



Coffee Brief

Date: July 1, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 6 fires for 165 acres</p>
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There are currently 19 staffed fires. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~185,182 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
T3 Airtanker (Multi-Engine)	4
T3 Airtanker (Single Engine)	8
Fixed Wing, Air Tactical	7
Fixed Wing, Cargo	5
Fixed Wing, Lead plane	2
Fixed Wing, Passenger	10
Fixed Wing, Smokejumper	1
Helicopter, Type 2 Restricted	
Helicopter, Type 2 Standard	14
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	9
Airtanker, Type 1 or 2	1

*As identified in IROC

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type 1	14
Type 2	6
Type 2IA	12
Type 1 Module	5
Type 2 Module	2
Total Crews	39

Teams Committed within Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	1
IMT2	6
IMT3	5
Total IMTs	12

AVIATION:

B4 arrived and is in the A/A line-up

SMOKEJUMPERS:

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 20

~ 111 SMJ's committed + 3 as single resources (2 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

Eight smokejumpers demobilized off fire #294

Tanana Zone expecting to demobilize 30 smokejumpers, based on aircraft availability and visibility conditions

CREWS:

Jet #6		
FBK	Tallac IHC	AICC Crew Support
FBK	Lassen IHC	AICC Crew Support
FBK	Mendocino IHC	AICC Crew Support
FBK	Plumas IHC	AICC Crew Support

- 5 crew orders still pending at NICC, Jet #7
- Dalton IHC arriving today – assigned to Minto Lakes

OVERHEAD/TEAMS:

24 overhead orders currently pending at NICC for Alaska incidents

MISCELLANEOUS:

Fish Camp Island – new start in Southwest – helitack unable to respond due to visibility – will try again today

All staffed fires actively working to meet objectives

Source: IROC Reports, [National Smokejumper Status Report](#) & AICC Documentation

Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNINGS...

Friday and Saturday afternoons/evenings for portions of Alaska's Interior for widespread concentrated thunderstorms, a fair portion of which will be dry.

Visit NWS Alaska for the latest details at <https://www.weather.gov/arh/fire>

Thunderstorms will move into the central and eastern Interior today and tomorrow, and there will likely be a few thousand strikes each day, with a good chance of starting new fires due to the dryness of the fuels and the limited potential for these thunderstorms to produce wetting rains. Temperatures will also be very warm for the Interior into the weekend, with widespread upper 70s and 80s, and even readings to around 90 degrees in the Upper Yukon Valley.

By the beginning of next week, low pressure may move into western Alaska from the Bering Sea. Such a development would bring wetter and cooler conditions to the western part of the state but would leave much of the Interior and the Panhandle with continued warm and mainly dry conditions.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Surface fuels continue to respond to the warmer and drier weather. FFMC values are highest across the eastern Interior and Copper River and holding relatively steady in the Mat-Su and on the Kenai Peninsula. Expect FFMCs to remain elevated across much of the state in the coming days. Southwest Alaska is still experiencing growth on existing fires due to dryness of live fuels, which is not captured in FFMC. There will be continued large fire growth in areas with good ventilation. Fire growth can either be fuels or wind driven. Increased smoke production may limit fire spread.

Subsurface drying is the main driver of fire spread. The Duff Moisture Code (DMC), which is the main component of the Buildup Index (BUI) this time of year, is at extremely dry levels 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 the drying continues, the increasing resistance to control will slowly begin to increase the resistance to extinguishment as deeper fuels dry. South Central currently does not have large fires, but fuels are conducive to support spruce-driven fire spread with any new ignitions.

