



Coffee Brief

Date: July 8, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 13 fires for 144 acres</p>

There are currently 16 staffed fires and 6 Complexes. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~79,234 acres

New Complex: Paradise Complex (TAD) Fires included:

- #510 Bear Paw
- #508 Starr
- #507 Sischu
- #504 American
- #385 Leaf
- #225 Snohomish
- #185 Hog Butte

- #310 = FB-208/209, FB-205/210; both sets diverted to #346
- #346 = B-4, ASM A-4, AA-1MZ, FB-208/209, FB-211/214, BD-125, BC Group, T-101, T-52, T-544
- #499 = AA-0AX, AA-1MZ, S-261/263, S260/262
- #509 = B-4, AA-2GA, FB-211/214, FB-216/217, FB-205/210, J-09 dropped 8
- #508 = FB-208/209, J-92 dropped 8
- #511 = Diverted part of BC Group from #346
- #515 = AA-7GB, T-540, J-92 dropped 6
- #514 = J-92 dropped 2
- #517 = J-92 was unable to drop any on 517

Prioritized Incident Details

Priority	Unit	Seq. #	Incident	Descriptive Location	Size in Acres	Yesterday's Acres	Change Since Last 209	% 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	61,976.0	52,987.0	8,989.0	12%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 2 Team	Al Lawson - IC	491	4	4	5		2	1
3	AKFAS	349	Minto Lakes	Minto Lakes/Chatanika River	35,186.0	34,386.0	800.0	0%	7/30	Point Zone	Type 1 Team	Jery McGowan IC, Ken Kempfer Deputy IC	313	3	5	1		1	1
4	AKTAD	898	Bean Complex	West of Fairbanks, some fires up 130 miles.	150,340.0	141,004.0	9,336.0	0%	10/1	Various	Type 2 Team	Nathan LeFevre, ICT2 Eric Kner, DPIC Chris Orr, ICT2-1	243	7	2	2		2	2
5	AKDAS	894	Middle Tanana Complex	Nearest community is Delta, Alaska	29,126.3	1,292.2	27,834.1	0%	10/31	Various	Type 2 Team	Almas, Northern Rockies Team 3	123	2	2				
6	AKSWS	899	Lime Complex	Sleetmute to King Salmon, Napaimute to Port Alsworth	785,539.0	782,468.0	3,071.0	0%	8/1	Various	Type 2 Team	IC Butterfi	158		3			3	2
7	AKTAD	896	Dalton Highway Complex	0.5-5 miles off the Dalton Highway & East of Rampart AK	75,562.0	69,872.0	5,690.0	0%	8/31	Various	Type 3 Team	McCowan GB Idaho Team 1	90		1			1	1
8	AKGAD	897	Poorman Complex	Ruby, AK is the closest civilization.	55,504.0	52,493.0	3,011.0	0%	8/1	Various	Type 3 Team	Mitch Ketron ICT3	101	2					1
9	AKTAD	225	Snohomish	15 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina, AK	28,685.8	24,586.0	4,099.8	0%	8/31	Point Zone	Type 4 IC	0	41	1	1				
10	AKTAD	431	Slathtouka	19 miles southwest of Allakaket, AK	2,564.4	158.6	2,405.8	0%	9/30	Point Zone	Type 4 IC	0	34		1				
11	AKUYD	444	Bearman	25 miles northwest of Fort Yukon, AK	193.9	149.2	44.7	0%	9/30	Full Suppression Monitor	Type 3 IC	0	53	2					

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
Total Aircraft	90

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	12
Type 1	18
Type 2	9
Type 1 Module	8
Type 2 Module	6
Total Crews	53

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

AVIATION

5AK is in PAQ for maintenance and might be unavailable for a couple days
T-544 received LOA to operate on federal lands
T-101 will be off
AA-7GB landed past midnight - will probably start 1100 today

AIRSPACE/TFRs

2/7355 Minto Lakes
2/6808 Lime complex
2/8031 Clear
2/7505 Gold Hub

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 10
~ 97 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

Jet # 8 Allocation – Arriving today
Clear - 346 - Feather River T2IA
Middle Tanana Complex - 894 - Beckworth IHC
Lime Complex - 899 - Mad River IHC
Slathtouka - 431 - Smith River IHC
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

- 68 pending overhead requests
- Available Saturday: Russian River Wildfire suppression crew with 11 people

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 creating hot weather over eastern Alaska. Temperatures will be in the low 80s across the central and eastern Interior and Copper River Basin, and humidities will be as low as the upper teens and 20s again this afternoon in Copper River and Isabel Pass in the eastern Alaska Range.

