



## Coffee Brief

**Date: July 9, 2022**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 8 fires for 115 acres</p>
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There are currently 17 staffed fires and 6 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~11,955 acres

#515 (TAS): AA-0AX, J-09 dropped 4 SMKJs

#517 (DAS): AA-0AX cancelled and diverted to #515, S-261/263 then cancelled

#499 (FAS): AA-1MZ, S-260/262 then diverted to #346, AA-1BR x 2, FB-211/214, FB-216/217, B-4, FB-205/210/208, T-52, T-162, T-540, AA-0AX

#427 (DAS): B-4

#349 (FAS): AA-2GA, AA-0AX, FB-211/214, FB-216/217, AA-1MZ

#346 (FAS): A-4, T-162, T-52, S-261/263, S-260/262, cancelled relief due to VIS

#310 (FAS): FB-205/208/210

#521 (TAD): J-09 dropped 4 SMKJs

#522 (TAS): B-4, T-52, T-162, S-260/262, S-261/263, T-540, BD-125, BC Group, J-90 dropped 12 SMKJ

#526 (TAS): A-4, T-52

#455/295 (DAS): AA-0AX

#527 (FAS): AA-1MZ

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

## 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	65,884.0	61,976.0	3,908.0	15%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC Nathan Rabe - Deputy IC	520	5	4	5	1	2	1
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	35,367.0	35,186.0	181.0	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.	155,302.0	150,340.0	4,962.0	0%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Kner, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-t	246	3	1	1		1	3
5	AKDAS	894	Middle Tanana Complex	Nearest community is Delta, Alaska	30,526.3	29,126.3	1,400.0	0%	10/31	Various	Type 2 Team	Almas, Northern Rockies Team 3	140	1	2				1
6	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	785,539.0	785,539.0	-	0%	8/1	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butteri	171		3			3	2
7	AKTAD	896	Dalton Highway Complex	0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway & East of Rampart AK	75,722.0	75,562.0	160.0	0%	8/31	Various	Type 3 Team	McCowan GB Idaho Team 1	91		1			1	1
8	AKTAD	431	Slathtouka	19 miles southwest of Allakaket, AK.	2,564.4	2,564.4	-	1%	9/30	Various	Type 3 Team	0	43		1				
9	AKGAD	897	Poorman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	55,504.0	55,504.0	-	0%	8/1	Point Zone	Type 3 Team	Mitch Ketron ICT3	101	2					1
10	AKTAD	893	Paradise Complex	6 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK	237,989.2	-	237,989.2	0%	9/1	Point Zone	Type 4 IC	I. Sager	47	1	1			1	
11	AKUYD	444	Bearman	25 miles northwest of Fort Yukon, AK	193.9	193.9	-	0%	10/1	Full Suppression Monitor	Type 3 IC	0	30	1					

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

## Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Smokeumper	6
Air Tactical	11
Air Tankers	5
Scoopers	22
Utility	8
Helicopter, Type 1	2
Helicopter, Type 2	20
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	12
UAS	4
<b>Total Aircraft</b>	<b>90</b>

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	12
Type 1	17
Type 2	9
Type 1 Module	8
Type 2 Module	7
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>53</b>

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	1
IMT2	6
IMT3	4
<b>Total IMTs</b>	<b>11</b>

## **AVIATION**

5AK is in PAQ for maintenance and might be unavailable for a couple days  
T-544 received LOA to operate on federal lands  
New ASCO in place virtually today: Gary Rose

## **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: 23  
~ 106 SMKJ's committed + 4 as single resources (3 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

### **Smokejumper Demobilizations**

Yesterday: #501 – 2; #502 – 4; #486 – 12; #315 - 4; #312 - 8  
Planned for today:

## **CREWS**

Gannet Glacier on days off – anticipated availability ~July 11

Tahoe arrived yesterday on FT. WW, should mobilized to Slate today

Bonneville IHC arrives today, will fly to MHM 7/10 for the Snohomish fire. This mob will dovetail with the North Stars demobilization

Jet # 8 Allocation – Arriving today  
Clear - 346 - Feather River T2IA  
Middle Tanana Complex - 894 - Beckworth IHC  
TBD - Mad River IHC  
Slathtouka - 431 - Smith River IHC \* Submitted flight request for mobilization to 6A8 on 7/10  
Slathtouka - 431 - Tahoe IHC

## **NICC JET MOVEMENT**

7/9 – Jet Load #8 Arriving

Feather River T2IA  
Beckworth IHC  
Mad River IHC  
Smith River IHC

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**

- 46 pending overhead requests
- T1 IMT ordered for Clear fire yesterday, Needed date 7/12
- Available Today: Russian River Wildfire suppression crew with 11 people

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. Temperatures will be in the mid 80s across the central and eastern Interior and low 80s for the western Interior; humidities will be in the low to mid 20s around the Middle Tanana Valley and 30 or higher in most other areas.

