



# DOF Daily WildFire Update

August 6, 2021



## 2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Friday, August 6

- **Number of wildfires: 371**
- **Acres burned statewide: 248,111**
- **New fires yesterday: 4**
- **Active fires: 47**
- **Staffed fires: 5**
- **Personnel assigned: 106**
- **Human-caused: 231**
- **Lightning/natural-caused: 128**
- **Undetermined causes: 12**



The Munson Creek Fire near Chena Hot Springs east of Fairbanks backs and creeps through black spruce on Thursday, August 5. Matt Nunnely/Alaska DNR-Division of Forestry

## DOF Fires

Ringler Fire, #420, Mat-Su Area, 0.5 acres, Full protection, near Mile 77 Parks Highway in Willow.

- Reported just before 4 p.m. Saturday on West Ringler Circle off Sockeye Avenue in same area where the Sockeye Fire started in 2015.
- Fire is suspected to have escaped from a fish smoker that the homeowner had used earlier in the week (photo at right) by starting a fire in the roots at the base of a spruce stump and went unnoticed until conditions were right for it to escape.
- Two engines and Helitack from Mat-Su Area Forestry in Palmer responded, as



well as multiple engines and water tenders from four local fire departments – Houston, Caswell, Talkeetna and Willow.

- With assistance from helicopter water drops, firefighters on the ground were able to quickly corral the fire and contain it to one-half acre.
- The fire burned more intensely than expected for August, exhibiting extreme fire behavior not usually seen this late in the season, casting embers as far as 300 feet in front of itself that ignited spot fires that needed to be put out. Had there been any wind it would have presented control issues.
- There was a structure and outbuildings on the property and multiple structures in the surrounding area (photo at right) that could have been threatened by the fire had firefighters not acted as quickly as they did.
- Firefighters cut a saw line around the fire and situated hose lays around it to provide a water source for extinguishing spot fires and hotspots.
- Helitack crew gridded for hotspots 500 feet into the unburned area around the fire to ensure that it had not cast embers into unburned vegetation that could flare up later. The grid revealed nine hotspots that were extinguished.
- Fire was declared contained at 7:17 p.m.
- Estimated cost to date: \$2,130.



**Munson Creek Fire #235, Fairbanks Area, 54,050 acres, Limited protection, 52 miles E of Fairbanks near Chena Hot Springs.**

- Hot, dry weather reinvigorated the fire and activity picked up in the area between Miles 52-54 Chena Hot Springs Road (see photo at right).
- Evacuation level was raised from "Ready" to "Set" on Thursday for the area east of Mile 48 Chena Hot Springs Road. It had been reduced to "Ready" following more than 1" of rain on July 26.
- Fire is within ¼ mile of multiple cabins/homes near Mile 53.
- Fairbanks #1 crew was assigned to fire to reinstall pumps and sprinklers around 16 structures between Miles 52-54 on Thursday. Sprinkler systems were activated to wet down area around cabins.



- Fire backed down to the Chena River in multiple spots near Mile 53 but did not cross the river. The river is between cabins and the fire.
- Fire was receiving light precipitation on Friday and more rain is expected over the next week.
- Two engines are patrolling the road where the fire is closest to structures.
- Estimated cost to date: \$2.5 million.

**Klawasi Fire #417, Valdez/Copper River Area, 0.1 acres, Modified protection, approximately 7 miles northeast of Copper Center**

- Caller reported a 30' x 30' smoldering fire in black spruce and tundra near Klawasi River on Thursday morning. Air attack flew the fire and confirmed the location, size and fuel types. Suppression action was recommended due to potential for large growth with dry conditions.
- One helicopter with 2 Helitack personnel responded from Tok. Helicopter performed water bucket drops while personnel cut in a landing zone near the fire.
- Personnel worked the fire after bucket drops and called fire 100% contained just before 8 p.m. Thursday. The 2 personnel remained on the fire overnight.
- Helicopter did more bucket work Friday morning and personnel on the ground mopped the fire up and gridded for hotspots. No smoke was visible.
- Personnel planned to demobilize Friday afternoon.

**Glacier Hill Fire #401, Tok Area, 1.3 acres, 14 personnel, Full protection, 70 miles southeast of Tok.**

- Sixteen members of the Tanana Chiefs crew continued mopping up and securing the perimeter on Thursday.
- TCC crew was demobilized at around noon on Friday.
- Estimated cost to date: \$178,344.

