



Coffee Brief

Date: July 5, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

Moderate Initial Attack Activity New Fires and Acres: 25 fires for 3,375 acres

There are currently 14 staffed fires and 5 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~34,022 acres

#444 (UYD) = A-4 flew it and then swung by #451 to check it out; called in more fires on way back to FAI

#447(TAS): ASM-B4, FB-211/214, 1 load SMKJs- dropped two

#460(DAS): ASM-A4, FB-216/216, remainder of load from #447, T-101, T-162

#466(UYD): ASM-B9, 1 load SMKJs, FB-216, 217, J-90. J-90 dropped 8 on #465, which they checked out while in the area of #466

#455(DAS): AA-2GA, S-260/262, S-261/263, AA-OAK, T-162, T-540. T-540 reloaded TSG and recovered PAQ

#437 (DAS): Diverted T-101 from #455 to #437 to protect Pogo Repeater

Prioritized Incident Details

Priority	Unit	Seq. #	Incident	Descriptive Location	Size in Acres	% Contained/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	51,352.0	8%	7/22	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC	486	6	3	5		2	
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	32,828.0	0%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 1 Team	Jerry McGowan IC, Ken Kempter Deputy IC	227	5	1	2			
4	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	782,468.0	0%	8/1	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butteri	173		3	1		3	1
5	AKTAD	898	Bean Complex	West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles.	128,982.0	0%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Knerr, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-1	243	3	1	1		1	2
6	AKDAS	894	Middle Tanana Complex	Nearest community is Delta, Alaska	1,292.2	0%	10/31	Various	Type 2 Team	TBD	0	?				?	?
7	AKTAD	896	Dalton Highway Complex	0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway & East of Rampart AK	68,618.0	0%	8/31	Various	Type 3 Team	McCowan GB Idaho Team 1	107	1	1			1	1
8	AKGAD	897	Poorman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	52,493.0	0%	8/1	Various	Type 3 Team	Mitch Ketron ICT3	102	2					1
9	AKTAD	225	Snohomish	15 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK	24,586.0	0%	8/31	Point Zone	Type 4 IC	Upper Yukon Zone Duty Officer	41	1	1				
10	AKTAD	431	Slathtouka	19 miles southwest of Allakaket, AK	158.6	0%	9/30	Point Zone	Type 5 IC	Tanana Zone Duty Officer	6						
11	AKUYD	444	Bearman	25 miles northwest of Fort Yukon, AK	149.2	0%	9/30	Full Suppression Monitor	Type 5 IC	Upper Yukon Zone Duty Officer	0						

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Smokeumper	6
Air Tactical	10
Air Tankers	4
Scoopers	22
Utility	8
Helicopter, Type 1	2
Helicopter, Type 2	22
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	9
UAS	5
Total Aircraft	88

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	13
Type 1	21
Type 2	8
Type 1 Module	8
Type 2 Module	4
Total Crews	54

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

AVIATION

AA-1MZ is on days off today
B-9 departing for L-48 today
T-544 will remain in PAQ and are State Protection only
BD-125/BC FB – Sounds like we can keep them for a few more days
WA FB group will be I.A. avail out of PAQ

AIRSPACE

Updated TFR for #346
New TFRs for #460 and #455

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 28
~ 114 SMKJ's committed + 3 as single resources (2 boat operators and 1 ICT3 trainee)

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday: None
Planned for today: None

CREWS

NICC JET MOVEMENT

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

Union IHC
ZigZag IHC
Entiat IHC
Winema IHC
Rogue River

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

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 68 pending overhead requests
- IMT3 NEWICC assigned Slathtouka - traveling to Allakaket today

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.

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 in Copper River and becoming more variable in the Interior due to convective precipitation. Southwest Alaska surface fuels have moderated and slowed fire spread temporarily. There will be

continued large fire growth in areas with good ventilation. Fire growth can either be fuels or wind driven. Increased smoke production will continue to limit fire spread.

Subsurface drying continues to be 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. 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](#)

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

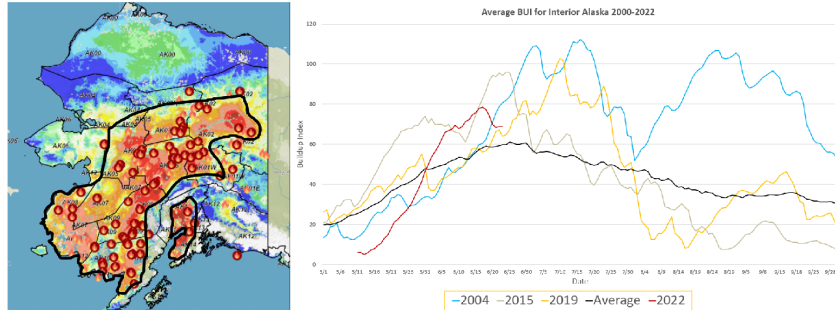
Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska

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.

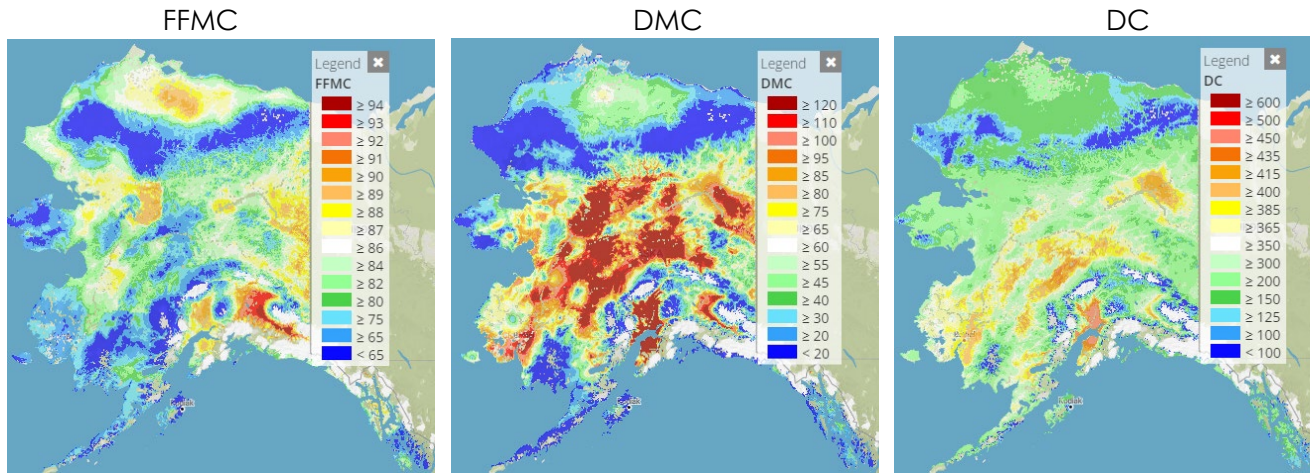
Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

