



Coffee Brief

Date: June 26, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	4
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 4 fires for 150 acres</p>
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There are currently 15 staffed fires. Yesterday's large fire growth was 107,123 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	
Jumpship	5
Air Tactical	5
Air Tankers	3
Scoopers	2
SEATS	13
Utility	9
T1 Helicopter	
T2 Helicopter	11
T3 Helicopter	6

Crews Committed within Alaska		
Type 1	1	AK
Type 2	3	AK
Type 2IA	4	AK
Module	2	AK
Type 1	10	L-48
Type 2		L-48
Type 2IA		L-48
Module	1	L-48
Total Crews	21*	

AVIATION:

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 20
~ 84 SMJ's committed.

CREWS: *Crews arriving at FBK today

1. Lolo IHC - Clear - 346
2. Flathead IHC - Bean Complex (AK-TAD)
3. Kootenai #1 T2IA - Clear - 346
4. Nez Perce - Clearwater #1 T2IA - Allen - 384
5. Nez Perce - Clearwater #2 T2IA - Clear - 346

MISCELLANEOUS:

Pike Creek #239 - (Boulder Complex) - Possible demobilization today

Boulder #351 - Final grid, tentative demobilization 6/27

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

Weather Summary

Strong high pressure is building in from the south and will strengthen as it moves towards eastern Alaska over the weekend. This will bring hotter and drier weather to the central and eastern Interior with temperatures into the 80s and RHs into the low to mid 20s.

Around South Central and inland Southwest, temperatures will reach to near 80, with some RHs near 25 percent.

The exception to this heating/drying trend will be along the west coast, where a low coming into the Bering Sea will attempt to bring in moisture and winds for the weekend. It doesn't look like the rain will get very far inland, but the winds will penetrate much of the western Interior. This low will continue to enhance fire activity throughout western Alaska through today.

The area of thunderstorm coverage will be minimal for the weekend, with a small uptick expected on Monday. Expect most storms to be found over the far southeast Interior and Copper River Basin.

In the longer term, the high pressure system will continue to progress eastward over the ALCAN border, keeping hot and dry weather in the east. A weak low moving through the pattern during the workweek will help to rekindle lightning activity by the middle of the week, which could lead to numerous new ignitions on the dry landscape.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Surface fuels continue to respond to the warmer and drier weather. FFMC values are increasing across the Interior and Copper River, and are holding relatively steady in the Mat-Su and on the Kenai Peninsula. Many areas are at or near Extreme values. Expect FFMCs to continue to increase in coming days. Southwest Alaska is still experiencing growth on existing fires due to dryness of live fuels which is not captured in FFMC.

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, South Central and the Kenai. The dry duff layers increase fireline intensity and resistance to control, requiring more time and effort to manage. South Central currently does not have large fires, but fuels are conducive to support spruce-driven fire spread with any new ignitions there.

The fires north of Lake Iliamna have been the most active out of the current fires in Southwest Alaska. This is an area of the state that normally does not have the weather conditions to support prolonged large fire growth.

Extended warming and drying will increase the Buildup Indices (BUIs) across greater areas of Alaska and continue to support large fire growth across the state.

When encountering a mis-match 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

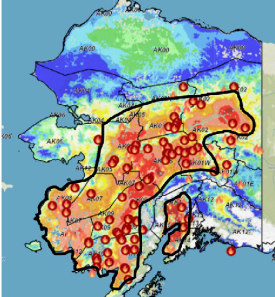
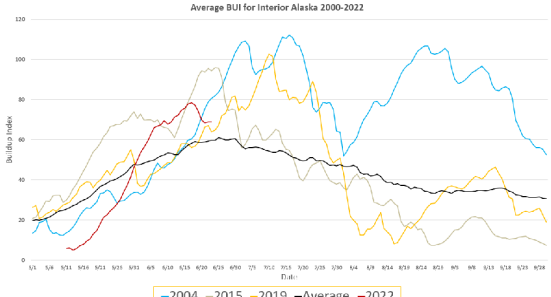
An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued Yesterday

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.

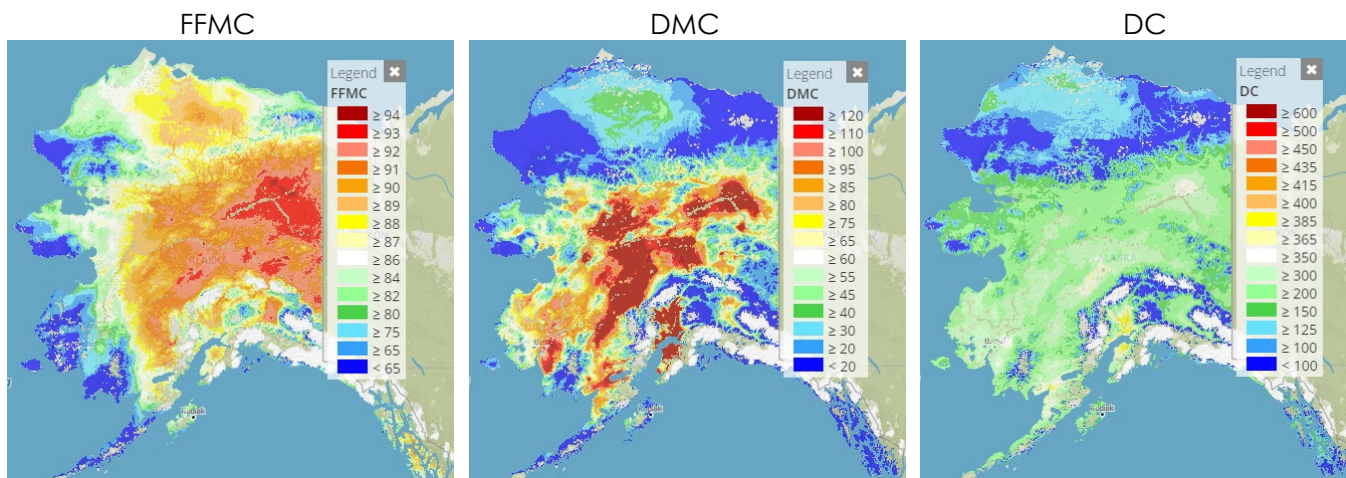
Mitigation Measures:

- 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

1. Initial Attack
2. Clear #346 (FAS) IMT2 Lawson currently has 2 subdivision evacuations taking place
3. Lime Complex (SWS) IMT2 Sanford (fires 189, 190, 197, 205, 206,207, 239, 244, 245, 247, 273)
4. Bean Complex (TAD) IMT2 Lefevre (fires 348, 351, 314/315, 312, 310, 327)
5. Minto Lakes (FAS) IMT3 Delgado # 349 - 8300 acres actively burning, structures threatened, point protection ongoing
6. Sunset (TAD) #369 structures threatened, point protection ongoing
7. East fork (GAD) ICT3 Stark/Dudley (T) #160 on glide path, pulling equipment and rehabbing dozer line; expect some growth to north in wilderness area
8. Fish #319 (TAD) IMT3 GB meeting objectives

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

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

