



## Coffee Brief

**Date: June 30, 2022**

### Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	5
National	2

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 10 fires for 80 acres</p>
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There are currently 19 staffed fires. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~122,969 acres.

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report

### Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
T3 Airtanker (Multi-Engine)	4
T3 Airtanker (Single Engine)	8
Fixed Wing, Air Tactical	8
Fixed Wing, Cargo	5
Fixed Wing, Lead plane	2
Fixed Wing, Passenger	9
Fixed Wing, Smokejumper	1
Helicopter, Type 2 Restricted	
Helicopter, Type 2 Standard	14
Helicopter, Type 3 Standard	8
Airtanker, Type 1 or 2	1

\*As identified in IROC

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type 1	13
Type 2	6
Type 2IA	12
Type 1 Module	5
Type 2 Module	2
<b>Total Crews</b>	<b>38</b>

Teams Committed within Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	1
IMT2	6
IMT3	5
<b>Total IMTs</b>	<b>12</b>

### AVIATION:

### SMOKEJUMPERS:

Anticipated smokejumpers available: 18  
~ 111 SMJ's committed

### CREWS:

Jet #5		
FBK	Chief Mtn IHC	349 - Minto Lakes
FBK	Lewis & Clark IHC	349 - Minto Lakes
FBK	Eastern MT	346 - Clear
FBK	Dillon Interagency #1	898 - Bean Complex

### OVERHEAD/TEAMS:

AK - T2 - Green Team - assuming command of the Lime Complex today, outgoing Black IMT will travel on Friday 7/1

GB - T3 - ID 1 - initially ordered by Snohomish will end up being reassigned to the new and improved Dalton Hwy Complex.

### MISCELLANEOUS:

No planned incident demobilizations at this time – all staffed fires actively working to meet objectives

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

### Weather Summary

High pressure is building back in over Alaska and will be stronger today. This means 80 degree temperatures will be back in force, and even 70s are expected in coastal areas of the west. The term "Baked Alaska" will apply to most of the state.

Storms will move a little farther north today. Friday becomes a big day for ignition concerns as a lot of lightning is expected across the parched Interior. Friday's storms are likely to be mostly dry and will be the main driver in new ignitions. A Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning is likely to come out for Friday's lightning in the Interior.

Another low in the Bering Sea is attempting to push moisture into the Southwest and West Coast starting today. Though some rain will make it into coastal areas of Southwest, it's unlikely that much moisture will get far enough inland to impact fires. The low will also bring strong southerly winds across the Southwest and West Coast. With the hot and dry weather ahead of the rain, a Red Flag Warning has been issued for the western Alaska Range and eastern part of the Middle Kuskokwim Valley for today and into Friday night for Hot-Dry-Windy conditions. Depending on this system, the winds over the state may cause Chinook winds through the western Alaska Range on Friday or Saturday, which could impact more large fires. Eastern Alaska and the northern Interior will remain hot and mostly dry, with scattered thunderstorms.

Smoke from fires continues to be a challenge both for healthy living and operations as visibility decreases. Visibility has improved around much of the Interior, though the southern Interior still harbors a lot of smoke. The worst conditions will remain north and west 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 highest across the eastern Interior and Copper River. 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. There will be continued large fire growth in areas with good ventilation. Increased smoke production may limit fire spread.

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 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.

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**

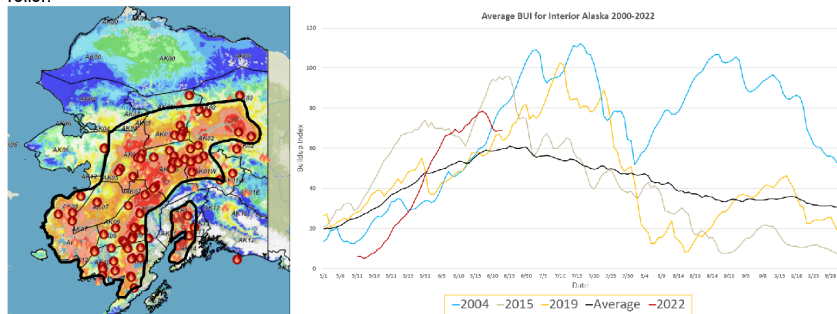
## Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory Interior, Southwest, and South-Central Alaska

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.

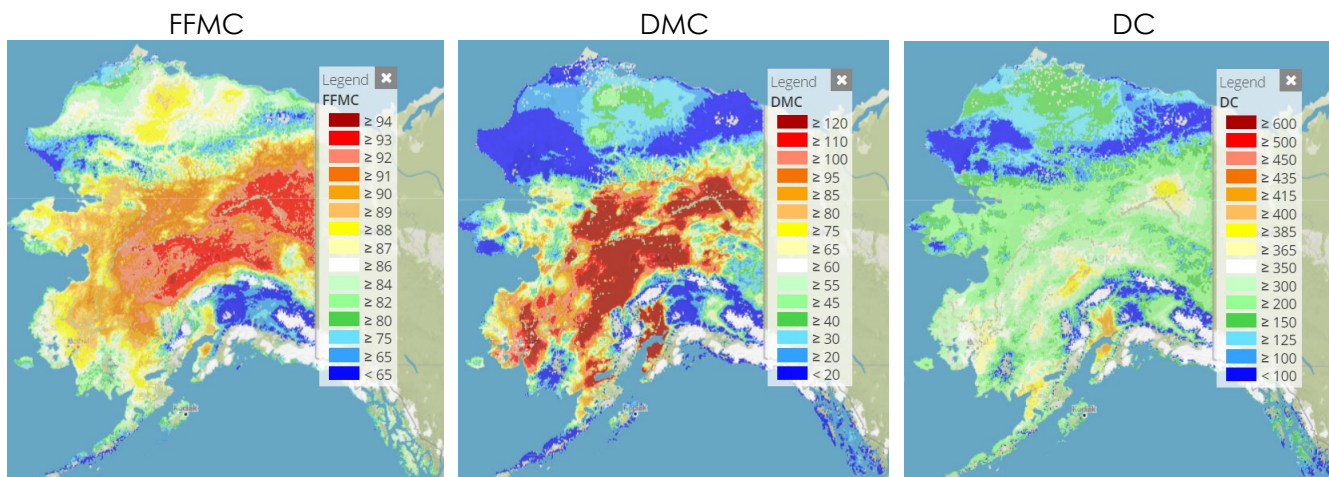
**Mitigation Measures:**

- 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

**Prioritized Incident Details**

1. Initial Attack
2. Clear #346 (FAS) IMT2 Lawson
3. Minto Lakes #349
4. Lime Complex (SWS) IMT2 Sanford (fires 189, 190, 197, 205, 206, 207, 216, 239, 242, 245, 247, 273)
5. Bean Complex (TAD) IMT2 Lefevre (fires 310, 312, 315, 327, 343, 366)
6. Poorman Complex (GAD) (fires 352, 369, 335)
7. Snohomish (TAD) (fires 185, 225)

Source: AMAC Incident Prioritization List, ICS-209s

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