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

A low pressure system in Bristol Bay is bringing cooler and damper weather to parts of Southwest and South Central. Though ample rains are falling in coastal areas, amounts inland are much less. Though this is moderating fire activity in Southwest, the rain is not expected to have long-term effects there. The Anchorage Bowl and more northern areas will get some showers, but not enough to wet deeper fuels.

The gradient between these systems continues to bring southeasterly winds gusting into the low 30s across much of South Central, parts of Southwest, Copper River Basin, and even the Alaska Range. However, with moderating temperatures and humidities in all areas, no red flag conditions are expected.

Hot weather with prominent thunderstorm activity in the afternoons and evenings will persist for the Interior through the weekend. Southwest, South Central, and Southeast Alaska will have cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and periods of precipitation. A pattern change is likely towards the middle of next week, but what it means for fire behavior is currently a wild card.

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 Yesterday](#)**

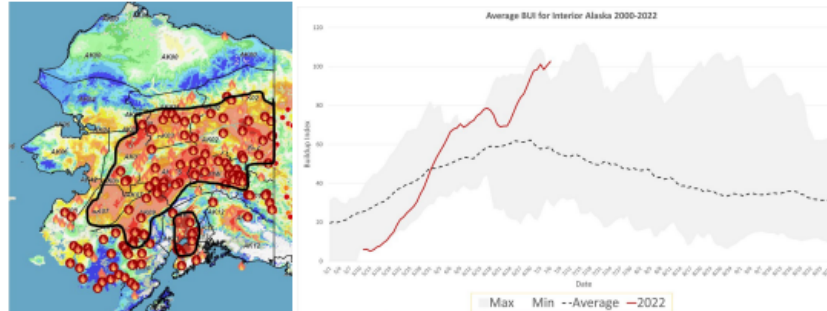
## Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior and South Central Alaska

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.

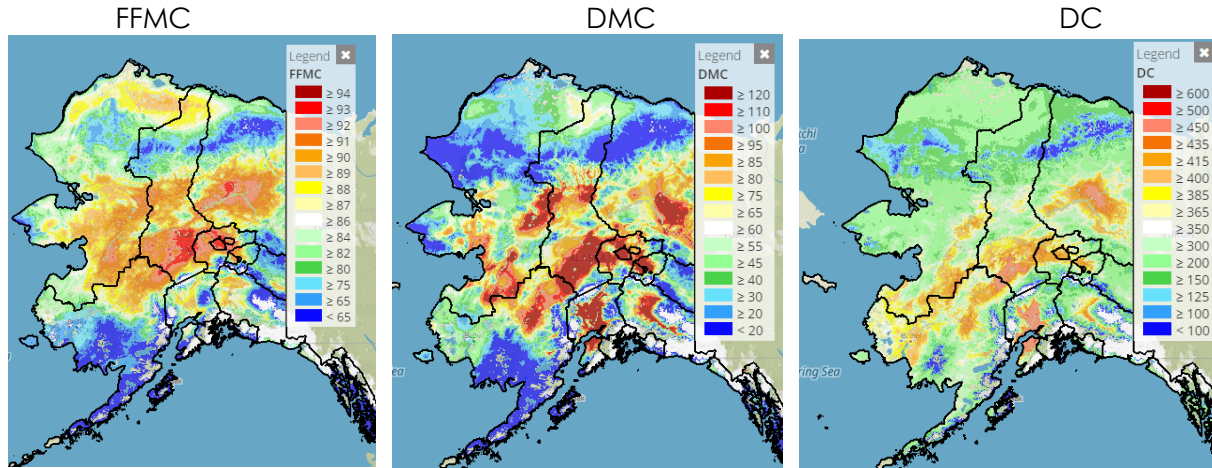
### Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