**Black Hills Fire #366, Tok Area, 28,746 acres, no personnel assigned, Limited protection, 56 miles SE of Tok in Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.**

- No report on Thursday or Friday.

## **BLM Alaska Fire Service Fires**

**Marten Creek Fire #386, Upper Yukon Zone, 2,534 acres, 32 personnel, Full protection, 10 miles east of Venetie**

- Fire received rain and much cooler temperatures on Friday morning to calm fire behavior.
- North Star crew continued to improve and widen the newly constructed indirect fuel break between the dump and the new runway.
- The necessary equipment and supplies to conduct tactical firing operations around Venetie were prepositioned at the staging area.
- White Mountain and Tanana Chiefs crews will mobilize to the fire on Saturday.
- Firefighters finished putting together a structure and protection assessment for Venetie. Fire managers have a plan that, once the fire reaches a certain point in relation to Venetie and three historical cabins south of the fire, firefighters will take action to protect the cabins and the village.

- Fire returned to a Type 3 incident management team to help with logistical needs.
- Estimated cost to date: \$643,760.

**Discovery Creek #388, Upper Yukon Zone, 4,528-acres, 33 personnel, Modified protection, 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

- Fire received rain and much cooler temperatures on Friday morning to calm fire behavior.
- Firefighters continued preparing structures and allotments for protection.
- Eight additional smokejumpers were deployed to assist with a tactical firing operation around an allotment and smokejumpers and the UAF Nanooks Crew will be mopping up the burn operation today.
- Estimated cost to date: \$300,000.

**Big Boulder Fire #416, Upper Yukon Zone, 25 acres, Modified protection, approximately 16 miles northwest of Eagle in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve**

- Detected Thursday by a satellite heat signature.
- Air attack confirmed the fire and reported it to be 25 acres with a 70% active perimeter. It is burning on a ridgetop in mixed spruce and hardwoods.
- In a modified response area, with no values such as structures or private lands currently at risk.
- AFS will continue to monitor the fire and actions will be taken to protect the structures closest to the fire if necessary.
- Cooler, wet weather is in the forecast, which is expected to moderate fire behavior.

**Cultas Creek #223, Upper Yukon Zone, 39,253 acres, Limited protection, 0 personnel, 50 miles northwest of Eagle in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.**

- The 3 personnel remaining on the fire were demobilized Thursday after finishing work to protect historical cabins in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.
- Fire behavior continues to moderate, allowing firefighters to leave some equipment in place on historical cabins at Ben and Sam Creeks. If fire activity picks up again, firefighters can return and quickly water down the cabins and nearby areas to keep the fire at bay.

**More than 300 Alaska firefighting personnel in Lower 48**

As of Friday, there were 305 Alaska firefighting personnel working on fires in the Lower 48. Here's a breakdown of personnel in L48 by agency and a list showing where Alaska crews are working.

**By agency**

Bureau of Land Management – 108

State of Alaska (DOF) – 107

U.S. Forest Service – 43

Other – 26

National Park Service -13

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 11

U.S. Air Force – 7

### **Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew**

- Assigned to the 865-acre Deer Fire 12 miles northwest of Boise, Idaho in the Boise National Forest.

### **Chena Interagency Hotshot Crew**

- On preposition order in Idaho for Northern Rockies Coordination Center.

### **Midnight Sun Interagency Hotshot Crew**

- On preposition order in Montana for Northern Rockies Coordination Center.

### **White Mountain Type 2IA Crew**

- Prepositioned at Fairbanks Area Forestry and available for assignment.

### **Gannett Glacier Type 2IA Crew**

- Assigned to the 28,000-acre Taylor Fire in Fergus County Montana between the towns of Winifred and Denton. Fire is currently being managed by a Type 3 incident management team. It was 10% contained as of Friday with 237 personnel assigned.

### **USFS R-10 Type 2IA Crew**

- Currently assigned to 1,922-acre Boulder 2700 Fire 9 miles east of Polson, Montana. There was 0% containment as of Friday morning with 273 personnel assigned to the fire. The R-10 crew is one of 6 crews assigned to the fire. The fire is being managed by Type 2 Northern Rockies IMT 4. The fire has burned 31 structures.