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

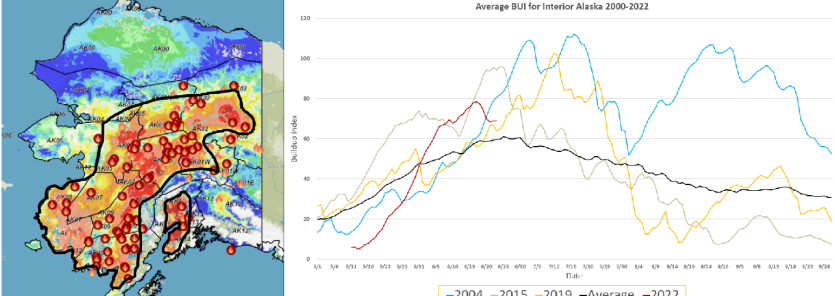
An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued Yesterday

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory
Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska
Valid: June 25 – July 8, 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 BUIs. Southwest Alaska normally experiences shorter periods of high flammability but has had numerous fires burning since the end of May. By mid-June fire activity began to spread eastward in the Interior. Numerous fires are now burning in the central Interior. The area of activity is expected to expand eastward into the Yukon Flats. 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 other busy fire seasons. 2022 has been above average BUI since May 31, and higher than 2019 levels for the same period. Convective precipitation has moderated values in some areas but forecast high pressure will rapidly increase values. Much of the landscape has experienced large fire growth earlier than usual. 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. Strong winds are not required for large fire growth.
- Long-term drying has stressed green fuels and is encouraging spread into riparian areas and less flammable hardwood forests. These fuel types may no longer be barriers to fire spread.

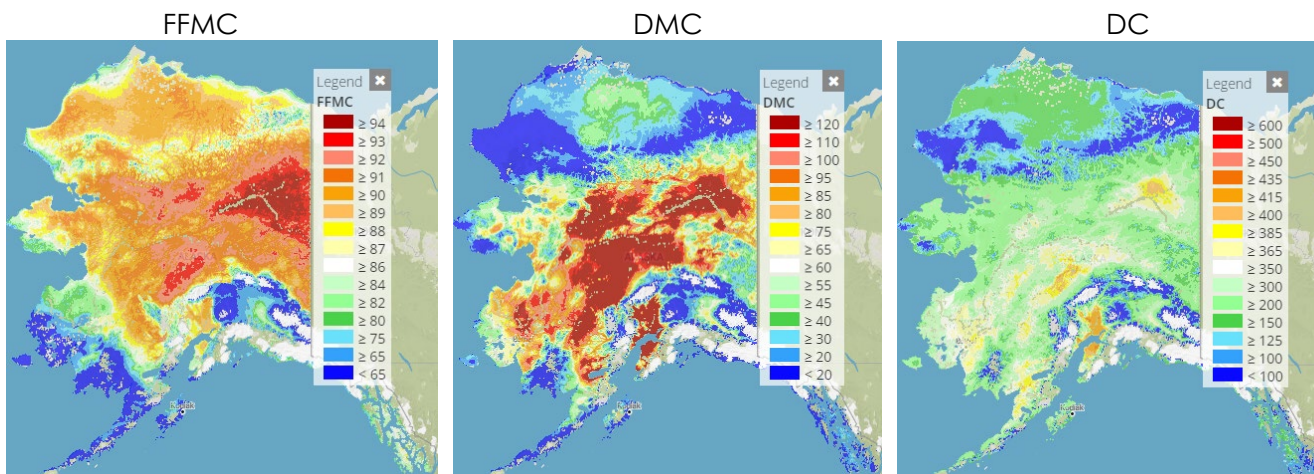
Mitigation Measures:

- 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: Interior, Southwest 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

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
														New and emerging initial attack within Alaska is #1					
2	AKFAS	346	Clear	10 NM from City of Anderson along the Teklanika River	25,821.8	23,511.9	2,309.9	8%	7/22	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC	400	4	3	5		1	
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	22,218.2	14,111.5	8,106.7	0%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 3 IC	Delgado, Joel (Q), Adams, Ted (I)	190	5	1	3		1	
4	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmule to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	-	-	-	0%	7/21	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butteri	198	1	2	1		4	1
5	AKTAD	898	Bean Complex	West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles.	-	-	-	0%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Kneir, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-1	160	4				1	
6	AKGAD	897	Pooman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	-	-	-	0%	7/20	Various	Type 4 IC	0	26						1
7	AKTAD	225	Snohamish	15 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK	12,564.5	23.0	12,541.5	0%	8/31	Monitor	Type 4 IC	0	41	1	1				

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

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

