





KENAI - KODIAK AREA
2015
ORIENTATION
GUIDE



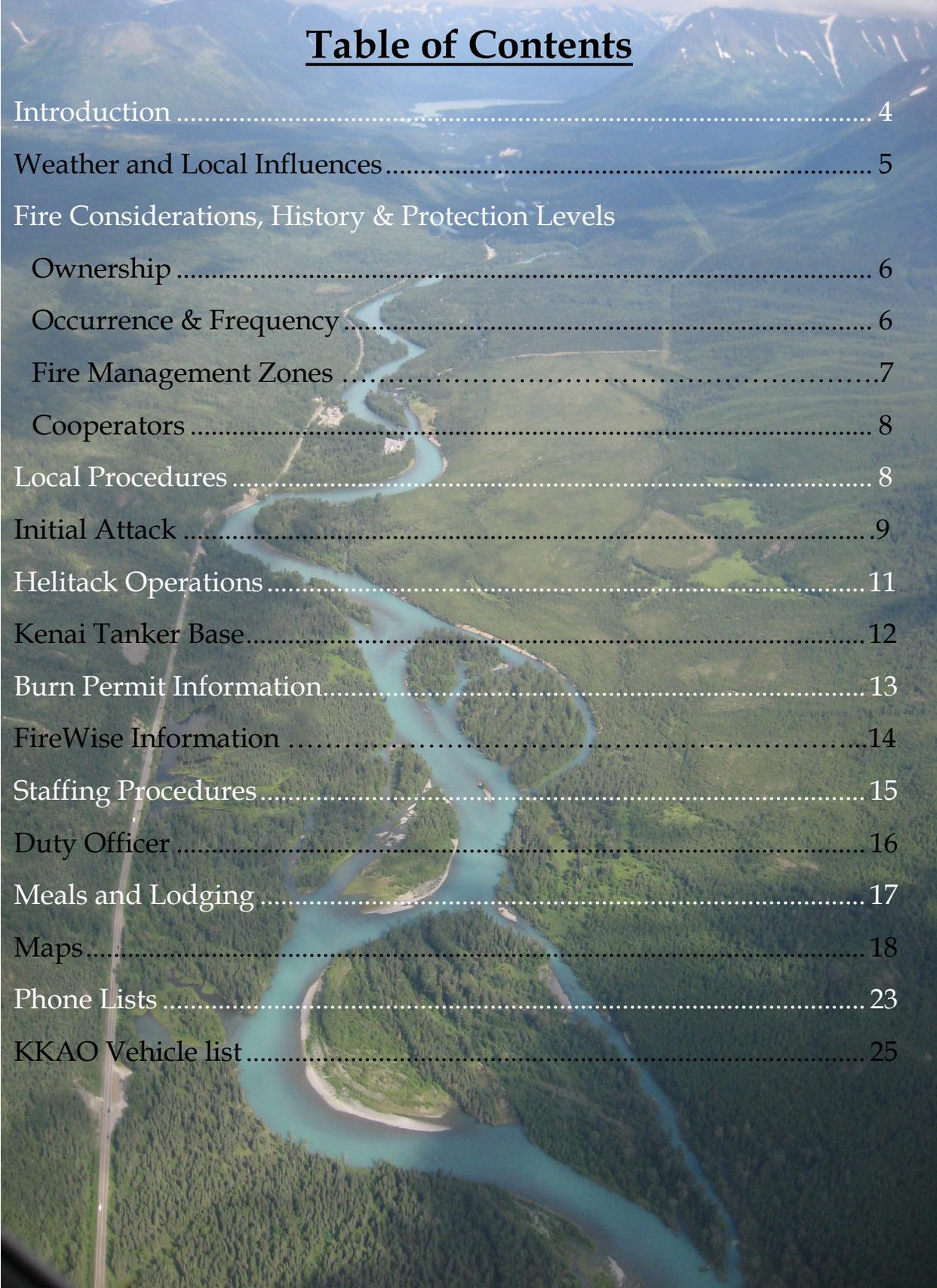


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WELCOME

The Kenai-Kodiak Area Office (KKAO) and Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center (KIDC) are located one and one half miles east of the “Y” in Soldotna at Mile 92.5 Sterling Highway. KKAO serves the western and southern portions of the Kenai Peninsula, as well as Kodiak and its surrounding islands to the southwest.

The Kenai Peninsula has diverse topography from flat to rolling to mountainous terrain. The Peninsula is bordered by the glaciated Kenai Mountains to the east and Cook Inlet on the west, north, and south. Kodiak and its adjoining islands are mostly mountainous, rugged country.

The Peninsula is a renowned sport fishing and recreational area, creating a large influx of summer tourists. Wildland/urban interface incidents are common in this area. A total of 2.4 million acres are in either Critical or Full protection categories, thus emphasizing the relatively high economic value of the Kenai Peninsula area. Existing fuel types of beetle kill, snags, grass, and slash, make fire fighting challenging, and can cause extreme fire behavior situations. Most of these Full or Critical areas are a shared mutual response with local fire departments.

In addition to the wildfire suppression responsibilities in its jurisdiction, the State manages a burn permit program in much of the Area. This program is administered by the prevention staff and is a free service that benefits landowners and Forestry alike. The burn permit program helps reduce the amount of false alarm calls and hazardous burning situations throughout the Area. **Burn permits are required from April 1st to August 31st by State Statute.**

The Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center (KIDC) is now in its seventh year and all fire and resource dispatching for the USFWS Kenai and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuges and the Kenai- Kodiak Area State Forestry are handled from this center.

WEATHER AND LOCAL INFLUENCES

Weather on the Peninsula ranges from a coastal maritime influence around Homer and Cook Inlet to a hotter, drier inland influence centered around the Sterling area.

Kodiak and the other islands have a predominant coastal maritime influence and generally receive enough rainfall in the summer to keep fire danger at a minimum. The greatest fire danger in Kodiak occurs in March and April, before green-up, due to the abundance of dead grass at the lower elevations.

Fire activity on the southern half of the Kenai Peninsula in early spring is due to the drying of grass and an abundance of dead and down beetle killed spruce. The prevalent Blue-joint Grass (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*), can create fire hazard even before the snow is completely melted.



