



Coffee Brief

Date: July 4, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 20 fires for 328 acres</p>

There are currently 12 staffed fires and 5 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~116,831 acres

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

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
2	AKFAS	346	Clear	10 NM from City of Anderson along the Teklanika River	30,785.0	30,785.0	-	8%	7/22	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC	469
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	32,658.3	22,218.2	10,440.1	0%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Mike Almas, Shawn Pearson, Mike Behrens (T)	322
4	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	-	-	-	0%	8/1	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butteri	197
5	AKTAD	898	Bean Complex	West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles.	-	-	-	70%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Kneer, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-t	261
6	AKTAD	896	Dalton Highway	0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway	-	-	-	0%	8/31	Various	Type 3 Team	Newell GB IMT Team 4	71
7	AKDAS	894	Middle Tanana Complex	Nearest community is Delta, Alaska	-	-	-	0%	10/31	Monitor	Type 2 Team	TBD	0
8	AKGAD	897	Poorman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	-	-	-	0%	8/1	Various	Type 3 Team	Mitch Ketron ICT3	99
9	AKTAD	225	Snohomish	15 miles southwest of Lake	20,980.4	Unknown	-	0%	8/31	Monitor	Type 4 IC	-	41

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Smokeumper	4
Air Tactical	10
Air Tankers	5
Scoopers	22
Utility	8
Helicopter, Type 1	1
Helicopter, Type 2	20
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	8
UAS	4
Total Aircraft	82

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	13
Type 1	19
Type 2	6
Type 1 Module	7
Type 2 Module	4
Total Crews	49

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	1
IMT2	6
IMT3	5
Total IMTs	12

AVIATION

TFR on fire #427 South Fork (DAS)

FDC 2/7307 ZAN AK..AIRSPACE 10NM NE DELTA, AK..TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS WI AN AREA DEFINED AS 5NM RADIUS OF 641100N1452200W (BIG018014.2) SFC-7000FT TO PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR FIRE FIGHTING ACFT OPS. PURSUANT TO 14 CFR SECTION 91.137(A)(2) TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. NORTHERN FORESTRY DISPATCH CENTER TEL 907-451-2680 OR FREQ 120.750/SOUTH FORK FIRE IS IN CHARGE OF THE OPS. ANCHORAGE /ZAN/ ARTCC TEL 907-269-1103 IS THE FAA CDN FACILITY. 2207030430-2207230700

346(FAS): Requested AA multiple times but unable to launch due to poor vis over the incident.

294(UYD): Requested ASM and tanker, ASM-B9 responded but cancelled tanker request once on scene due to poor vis.

433(DAS): Launched AA-1MZ along with FB's, which stood down due to vis. A/A then requested scoopers but later cancelled them.

435(TAS): ASMB9 and S-261/263 responded to this incident.

440(MSS): Rolled AA-0AK from PAQ.

442(TAS): AA-2GA and S-261/263 flew this incident.

444(UYD): AA 0AX and FB-08/209/205/210 flew this fire.

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 32

~ 123 SMKJ's committed + 3 as single resources (2 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

431(TAD): Rolled 1 load SMKJs, dropped 6.

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday: #294 (4); #369 (4); #327/Bean Complex (3); #427 (8); #315 (4)

Planned for today: None

CREWS

There will be a lot of crew movement today as the latest jet load gets into position and Jet #1 crews go out

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 76 pending overhead requests
- IMT2 NR-Almas reassigned to Middle Tanana Complex
- IMT3 NEWICC assigned Slathtouka - arriving 7/4/22 to FBK then onto Allakaket on 7/5/22
- IMT3 Central Oregon reassigned to Seaton