### **Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew**

- Demobilized from the Glacier Hill Fire 70 miles southeast of Tok along the Alaska Highway near Mile 1232 on Friday and available for assignment.

### **Yukon Type 2 Crew**

- Currently assigned to 31,460-acre Harris Mountain Fire 7 miles south of Cascade, Montana. The fire was 23% contained as of Friday morning with 273 personnel assigned. The fire is being managed by the Type 2 Northern Rockies Team 7 incident management team.

### **UAF Nanooks Type 2 Crew**

- Currently assigned to 4,528-acre Discovery Creek Fire 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Upper Yukon Zone.

### **North Star Type 2 Crew**

- Currently assigned to the 2,534-acre Marten Creek Fire 9 miles east of Venetie in Upper Yukon Zone.

## **Alaska IMT transfers command of Bootleg Fire to PNW 2 IMT**

The Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team transferred command of the 413,765-acre Bootleg Fire back to the PNW 2 Type 1 IMT on Friday to complete its nearly two-week assignment in southern Oregon. The Bootleg Fire was reported to be 84% contained as of Friday morning with 1,252



personnel assigned to the fire. The Alaska IMT has increased containment from 53% to 87% since taking over the fire on July 27 while the number of personnel has dropped by more than 800. The team is tentatively scheduled to transfer command to the PNW 2 IMT on Friday and will travel to Boise, Idaho on Saturday for a Sunday flight back to Alaska. National Public Radio ran a short story on the Bootleg Fire Wednesday featuring Alaska IMT public information officer Emery Johnson and Operations Section Chief Jon Glover that can be found [here](#).

## Alaska Fire Weather

Cloudy, wet, and cool will be the pattern for the foreseeable future for Northern Alaska. High pressure is retracting back into Canada, as troughs of low pressure overtake the state from the Arctic and from the southwest, bringing on and off showers with some pockets of heavy rain to areas south of the Brooks Range through early next week.

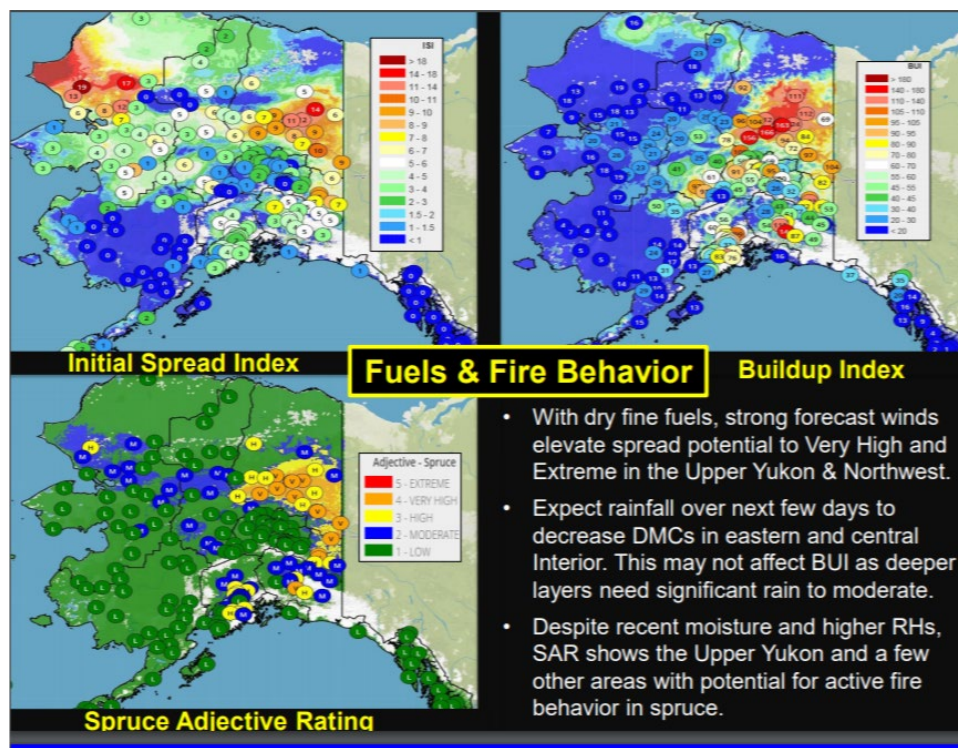
### SHORT-TERM FORECAST

- Cooler with widespread showers for much of mainland AK today and for the weekend.
- Thunderstorms likely for much of the eastern Interior today.
- Lightning potential decreases and moves into Canada by Sunday.