Critical Sites: There are numerous critical sites throughout the Kenai-Kodiak area. These include residential and recreational homes, historic cabins, archeological, cultural and industrial sites.

FIRE HISTORY AND PROTECTION LEVELS

Ownership: The majority of lands on the Peninsula are owned/managed by : U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The remaining lands are under State, native corporation, borough and private ownership.

Protection Levels in the Kenai-Kodiak Area: (see map on pg 7)

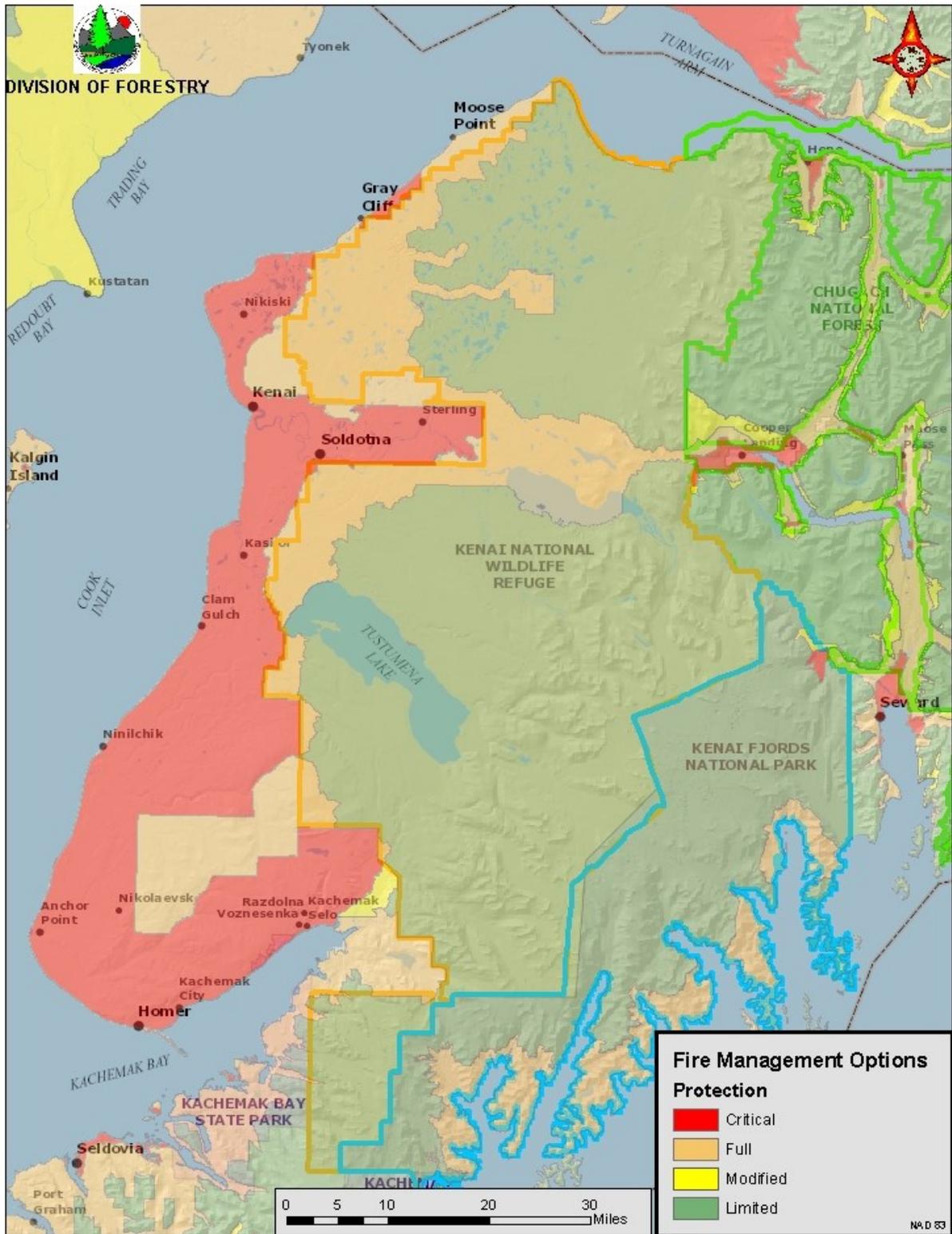
Critical (red)	0.7 MM Acres
Full (tan)	1.7 MM Acres
Modified (yellow)	1.2 MM Acres
Limited (green)	3.6 MM Acres
TOTAL	7.2 MM Acres

Occurrence and Frequency: The Area has had an average of 51 fires per year based on the period of fifteen years. The years 1992, 1993, 1996, and 2014 each had over 100 fires. The highest acreage year was 2014 with 196,641.8 acres burned (196,610 acres at the Funny River Fire). Other high years were 2007 with 58,549 acres (56,254 acres at the Caribou Hills Fire), 2005, with 41,846 acres burned (25,180 acres at the Fox Creek Fire, 10,131 acres at the King County Creek Fire, 5,400 acres at the Tracy Avenue Fire), 1996 with 28,217 acres burned, and 2009 with 14,370 acres burned.

Escaped controlled burns are the leading cause of wildfires on the Kenai, usually due to the lack of an adequate mineral soil firebreak around the pile or area. Campfires are the second leading cause of wildland fires and are common due to the Area's high recreational use. Campfires become a wildfire risk when built in peat or duff areas. Even with application of water, these fires are difficult to completely extinguish.



Kenai Peninsula Fire Management Zones



Local Procedures: Fire season in the Kenai-Kodiak Area usually begins in late March to mid-April. From late March to the end of May, the entire Area has the potential for fast moving grass fires. In early June, green-up is usually complete, and the problem fuel type becomes black spruce and



stands of beetle kill spruce. The month of June is usually the hottest and driest of the summer. May and June are historically the busiest two months of the season for the Kenai-Kodiak Area. Although lower, fire danger is still present through August and September due to escaped/abandoned campfires

during the hunting season.

Cooperators: State Forestry cooperates with several federal agencies on the Peninsula. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and State Forestry will respond with closest resources in the area for initial attack of fires. Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center will assist the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and the Kenai-Kodiak Area on wildland fires within each agency's jurisdiction. The Kenai-Kodiak Area has entered into cooperative agreements with 14 fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island.