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. The Red Flag Warning for abundant lightning in dry fuels from yesterday will lapse today as the number of strikes is expected to decrease, though it will still be an active thunderstorm day.

A low pressure system in Bristol Bay is bringing cooler and damper weather to parts of Southwest. Though ample rains are falling in coastal areas, amounts inland are much less. So though this is moderating fire activity in SW Alaska, the rain is not expected to have long-term effects there.

The gradient between these systems is fairly strong, and southerly winds gusting into the low 30s across much of South Central and inland Southwest are forecast today. These winds will present the biggest problem in Copper River Basin, where hot and dry conditions combined with these winds are reaching Red Flag Criteria.

Warm weather with prominent thunderstorm activity in the afternoons and evenings will persist for the Interior through the weekend. Western, South Central, and Southeast Alaska will have cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and periods of precipitation. A pattern change is likely at the beginning 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 6/25/22](#)

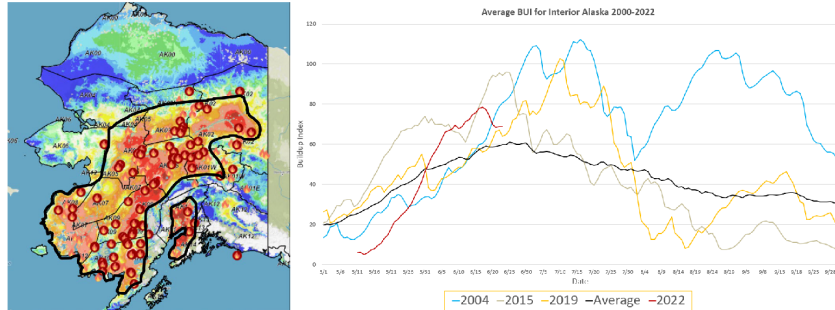
Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska

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.

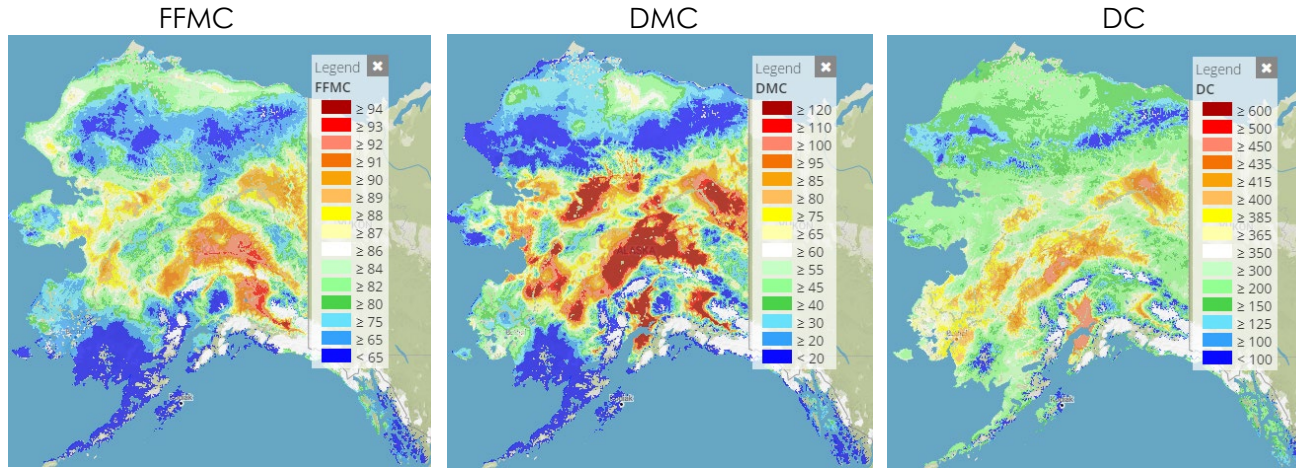
Mitigation Measures:

- 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.