### LONG-RANGE FORECAST

- Models all in agreement in keeping cool and wet weather in the long-range forecast.
- Upper Yukon Zone looks to get a fair shot of moisture on Saturday and Sunday, but how much and how far to the northeast will it reach?

## Fire danger/potential



# National Situation Report for August 6

National Interagency Coordination Center  
 Incident Management Situation Report  
 Friday, August 6, 2021– 0730 MDT  
 National Preparedness Level 5

## National Fire Activity for August 5

Initial attack activity: Light (129 fires)

New large incidents: 11

Large fires contained: 2

Uncontained large fires: 90

Area Command teams committed: 0

NIMOs committed: 2

Type 1 IMTs committed: 14

Type 2 IMTs committed: 19

Active Incident Resource Summary							
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	2	3,872	2	0	3	65	13
NWCC	39	756,931	196	498	80	8,507	846
ONCC	11	625,901	144	655	54	8,117	1,279
OSCC	3	3,036	5	5	1	152	0
NRCC	43	551,562	64	411	55	5,472	27
GBCC	12	99,120	23	36	16	1,078	34
SWCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMCC	9	22,455	3	27	7	335	-16
EACC	1	265	1	1	0	22	0
SACC	1	2	0	1	0	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2,063,146</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>23,751</b>	<b>2,183</b>

## Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	112	0	0	225	14	351
	ACRES	0	126,559	0	0	95,863	5	222,427
Northwest Area	FIRES	179	241	26	13	1,734	438	2,631
	ACRES	69,785	14,992	13,180	172	144,403	514,338	756,872
Northern California Area	FIRES	60	28	4	23	2,308	432	2,855
	ACRES	70	274	332	2	258,763	304,174	563,616
Southern California Area	FIRES	16	96	12	57	2,965	411	3,557
	ACRES	1,299	3,526	199	3,230	17,347	9,528	35,130
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1,124	68	22	5	1,131	626	2,976
	ACRES	75,755	18,464	2,689	51	213,500	225,272	535,732
Great Basin Area	FIRES	40	626	52	23	671	397	1,809
	ACRES	3,008	55,190	10	2,191	55,824	45,933	162,157
Southwest Area	FIRES	487	185	9	27	335	869	1,912
	ACRES	24,879	83,888	1,528	3,362	33,218	490,702	637,579
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	500	317	6	20	506	259	1,608
	ACRES	6,377	25,038	1,260	1,116	54,553	25,449	113,794
Eastern Area	FIRES	447	0	50	22	6,833	420	7,772
	ACRES	12,376	0	14,336	588	32,544	15,884	75,730
Southern Area	FIRES	377	0	54	39	12,569	373	13,412
	ACRES	28,685	0	11,845	8,437	262,474	27,433	338,875
<b>TOTAL FIRES:</b>		<b>3,230</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>29,277</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>38,883</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b>		<b>222,235</b>	<b>327,933</b>	<b>45,379</b>	<b>19,151</b>	<b>1,168,492</b>	<b>1,658,722</b>	<b>3,441,915</b>

Ten Year Average Fires (2011 – 2020 as of today)	36,294
Ten Year Average Acres (2011 – 2020 as of today)	4,154,131

## Fire Information Resources

- [www.akfireinfo.com](http://www.akfireinfo.com) – Word Press blog with daily fire updates and other information
- <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/AICC%20Situation%20Report.pdf> – Daily Alaska wildfire situation report from Alaska Interagency Coordination Center with daily rundown of fire activity in Alaska.
- <https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/index.html#/a23a625f4d18412ea13cffeefcbe7f5e> - Alaska Interagency Coordination Center dashboard with all sorts of nifty fire information.
- <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/> - Alaska Interagency Coordination Center
- <https://www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry> - Division of Forestry Facebook page. All info that is posted to akfireinfo is posted here as well, along with other fire information. Info from both DOF and AFS is posted here.
- <https://www.facebook.com/BLMAFS> -BLM Alaska Fire Service Facebook page. All info that is posted to akfireinfo is posted here as well, along with other fire information. Info from both DOF and AFS is posted here.
- <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf> - Daily national situation report from the National Interagency Coordination Center with a rundown of fire activity in all regions of the United States and Canada.