INITIAL ATTACK

KKAO has fire operations personnel and equipment at 2 locations on the Kenai Peninsula. The Soldotna facility is the headquarters station and routinely staffs 2 type 6 engines and a medium helicopter. When weather indices and fire danger dictate, Soldotna's engine and helitack manpower are increased with a combination of detailers and EFF. An additional type 6 engine is available for staffing and a short hand crew (squad) of EFF can also be hired when needed.

The Homer office routinely staffs 2 type 6 engines. As indices rise, manpower is increased utilizing a combination of detailers and EFF. A third engine, helicopter and dozers can be prepositioned in Homer if indices warrant.

Engine and helitack assignments are made by the Suppression Foreman on a daily basis. Normal workdays for operations staff are from 10:00 to 18:00, with a half-hour lunch break. Weekend staffing is dictated by the weather indices. Operations staff have a daily schedule as follows:

10:00-12:00 Engine Checks, PT, Operations Briefing

12:00-18:00 Patrols, Training or project work

Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center will be staffed 7 days a week 8:00 to 18:00 through the fire season. KIDC hours will also be extended to cover high fire staffing and flight following as needed.



The Kenai-Kodiak Area enjoys a close working relation with its many Peninsula Fire Department cooperators, and the majority of our IA fires are in the Wildland Urban Interface. Under the new Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan for 2010 we will be responding with the closest available forces which include DOF, USFS, USFWS and Cooperators' resources.

Most of our fires require progressive hoselays, and there is often a structure protection component. Bucket operations and aerial observation are typical resources provided by KKAO helitak and fixed wing support from Palmer. The fuels on the Peninsula vary from Blue-joint Grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) to beetle kill spruce. This mix of fuel types along with the urban interface component has the Kenai Peninsula emerging as one of the more challenging areas for wildland fire suppression.

KKAO technicians provide manpower for ongoing prevention and firewise programs and training for cooperators. The operations staff is a progressive team with a can do attitude. KKAO also has the additional support of the neighboring agencies' equipment and fire staff.



SAFETY FIRST:

Extensive beetle-killed trees and grass present a safety concern for fast moving fires and limited mobility with jack-strawed dead and down trees. The dead spruce presents a high risk from falling snags. **Know your escape routes and safety zones.**

HELITACK OPERATIONS: The Area's helicopter has pre-programmed channels. When obtaining another helicopter to work in this Area, reprogramming of the VHF radio may be necessary. Complete frequency charts are available in dispatch.

ALMR KKS or DOF Sterling A	TX: 159.2700 RX: 151.2650
	PL: 141.3 N
State Forestry Air to Ground	132.45
AFS, DOF Air-to-Air	128.45
Emergency (ELT) Transmitter	121.50
Air Guard	168.6250



FUEL: In Soldotna there is a 2000 gallon Jet A tank at the Forestry helibase. Fuel is usually available commercially at the following locations, but dispatch should call ahead to confirm:

Homer: Maritime Helicopters (235-7771), Pathfinder's Aviation (226-2800)

Seward: Seward Air (Denny Hamilton, 491-1357)

Kodiak: Maritime Helicopters (486-4400), Andrew Airways (487-2566)

Kenai Airport: Crowley Petroleum Services (283-4542)

KENAI TANKER BASE

The Kenai Tanker Base is located on the northeast side of the Kenai Municipal Airport. Access to the Tanker Base is the gate past Kenai Airport Fire Dept. on Willow Street. There is a green trailer on the site that has flight hazard maps and local maps available. Keys for vehicles assigned to the site and a site information folder are located inside the building. Kenai FSS and the FAA tower are within walking distance to the site. 100 LL and jet fuel are available at Crowley Petroleum Services 283-4542. A 24 hr. credit card automated pump is also available at the Crowley Facility.

Contacts for Tanker Base

Regional Aviation Manager Dale Alter.....907-761-6229
Kenai Tanker Base.....907-283-3816
Kenai Tanker Base Fax..... 907-283-3916
KIDC Dispatch.....907-260-4232

RADIO FREQUENCIES

Dispatch Flight Follow	132.45 VHF-AM
Air to Air	128.45 VHF-AM
Kenai Tower	121.30 VHF-AM
Kenai FSS	122.65 VHF-AM
National Air Tanker	123.975 AM



BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are required from April 1 to August 31 for all open burning, except for cooking, warming, or signaling fires, and burning in an approved burn barrel. Alaska DEC requires that a permit be obtained for burning any substance causing black smoke, toxic gases, or odors which affect nearby persons, as well as land clearing over 40 acres.

Small-pile (Class A) permits may be obtained using the website:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>. Permits are free of charge. For large burning operations or within the listed city limits, contact the following agencies:

Division of Forestry	262-4200, or 235-7734		
City of Kenai	283-7666	City of Seward,	224-3445
City of Homer	235-3155	Kodiak Island	www.kodiak.ak.us

Permits may be suspended during periods of high fire danger. Permittees will be notified of the closure when they call-in to check-in the permit. During a suspension, campfires and approved burn barrels are allowed. When fire danger is extreme, Forestry may prohibit the lighting of all fires by way of a burn ban issued by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

A Uniform Summons & Complaint will be issued if there is a violation of the Alaska Statutes: 41.15.050 to 41.15.150. The Complaint may be a written warning, but a prevention officer must be contacted if one of the following circumstances indicates a Citation to Court maybe necessary:

- 1) the person is a **previous offender** of a burning statute or regulation.
- 2) The fire has **escaped the landowner's property** to any degree and/or our office has spent or will spend 8 or more actual hours for the suppression and mop-up of the fire.
- 3) The **violation refuses to provide** the information necessary to complete a burn permit or refuses to correct a violation.
- 4) The violation involves **malicious or wanton setting** of fires - a felony, AS 41.15.150. The State will seek suppression cost recovery where conclusive evidence exists of a violation of the Alaska Statutes.

The Incident Commander should **protect the area of origin** and complete a preliminary investigation of cause if a Fire Investigator is not assigned.

The Division of Forestry is proud to participate in the **FireWise Alaska** program. FireWise Alaska is a multi-agency cooperative effort to promote fire safety in Alaska. Forestry employees will assist landowners with home-site visits for risk/hazard assessment and copies of the [FireWise Alaska](#) booklet are also available.

