



Coffee Brief

Date: August 9, 2023

Preparedness Levels & Alaska Fire Activity

Alaska	3
National	3

<p>Light Initial Attack Activity</p> <p>New Fires and Acres: 2 fires for .2 acres</p>

There are currently 17 staffed fires with 884 personnel. Yesterday's large fire growth was ~9,560 acres

Sources: National and AICC Situation Report, AICC Aircraft Logs

Resources

Aviation within Alaska	Total
Air Tactical	1
ASM	1
BirdDog	4
Lats	5
FireBosses	4
Scoopers	2
SMKJ	3
Utility AC	4
Helicopter, Type 1	2
Helicopter, Type 2	9
Helicopter, Type 3	5
Total Aircraft	40

Crews Committed within Alaska	
Type2IA	1
Type 1	3
Type 2	21
Type 1 Module	
Type 2 Module	1
Suppression Module	6
Total Crews	32

Incident Mangement Teams in Alaska	
CIMT	
IMT 1	
IMT 2	2
IMT 3	1
Total IMTs	3

AVIATION

- **#296(FAS):** AA-7MZ flew AA and ordered closest forces which were S261/262
- **#191(FAS):** Launched B-6 and FB 216/218 from FYU. B-6 returned reporting poor visibility and the FB's cancelled, returned to FYU
- **5AK** is back in service

AIRSPACE/TFRs

- **#201/290(FAS):** 3/0384
- **#257(FAS):** 3/5014
- **#296(FAS):** 3/0799

SMOKEJUMPERS

Anticipated smokejumpers available: ~16
SMKJ's committed: 38

- 2 of 10 SMKJ booster orders filled

Smokejumper Demobilizations

Yesterday:

- **#221(MID):** 8
- **#201(FAS):** 4
- **#290(FAS):** 8

Planned for today:

CREWS

- 16 pending crew requests

NICC JET MOVEMENT

Jet #1

- Crews at Incident, waiting on Union IHC extension approval

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob	Extension Approved
Union IHC	201 - McCoy Creek	C-1	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20	waiting on
Lassen IHC	257 - Teklanika	C-2	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20	Yes
Shasta IHC	257 - Teklanika	C-3	At Incident	7/30	21	8/20	Yes

* TBD per extension process

Jet #2

- Crews at Incident

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob	*Length	*Demob
WY East Wildlands T2C258	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-6	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
Franco Reforestation T2C052	257 - Anderson	C-7	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
N. Pacifico Reforestation T2C521	201 - McCoy	C-8	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
North Pacific T2C157	191 - Pogo Mine Rd	C-9	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27
Willamette Val Reforestation T2C567	261 - Sand Lake	C-10	At Incident	8/6	21	8/27

* TBD per extension process

Jet #3

- Arrived yesterday 8/8, Crews at Incident

Crew	Incident	C #	Status	Mob
CRW2 - T2C247 West Coast Reforestation	201 - McCoy Creek	C-10	At Incident	8/8
CRW2 - T2C062 Franco Reforestation	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-9	At Incident	8/9
CRW2 - T2C063 Franco Reforestation	257 - Teklanika	C-15	At Incident	8/10
CRW2 - T2C064 Franco Reforestation	299 - Mount Hayes	C-1	At Incident	8/11
CRW2 - T2C248 West Coast Reforestation	296 - Lost Horse Creek	C-7	At Incident	8/12

OVERHEAD/TEAMS

- 82 pending overhead requests

TEAM	INCIDENT	O#	IC	Status	Current Location	Mob	Duration	LWD	Extension
IMT2 GB Team 3	Teklanika River	O-1	Brett Waters	At Incident	Anderson, AK	7/31	21	8/20	Yes
IMT2 AK Green	Lost Horse Creek	O-2	Peter Butteri	At Incident	Fairbanks, AK	8/4	14	8/18	Strategy meeting 8/11
IMT3 - Local ad hoc AK	Pogo Mine Road/ Mt Hayes		Casey Boesflug	Reserved		8/9			

Source: IROC Reports, [National Smokejumper Status Report](#), AK Incident Aircraft Tracking Spreadsheet & AICC Documentation, 2023 IMT Tracking Report

Weather Summary

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 220 AND 222...

...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONE 221...

The fire weather scenario currently in place over Alaska is problematic for Initial Attack, much less so for the behavior of existing fires. A significant outbreak of lightning yesterday has the potential to start new fires in the northeastern Interior where deeper fuels are dry enough to receive lightning and spark wildfires. Happily, the atmosphere is comparatively moist, and the thunderstorms will generally drop wetting rains. A similar pattern is possible on today.

There has been a significant change in the weather since the weekend, as temperatures have come down somewhat, winds have come down substantially, and humidity has risen. For the remainder of the week there appears to be no mechanism to revive the hot, dry, and windy conditions of last weekend. Broadly speaking, the southern half of Alaska will be cloudy with periods of rain and an absence of thunderstorms. The northern Interior is the area of concern where temperatures will remain slightly above normal and thunderstorms will develop each afternoon and evening...this weather regime also extends into the Brooks Range and the inland portions of the North Slope.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

Fuels/Fire Potential

Fine fuels have become substantially less burnable over much of Alaska due to wetting showers and thunderstorms. Some locations have escaped these rains, but the general trend is certainly moving toward less burnable surface fuels. The exception is the northeastern Interior, eastern Brooks Range, and the eastern half of the inland North Slope.

Deeper fuels are moderating slowly as well, but these fuels are still dry enough to support wildfire behavior in portions of the eastern Interior and the Copper River Basin. The driest deeper fuels in the state are on the Yukon Flats, with fuels in a triangle between Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Tanana being somewhat dry as well.