NICC JET MOVEMENT

7/4 - Jet #7

Arroyo Grande IHC
Texas Canyon IHC
Crane Valley IHC
Fulton IHC

7/5 - Jet #1 - Demob of Jet #1 out of FBK

Union IHC
ZigZag IHC
Entiat IHC
Winema IHC
Rogue River

**Last work day for these crews = 7/3, travel to Fairbanks on 7/4, fly out on the Jet 7/5*

7/8 - Jet #2 - Demob of Jet #2 out of FBK

Redmond IHC
Prineville IHC
La Grande IHC
Vale IHC

** Last work day = 7/6, travel to Fairbanks 7/7, fly out on the Jet 7/8*

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

Weather Summary

High pressure aloft is centered over northwest Canada and is providing very warm temperatures to mainland Alaska. Humidity is low but not terribly so. Low pressure is moving from near Kodiak Island into the Gulf of Alaska, and the winds in southwest Alaska are much weaker than they were a couple days ago.

Thunderstorms today will mainly develop in the central and eastern Interior, and there will likely be several thousand strikes, 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 with widespread upper 70s and 80s.

By the middle of the work 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 and South Central, 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 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

Fuels Status [Alaska Fire and Fuels Map](#)

[An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued Yesterday](#)

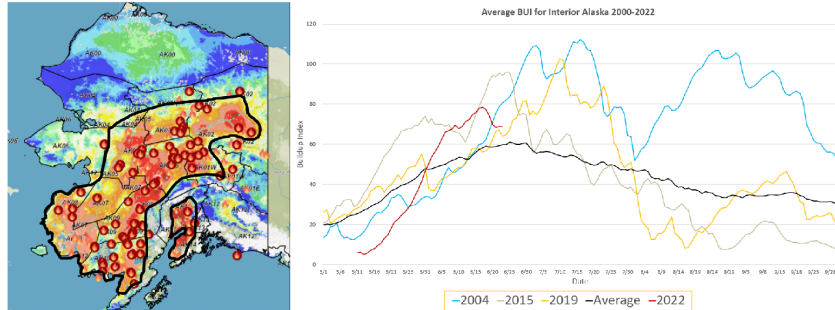
Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska

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.

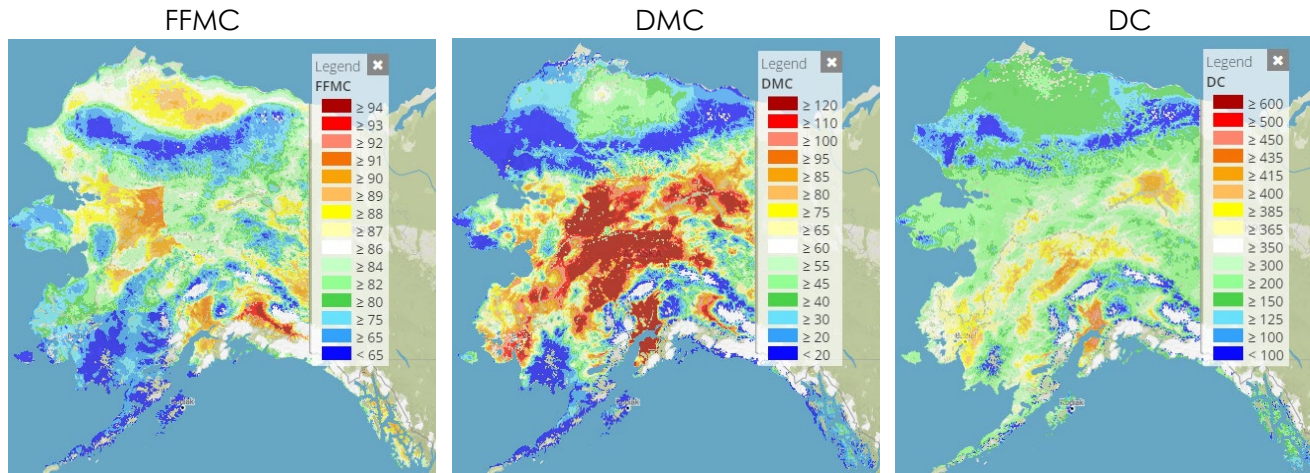
Mitigation Measures:

- 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

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