FireWise For All Seasons is an educational campaign for property owners that illustrates FireWise techniques that can be utilized year-round. The central themes are: **SPRING – Clean & Clear**; **SUMMER – Mow & Grow**; **FALL – Cut & Cover**; **WINTER – Light & Write** (to encourage participation in fire protection planning). We have brochures and educational materials for distribution promoting themes such as “Homes Won’t Burn If Homes Don’t Ignite” and “Keep Your Property Lean, Clean, and Green”.

FireWise Communities is a national program and a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire starts. Visit the [FireWise Communities](#) web site for more information.



STAFFING/EXTENDED STAFFING

Staffing is based on the Planning Level and usually decided by the local FMO's. Extended staffing beyond the normal work day will be decided daily during the fire season by the FMO or Duty officer by 16:00 each day. It is based on factors influenced by weather, fire indices, fire activity both locally and across the region.

Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Indices

Modified for Kenai Peninsula / Kodiak Island based on local fire history

	FFMC	DMC	DC	ISI	BUI	FWI
Low	0-80	< 20	< 150	0 - 2	< 26	0 - 3
Moderate	81-86	20-40	150 - 350	2 - 3	25-35	4-13
High	87-90	40-60	350 - 400	3-4	36-55	14-23
Very High	90+	60+	400 - 500	5- 10	56-80	24-28
Extreme	91 +	60 +	500 +	10+	81+	29 +

- FFMC** Fine Fuel Moisture Code
- DMC** Duff Moisture Code
- DC** Drought Code
- ISI** Initial Spread Index
- BUI** Build-Up Index
- FWI** Fire Weather Index

Staffing and Planning levels are calculated daily based on AICC Wx indices that are forecasted. Those numbers are posted in dispatch and the run cards are set up by the color codes above. The Staffing and Action Guide for the current year is the guide used.

DUTY OFFICER

FMO will be the primary duty officer (DO) and will handle DO responsibilities during normal office hours or whenever he is on duty.

The schedule for duty officer rotation is posted in the dispatch office and the front office. Dispatch will notify the Alaska State Trooper dispatch of any deviation from the schedule when it occurs. The DOF duty officer and the KIDC dispatcher on call are posted every evening on the TTY for the regional notification, and announced over the radio at close of business. If an incident occurs after hours, Trooper dispatch will contact the dispatcher on call who will then contact the appropriate Agency Duty Officer(s).

Duty Officers are:

Howard Kent, FMO	260-4220	394-2606
Bill Hutto, AFMO	260-4222	398-4726
Patrick Quiner, Ops	260-4270	252-8650

Kenia Interagency Dispatch Center Contacts:

Dispatcher on Call		398-2183
Dispatch Office		260-4232
Diane Campbell	260-4230	398-6892
Nan Voorhees	260-4233	398-2183
Kelsa Shilanski	260-4231	398-2183

Alaska State Trooper dispatch will be notified to contact the Dispatcher on call number first.



MEALS AND LODGING

Meals and lodging will be arranged with local vendors for out of area and subsisted personnel . **Per diem is authorized by the KKAO Area Forester and can be reimbursed to the employee through the Travel Authorization System.**

Meal coupons will be issued to personnel not on per diem. Individuals are issued meal coupons that **cannot** be transferred to another person. The coupons are valid for only the day and amount shown on the face and the employee **should not pay taxes nor receive any change.**

The state will not pay for alcoholic beverages, tips or non-food items. Any charges for these things and any charges in excess of the meal allowance must be paid for by the employee. If you are issued a coupon and you do not use it, please return it to logistics so it can be cancelled as soon as possible. The meal coupon allowances for 2015 are:

Breakfast	\$12.00
Lunch	\$16.00
Dinner	\$22.00

Please advise the Dispatch or Admin if you encounter any difficulties or substandard facilities/services from any of the vendors for meals or lodging.

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Forestry Meal Coupon

DO NOT GIVE CHANGE

\$12 \$16 \$22

KENAI

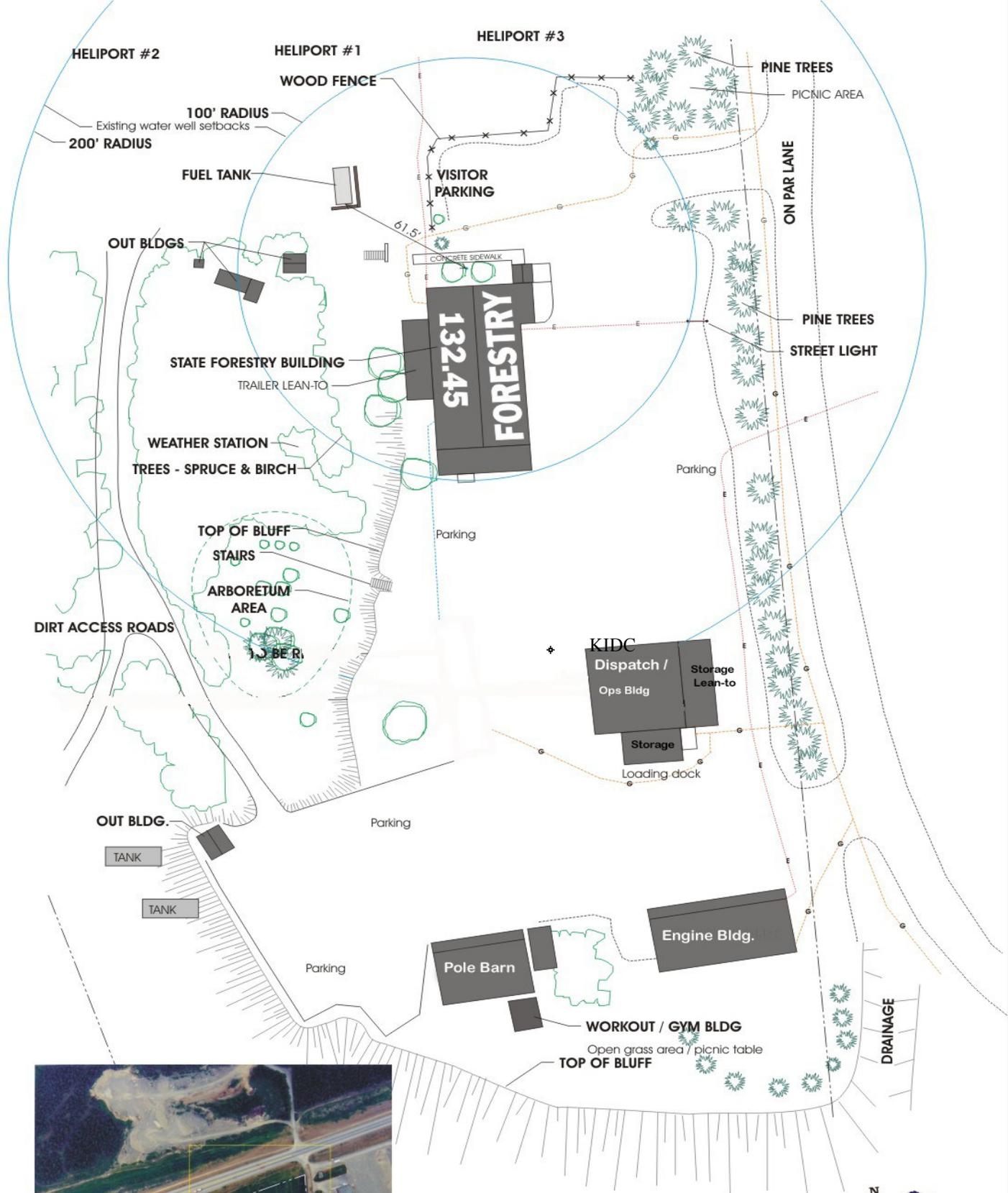
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(print) Valid Only in D...
User's Name: **SAMPLE**
Authorized Signature: _____ Fire #: _____



