



Coffee Brief

Date: June 28, 2022

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	4
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 3 fires for 1 acre</p>

There are currently 15 staffed fires. Yesterday's large fire growth was 21,369 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		AK
Type 2	2	AK
Type 2IA	5	AK
Module	2	AK
Type 1	15	L-48
Type 2	9	L-48
Type 2IA		L-48
Module	1	L-48
Total Crews	34	

AVIATION:

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 30
~ 86 SMJ's committed

CREWS:

Crews arrived in Anchorage yesterday:

1. Baker River IHC
2. Central OR 302
3. WIF Middle Fork T2IA
4. OR MAF – BMRD #1 T2IA

Jet #5 arriving 6/29 in Fairbanks

Crew Movement

- Midnight Sun IHC assigned to Bean Complex
- Zigzag IHC mobilizing to Minto Lakes today
- Rogue River IHC flew back from East Fork and should be available this morning
- Vale IHC off 320 and will refurb at AFS today
- North Stars to mobilize to Delta Area Preposition this morning

MISCELLANEOUS:

Healy Lake #386 Expecting containment today

Allen #348 Plan to demobilize today

East Fork #160 Ongoing demobilization

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

Weather Summary

Strong high pressure over Canada will continue to bring hot and dry weather to the central and eastern Interior and Copper River Basin with temperatures into the 80s and RHs into the low to mid 20s. Temperatures around South Central and inland Southwest will be increasing and back into the 80s by Wednesday.

The exception to the hot and dry weather will be along the west coast, where a trough from the Bering Sea will bring some clouds and moisture. Lesser amounts of rain are expected to get very far inland, so long-term effects on fires are unlikely. This trough will continue through northern Alaska today, bringing a slight moderation of temperatures (about 5 degrees of cooling) for the Interior this afternoon. This mini-relieve is short-lived and by Wednesday, 80s will be back once again.

Thunderstorm activity is expected to increase in the east and south.

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. By the weekend, a low in the Bering Sea will again attempt to push moisture into the West Coast, and strong southerly winds will be likely across the western third of Alaska.

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. There is the chance for smoke to move into South Central today, though the worst conditions will remain north of the Alaska Range.

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 Fairbanks area. FFMCs are 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.

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 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.

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

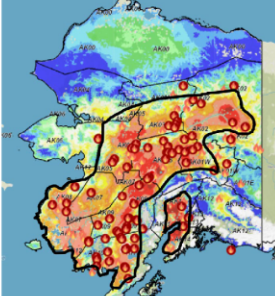
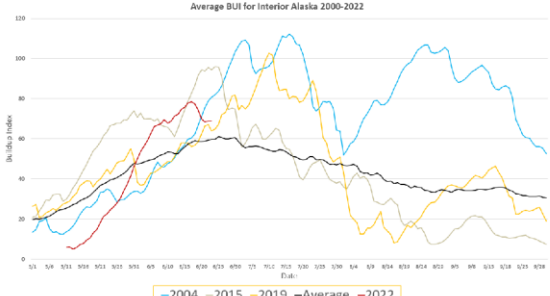
An Updated Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued Yesterday

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.

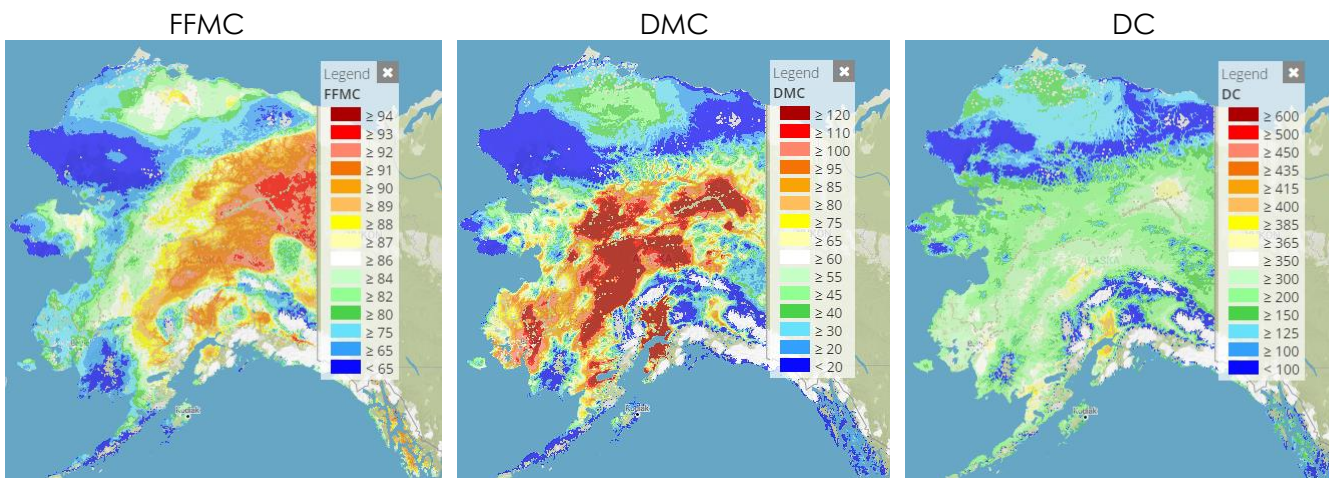
Mitigation Measures:

- 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, 206, 206,207, 239, 244, 245, 247, 273)
4. Bean Complex (TAD) IMT2 Lefevre (fires 348, 351, 311, 315, 312, 310, 327)
5. Minto Lakes (FAS) IMT3 Delgado # 349 - 8300 fires actively burning, structures threatened, point protection ongoing
6. Sunset (TAD) #369 structures threatened, point protection ongoing
7. East fork (GAD) ICT3 Stark/Dudley (T) #150 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.

