



## Coffee Brief

**Date: June 27, 2022**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	4
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 5 fires for 12 acres</p>
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There are currently 15 staffed fires. Yesterday's large fire growth was 6,000 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

### Resources

Aviation within Alaska	
Jumpship	5
Air Tactical	6
Air Tankers	5
Scoopers	2
SEATS	8
Utility	10
T1 Helicopter	
T2 Helicopter	12
T3 Helicopter	7

Crews Committed within Alaska		
Type 1	1	AK
Type 2	5	AK
Type 2IA	5	AK
Module	1	AK
Type 1	16	L-48
Type 2		L-48
Type 2IA	8	L-48
Module	3	L-48
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>39</b>	

### AVIATION:

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 12 at GAL, ~13-15 FBK, with more later in the day as incoming boosters arrive ~ 84 SMJ's committed.

### CREWS:

Pending Crew Orders

Incident and Request Type	Total Requests
<b>2022 Fairbanks Area Preposition</b>	1
CR2I - Crew, Type 2 IA	1
<b>Bean Complex</b>	1
CR2I - Crew, Type 2 IA	1
<b>Healy Lake</b>	1
CR12 - Crew, Type 1 or 2 Any	1
<b>Minto Lakes</b>	5
CR2A - Crew, Type 2 Any	1
CR2I - Crew, Type 2 IA	3
CRW1 - Crew, Type 1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>

### MISCELLANEOUS:

Hutlinana #327 – Anticipate demobilizing 10 smokejumpers today

Allen #348 – Anticipate demobilizing eight smokejumpers on 6/28

Sithylemenkat #320 – Staffed with 28 with plans to demobilize today

Fish #319 – Anticipate full demobilization within 24-48 hours

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. 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.

By Tuesday, temperatures and RHs become more extreme in South Central and inland Southwest once again.

The exception to the hot and dry weather will be along the west coast, where a low coming into the Bering Sea is attempting to bring in moisture and winds. Though some precipitation will get a little farther inland today, amounts are expected to be less than a tenth of an inch, so long-term effects are unlikely. Unfortunately, the strong winds associated with this storm are affecting the western third of the state, fanning the flames of existing fires and instigating rapid fire spread despite the cooler and cloudier weather.

A small uptick in thunderstorm activity expected today and more again on Tuesday.

In the longer term, the high pressure system will continue to hold over the ALCAN border, keeping hot and dry weather in the east and warm and dry in the western Interior. A weak low moving through the pattern during the workweek will help to increase lightning activity, which could lead to numerous new ignitions on the dry landscape.

Smoke from fires continues to be a challenge both for healthy living and operations as visibility decreases. At this time, most of the smoke is affecting a sliver of western Alaska and much of the central and northeastern Interior. This pattern is likely to continue today.

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, with highest values in the northeast Interior. FFMCs are holding relatively steady in the Mat-Su and on the Kenai Peninsula. Many areas are at or near Extreme values. 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.

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 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.

The fires north of Lake Iliamna continue to be the most active 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.

BUIs are increasing 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

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

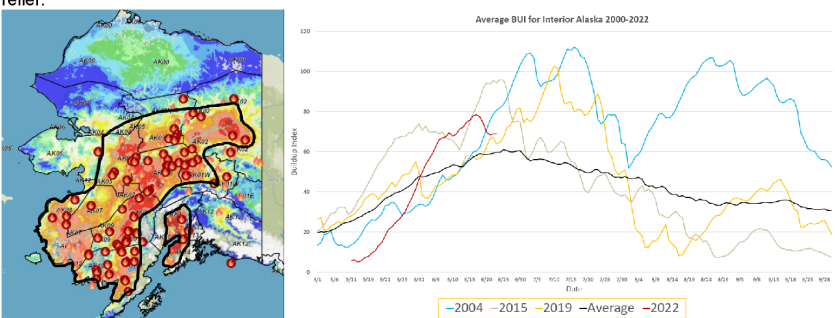
**An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued Yesterday**

**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.

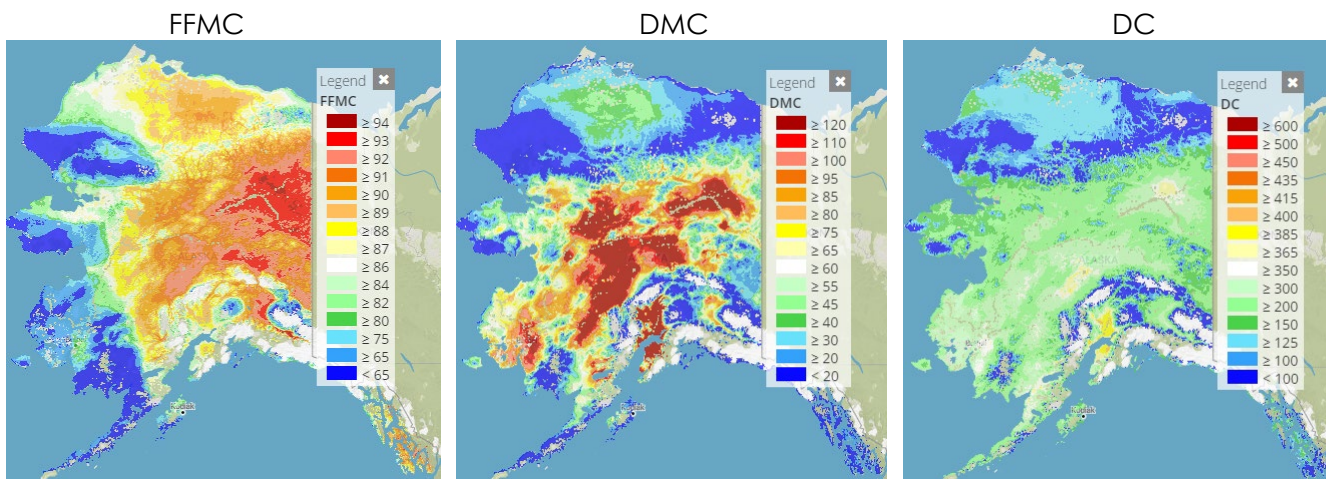
**Mitigation Measures:**

- 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

**Prioritized Incident Details**

1. Initial Attack
2. Clear #346 (FAS) IMT2 Lawson – Anderson subdivision and Kobe Ag subdivision were placed under “Go” evacuation order. Fire is spotting and torching in dense black spruce areas.
3. Lime Complex (SWS) IMT2 Sanford (fires 189, 190, 197, 205, 206,207, 239, 244, 245, 247, 273) – Fire Bosses used all day to protect values along Mulchatna River.
4. Bean Complex (TAD) IMT2 Lefevre (fires 314/315, 312, 310, 343, 366) Fires 327, 348, and 351 no longer part of complex – limited visibility on multiple fires within Complex. Personnel actively preparing cabins and structures.
5. Minto Lakes (FAS) IMT3 Delgado # 349 – The fire is growing. IMT3 took over operations and began preparing local community for potential threat to residences if fire activity remains at critical levels.
6. Sunset (TAD) #369 – No new movement to north and west sides, held one mile from river. Most active edge is on the southern end with backing fire behavior.
7. Fish #319 (TAD) IMT3 GB – 95% contained
8. East fork (GAD) ICT3 Stark/Dudley (T) #160 – Suppression repair operations underway.  
 \*Fish and East Fork swapped places in the priority order

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

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