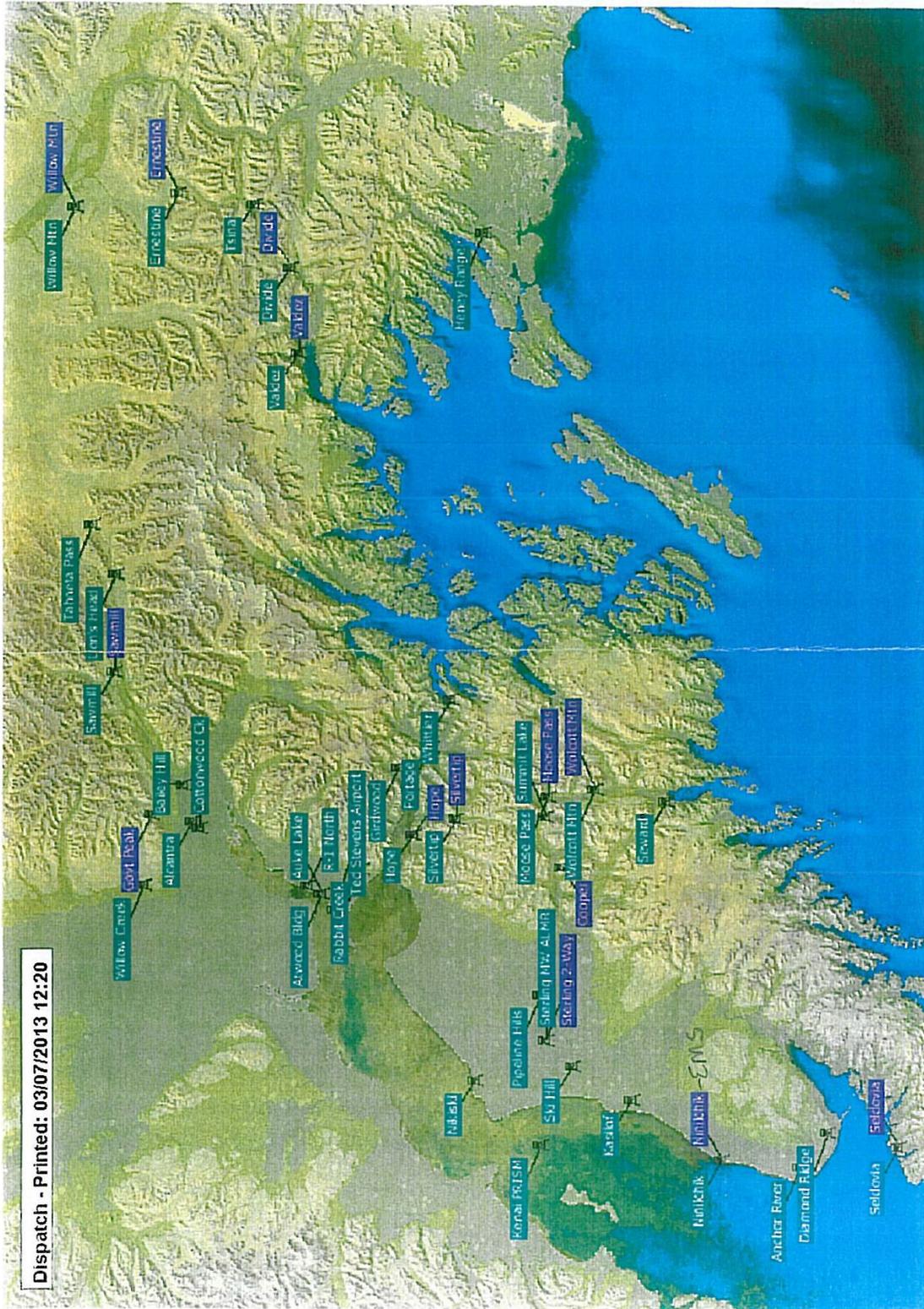
Division of Forestry

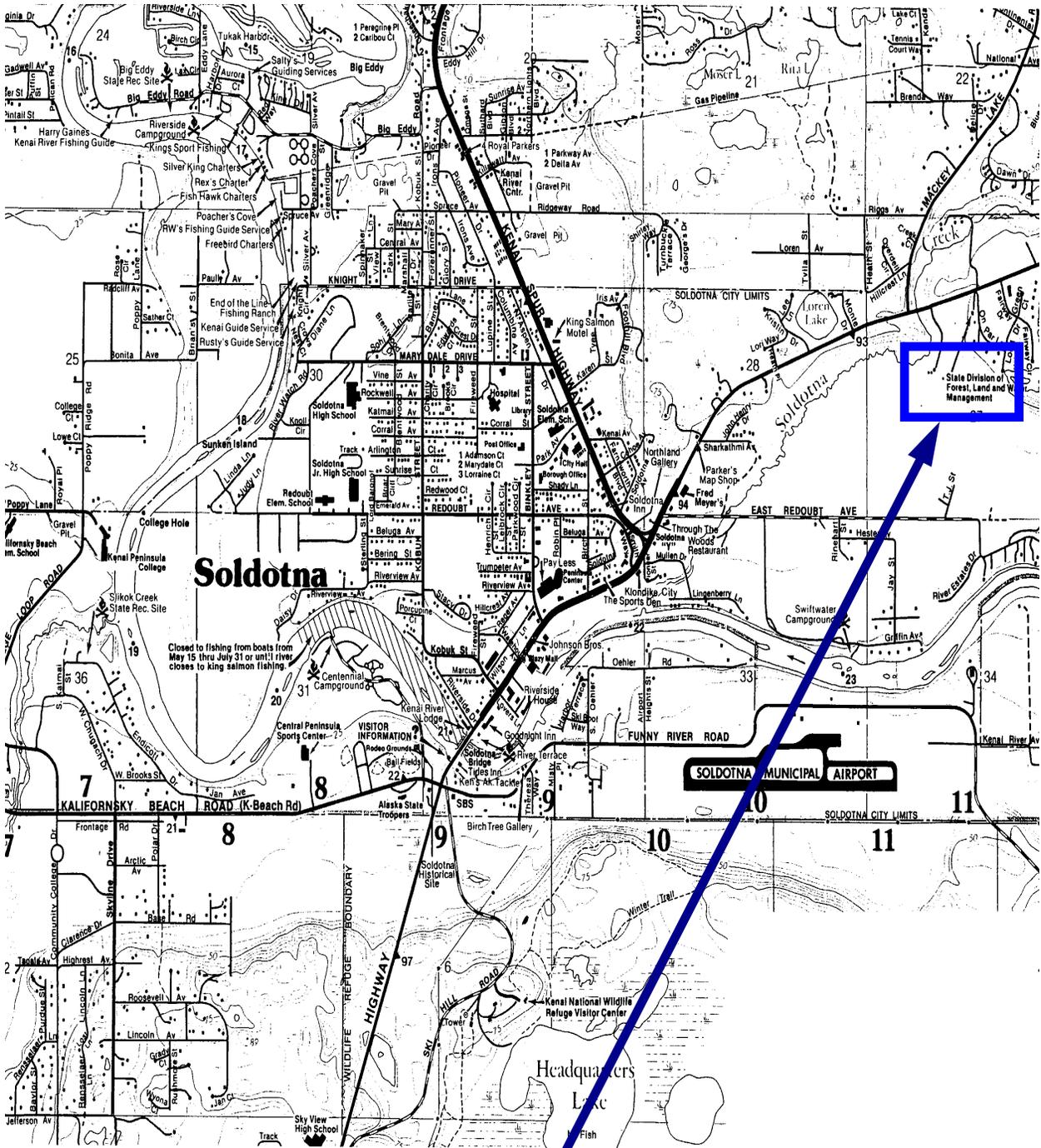
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