Source: Alaska 7-Day Outlook

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

A Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory was Issued 8/04/23

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

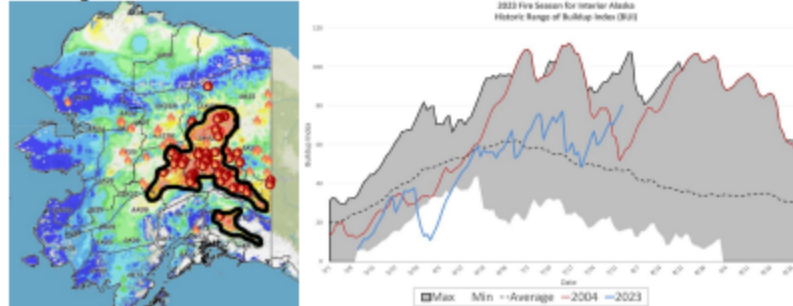
Central Interior, Eastern Interior and Copper River Basin

Valid: August 4 – August 18, 2023

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 typically occurs from mid-June to mid-July when long days and rapid drying can produce elevated BUIs. The delayed onset of season-ending rains has resulted in BUI far above average for this time of year. There are already numerous fires near core population areas. New starts continue to be discovered in these areas and are resistant to containment.

Difference from normal conditions: The attached graph shows the current 2023 BUI trend for the Interior of Alaska compared to other busy fire seasons. This fire season started below average, but July was abnormally dry and the last week of July saw high temperatures with numerous lightning ignitions. While most seasons have seen wetting rains by this time, BUI remains elevated with no significant precipitation expected for this area in the forecast period. 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, may exhibit rates of spread more than one mile per hour, spot prolifically up to ¼ mile or more, and exhibit intense crown fire behavior.
- Temperatures above 80 degrees and RH at or below 30% are important thresholds for rapid spread and crown fire behavior. Strong winds are not required for large fire growth in these conditions but forecast for the area includes sustained strong winds.
- Long-term drying has stressed green fuels may allow spread into riparian areas and less flammable hardwood forests. With continued drying, these fuel types may no longer be barriers to fire spread.

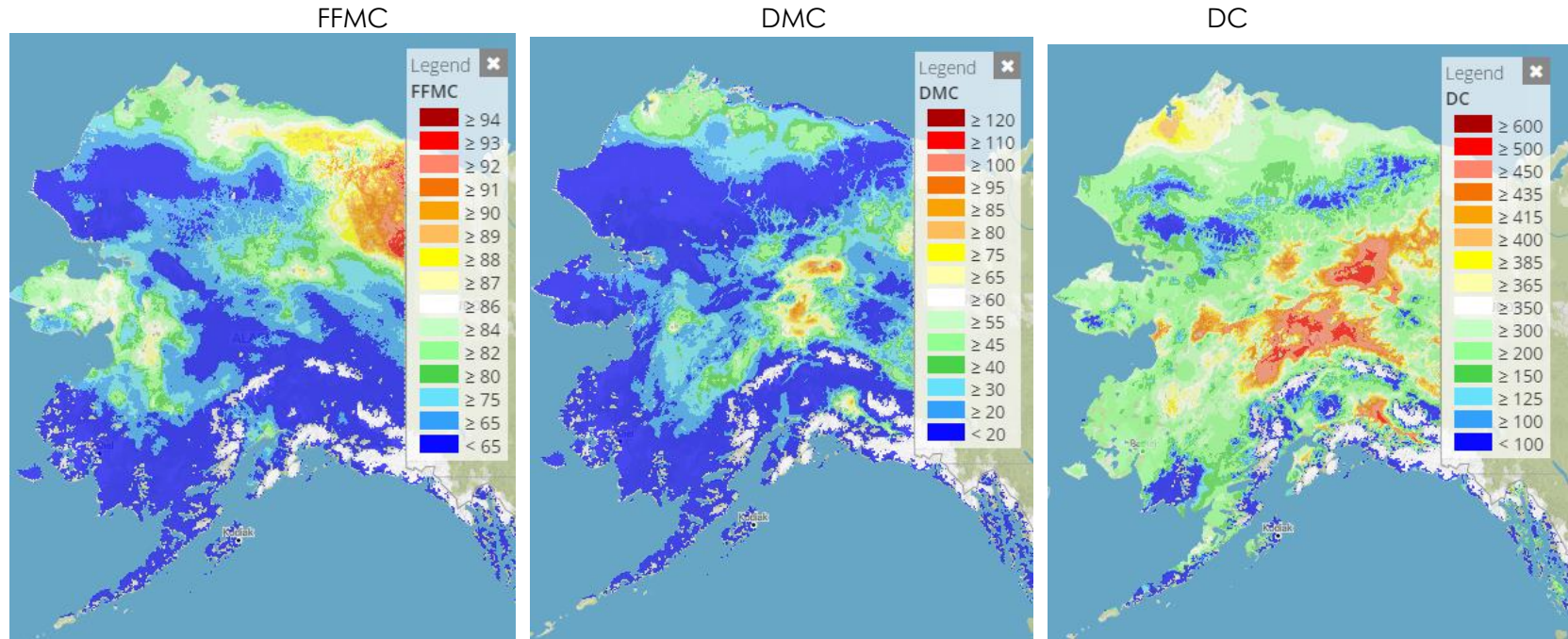
Mitigation Measures:

- 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: Central and Eastern Interior to include the Yukon Flats, Tanana Valley and Copper River Basin.

Issued By: Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services

Click on the following images for direct links to the maps.



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.

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.

