dry fuels of Interior Alaska once again. Thus, the Red Flag Warning for abundant lightning in dry fuels is out for the central and eastern Interior again today, and expected to remain through Sunday.

A series of easterly waves coming off the low in the Gulf of Alaska will begin to work more moisture into the eastern corner of the state, including the Panhandle, Copper River Basin, and the upper and middle Tanana Valley. The amount of rain with these waves is questionable, but model indicate that several days of these events will bring sufficient precipitation to those areas to moderate fire activity there. Some of this moisture will also work into South Central and Southwest, though most of that rain is expected along coastal areas.

By Tuesday, a significant pattern change is afoot, and more short waves will begin moving across the state from west to east, ushering in cooler and damper weather for most of the state. By the end of the week, a straight southerly flow may bring even wetter weather, perhaps providing a longer-term reprieve to the fire season. *Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook*

Fuels/Fire Potential

Surface fuels are being affected by showery activity in the Interior. Highest FFMC values are in the central and eastern Interior and Copper River Basin. Surface fuels in southwest Alaska continue to moderate and temporarily slow fire spread. There will be continued large fire growth in areas with good ventilation while increased smoke production will limit fire spread. Fire growth can either be fuels or wind driven at this time.

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 drying continues, the increasing resistance to control is increasing 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](#)

[A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued 7/8/2022](#)

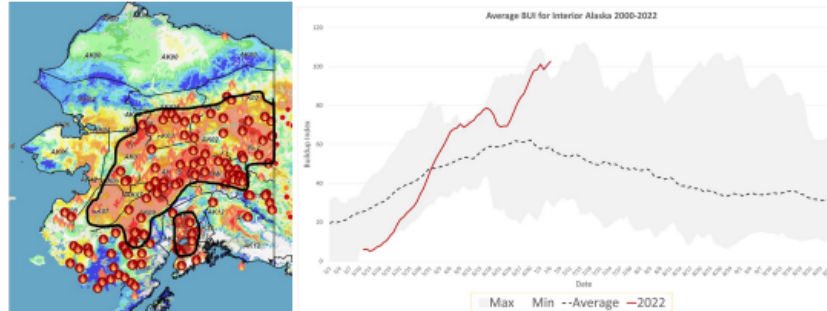
Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior and South Central Alaska

Valid: July 8 – July 22, 2022

Subject: Exceptional landscape flammability and widespread 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 experienced an exceptionally busy June with over one million acres burned. By mid-June fire activity began to spread eastward across the Interior. Numerous fires are now burning in the central and eastern Interior. 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 climatological norms since 2000. 2022 has been above average BUI since May 31 and is currently at record-setting values. Convective precipitation has moderated BUI values in some areas, but mid and deeper sub-surface fuels remain extremely dry. Much of the landscape has experienced continuous large fire growth. Fuels that are normally barriers to fire spread, such as old fire scars and hardwood stands, have been experiencing increased fire behavior. Multiple days of wetting rain adding up to more than one inch will be needed.



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 75 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 in old burn scars and less flammable hardwood forests. These fuel types are no longer barriers to fire spread.

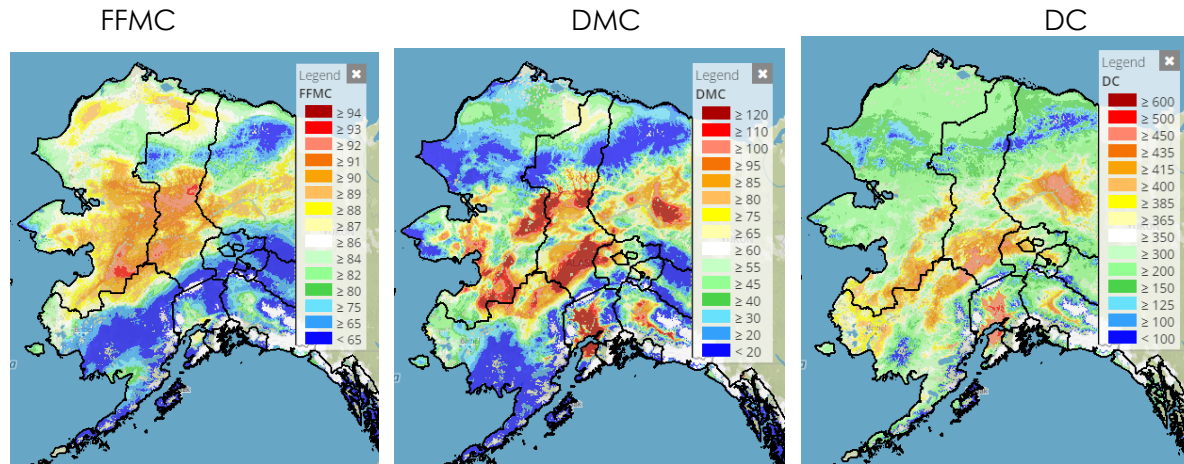
Mitigation Measures:

- Ensure that you can recognize hazardous fuel types.
- 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, Central and Eastern Interior, and South Central Alaska

Issued By: Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

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

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