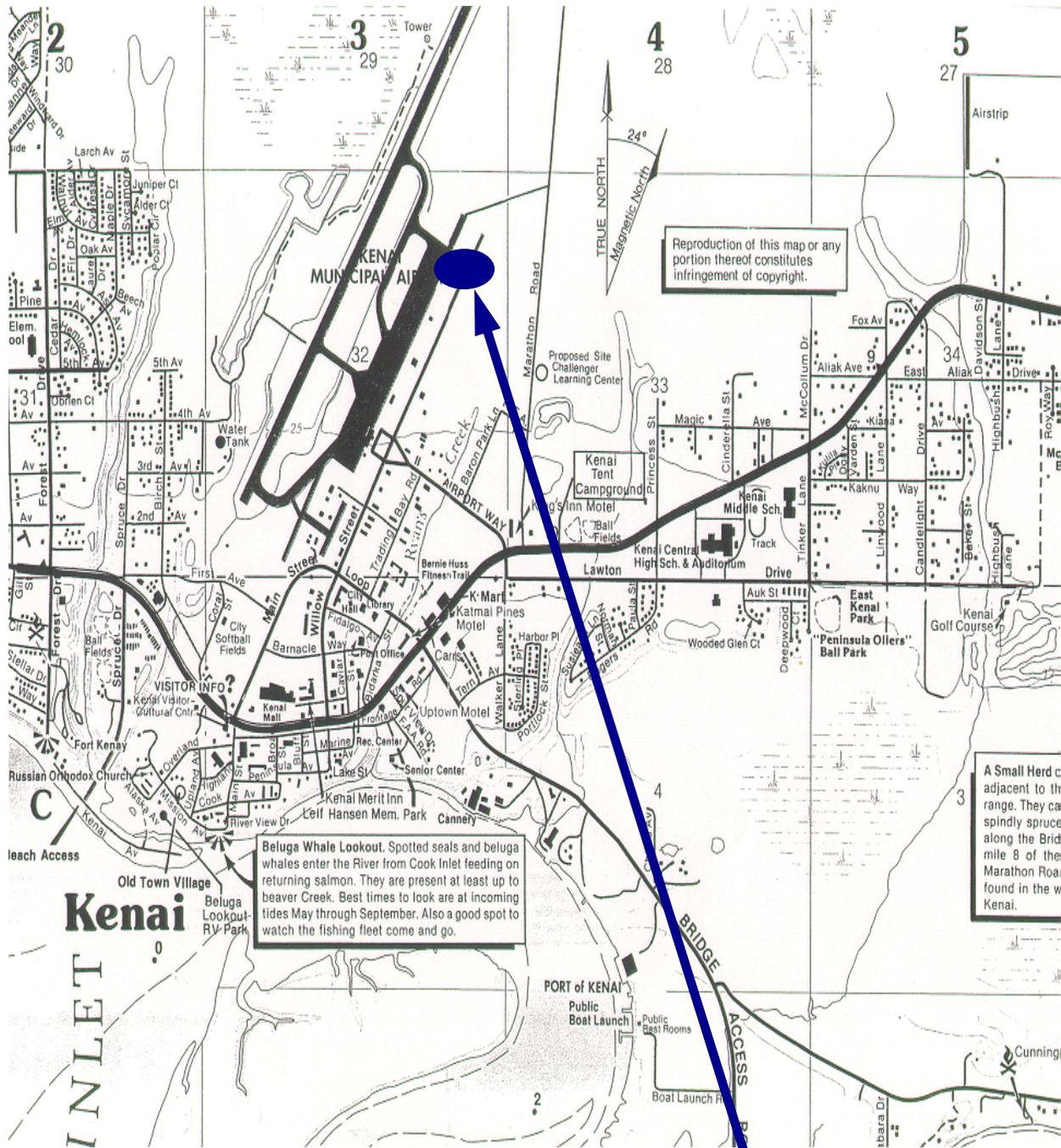
EXISTING CONDITIONS
ALASKA STATE FORESTRY
KENAI / KODIAK AREA OFFICE
 May 28, 2004 Drawn & Designed by: Bill Evans

ALMR Repeaters are in blue green, Conventional repeaters are in purple





State of Alaska – Division of Forestry
Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center
42499 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, AK 99669
Mile 92.5 Sterling Highway
907-260-4200/907-260-4232

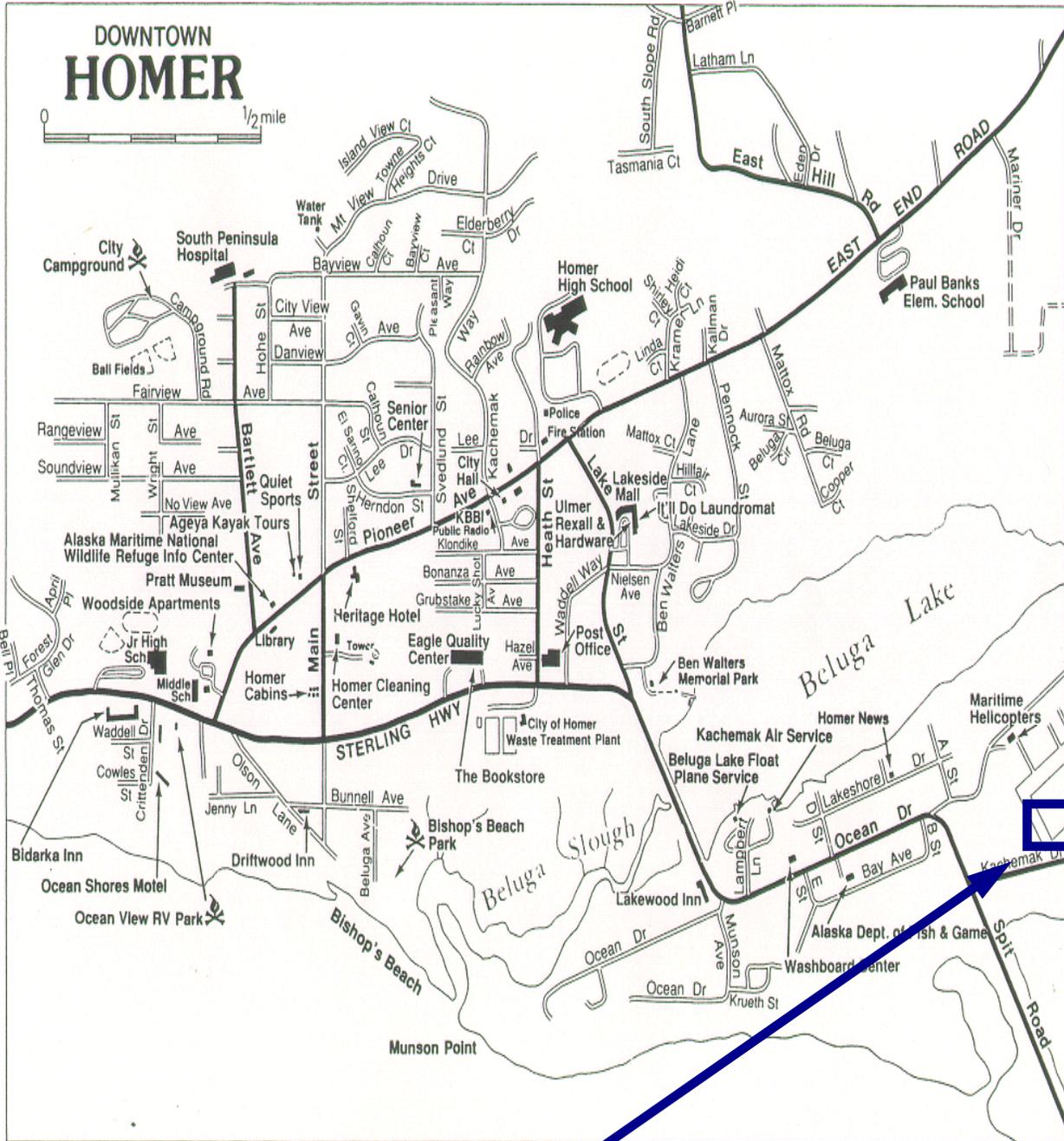


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Beluga Whale Lookout. Spotted seals and beluga whales enter the River from Cook Inlet feeding on returning salmon. They are present at least up to beaver Creek. Best times to look are at incoming tides May through September. Also a good spot to watch the fishing fleet come and go.

A Small Herd of reindeer adjacent to the range. They can be found along the Bridge Road 8 of the Marathon Road found in the w Kenai.

Kenai Tanker Base
Willow Street
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-3816



State of Alaska – Division of Forestry
 Homer Station
 2156 Kachemak Drive
 Homer, AK 99603
 907-235-7734

KKAO Contact Phone Numbers

Position/Title	Last Name	First Name	Office Phone #	Cell Phone #
Area Forester	Rinke	Hans	260-4200	398-4732
Area Fire Management Officer	Kent	Howard	260-4220	394-2606
Assistant Fire Management Officer	Hutto	Bill	260-4222	398-4726
Fire Prevention Officer	Govoni	Dan	260-4260	355-2328
Suppression Foreman	Quiner	Patrick	260-4270	252-8650
Lead Wildland Fire Dispatcher	Campbell	Diane	260-4230	398-6892
Admin Assistant	Gaiser	Mary	260-4203	398-3401
Engine Crew member (Soldotna)	Adamson	Nick	260-4273	775-815-0707
Engine Crew member (Soldotna)	Weber	Adam	260-4275	947-7990
Engine Foreman (Soldotna)	Hayes	Mike	260-4274	953-4020
Maintenance/Ground Support	Hippchen	Rusty	260-4240	398-2829
Engine Foreman (Homer)	James	Mattt	235-7734	399-7850
Engine Crewmember (Soldotna)	Linebarger	Mitch	260-4281	952-8627
Wildland Fire Dispatcher	Voorhees	Nan	260-4233	727-8184
Admin Clerk	Milette	Stephani	260-4202	748-1297
Engine Crewmember (Soldotna)	Morse	Colin	260-4280	394-8310
Engine Crewmember (Homer)	Parse	Nikos	235-7734	299-1303
Prevention Tech Asst.	TBD		260-4262	
Engine Crewmember (Soldotna)	Pierce	Kyle	260-4271	398-7199
Aviation and Training	Scales	Steve	260-4214	394-7433
Engine Crewmember (Homer)	Seaton	Aaron	235-7734	250-2040
Wildland Fire Dispatcher	Shilanski	Kelsa	260-4231	978-1015
Engine Foreman (Homer)	Short	Torrey	235-7734	299-7288
Engine Crewmember (Soldotna)	Kauffman	Trevor	260-4276	690-0882
Tanker Base Manager	Spady	Vince	283-3816	252-1587
Engine Foreman (Soldotna)	White	Dan	260-4272	398-5811
Resource Forester	Winters	John	260-4212	260-3922

KKAO Emergency Contact Numbers

Law Enforcement	Phone	Federal Cooperators	Phone
Homer (Police Dept)	235-3150	KLWC USFS	288-7732
Soldotna (Troopers)	262-4453	Seward USFS	224-3374
EMERGENCY	911	KNWR USFWS	262-7021
State DOT	Phone	Fire Shop USFWS	260-5994
Homer	235-5218		
Soldotna	262-4412		
		Homer Electric	Phone
		Homer Location	235-8551
		After Hours	283-2300
		Kenai Location	283-5831
		24 Hour Operations	283-2354
State Forestry	Phone		
Soldotna	260-4200		
KIDC Dispatch	260-4232/398-2183 24 hr.		
Fax/Dispatch	260-4205/260-4236		
Burn Permit Line	260-4269		
FIRE LINE	260-4100	Enstar	Phone
Homer	235-7734	Soldotna	262-9334
		FSS	Phone
		Kenai	283-7211/283-3735
		Homer	235-8550
Police	Phone	Fuel	Phone
Kenai	283-7879/80	Crowley Fuel	283-4542
Homer	235-3150	Maritime Fuel	235-7771
Soldotna	262-4455	Pathfinder Aviation	226-2800
Kodiak	486-8000	Seward Air	491-1357
Communications	Phone	Water	Phone
Nathan Skinner	420-7902	Homer Harbor Master	235-3160
		City Water Works	235-3170
Fire Departments	Phone	DEC	Phone
CES	262-4792	Oil Hazardous Spill	260-3063
Kodiak City FD	486-8040		
Kenai	283-7666		
Airport	283-7894		
Homer	235-3155		
Nikiski	283-4388/776-8400		
Anchor Point	235-6700		
Ninilchik	567-3542	Poison Control	1-800-222-1222

Kenai Kodiak Area Vehicle List 2015

Unit Identifier	State Nomenclature	Vehicle Typing	Vehicle Year	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Equipment Description	License Number
212TH	Medium Helicopter	T-2		Bell	212	320 GL Bucket	212TH
K-63	Wildland Engine	T-6	2009	Ford	1 1/2 Ton	4x4 w/300 GL Robwyn	V37372
K-64 (Homer)	Wildland Engine	T-6	2009	Ford	1 1/2 Ton	4x4 w/300 GI Robwyn	V37373
K-65 (Homer)	Wildland Engine	T-6	2009	Ford	1 1/2 Ton	4x4 w/300 GL Robwyn	V37374
K-66	Wildland Engine	T-6	2012	Ford	1 1/2 Ton	4x4 w/300 GL Robwyn	V38387
K-67	Wildland Engine	T-6	2012	Ford	1 1/2 Ton	4x4 w/300 GL Robwyn	V38388
K-70	Wildland Engine	T-7	2004	Ford	3/4 Ton	4x4 w/75 GL Honda	V35179
K-71	Wildland Engine	T-7	2015	Ford	3/4 Ton	4x4 w/75 GL Echo	V39389
K-72	Wildland Engine	T-7	2015	Ford	1 Ton	4x4 w/75 GL Honda	V39390
K-73	Wildland Engine	T-7	2010	Ford	1 Ton	4x4 w/75 GL Honda	V37924
K-01	Timber	SUV	2002	Ford		4X4 Expedition	V34217
K-02	Timber	P/U	2007	Ford	1/2 Ton	4X4 Extended Cab	V36997
K-03	Fire Support	Stake Side	2007	Ford	1 Ton	4X4 Stakeside	V36407
K-04	Fire Support	P/U	2001	Dodge	3/4 Ton	4X4 Extended Cab	V33843
K-05	Fire Support	P/U	2005	Dodge	1/2 Ton	4X2 Regular Cab	V34359
K-08	Fire Support	SUV	2000	Ford		4X4 Expedition	V33817
K-09	Fire Support	Sedan	2000	Chevy		4 Door Passenger Car	V33451
K-11	Fire Support	Van	2003	Chevy	Van	Astro Van—Seats 8	V34744
K-13	Fire Support	P/U	2002	Ford	3/4 Ton	4X4 Crew Cab	V34367
K-14	Timber	P/U	2011	Ford	1 Ton	4X4 Quad Cab	V37922

Dear amazing FireFighters,
Thank you so much for fighting this
fire! My family and I are praying for
you. Also, for those of you flying planes,
you might have seen my house because
I see you flying over it all day. It's
the big green house between Soldotna
and Sterling. I hope you're all feeling
well because if it weren't for you
firefighters, we might all have ~~been~~ burnt
up by now.

Thanks,
Montana 🙏

Funny River Fire 2014. Letter is one of many...