



DOF Daily WildFire Update

August 9, 2021



2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Monday, August 9

- **Number of wildfires: 370**
- **Acres burned statewide: 252,750**
- **New fires yesterday: 0**
- **Active fires: 41**
- **Staffed fires: 3**
- **Personnel assigned: 94**
- **Human-caused: 231**
- **Lightning/natural-caused: 127**
- **Undetermined causes: 12**



The Marten Creek Fire near Venetie at around 7 p.m. Saturday. Chris Friar/Bureau of Indian Affairs.

DOF Fires

Munson Creek Fire, #235, Fairbanks Area, 54,050 acres, 16 personnel, Limited protection, 52 miles east of Fairbanks near Chena Hot Springs.

- Fire received 1.2 inches of rain over the weekend and minimal fire activity was reported.
- Fairbanks #1 Crew was demobilized today and will be returning to Fairbanks Area Forestry to prep for a possible Lower 48 assignment.
- Fire remains less than ¼ mile from homes/cabins between Miles 52-53 Chena Hot Springs Road.
- Evacuation level was lowered "Set" to "Ready" on Monday for the area east of Mile 48 Chena Hot Springs Road. It was raised to "Set" on Thursday due to heightened fire activity in that area.
- Hose and sprinklers will be left up around cabins and structures. If cool, wet weather persists, hose and sprinklers will be pulled later this week.
- One Fairbanks Area Forestry engine will continue to patrol the fire from the road and helicopter reconnaissance flights will be done as necessary to monitor fire activity.
- Estimated cost to date: \$2.5 million.

BLM Alaska Fire Service Fires

Marten Creek Fire #386, Upper Yukon Zone, 2,663 acres, 50 personnel, Full protection, 10 miles east of Venetie

- Fire did not receive any significant rainfall over the weekend. However, the 60-degree weather, higher humidity levels and partial cloud cover has tempered fire behavior.
- Fire was smoldering and creeping and putting up white, wispy patches of smoke with mini-smoke columns on Sunday.
- For the second day in a row, two water-dropping airplanes worked the southern edge of the fire Sunday to keep things cool ahead of the work firefighters are doing in the area.
- Fairbanks-based White Mountain Crew a saw line reaching from a nearby lake to the southeastern edge of the fire. They'll extend that control line west along the fire's south perimeter to a burned finger of land on the southwestern flank.
- The Tanana Chief Crew Type 2 Initial Attack Crew (T2IA) will arrive in Venetie today to joint he White Mountain Crew near the fire's perimeter. The goal is to secure a section on the southwest edge to limit the spread toward historical cabins four to six miles to the south and Venetie 10 miles to the southwest.
- The water-scooping Fire Boss airplanes are prepositioned in Fort Yukon and will likely be used again today.
- Estimated cost to date: \$791,590.

Discovery Creek #388, Upper Yukon Zone, 4,528-acres, 28 personnel, Modified protection, 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- Fire behavior moderated significantly on Sunday as it was reportedly smoldering with some creeping along the edge in some places.
- Smokejumpers and UAF Nanooks Crew continue to protect a Native allotment at the confluence of the Chekhechunnjik Creek and the North Fork of the East Fork of the Teedriinjik (Chandalar) River.
- The fire is held up in white spruce along the northern edge of the allotment near the Chekhechunnjik Creek. Firefighters will monitor this area with a drone and wait to see what weather Mother Nature bestows on the fire area.
- Scattered showers and slightly cooler temperatures are forecasted for the next couple of days starting this evening. The light, northerly winds will switch to out of the southeast today and increase a bit tomorrow.
- Estimated cost to date: \$331,675.

More than 300 Alaska firefighting personnel in Lower 48

As of Monday, there were 304 Alaska firefighting personnel working on fires in the Lower 48.

A second strike team of 5 engines is enroute to Tacoma, Washington through the Northwest Compact to assist that state with fire suppression. The first strike team of 5 DOF engines is currently assigned to fires in Oregon. DOF firefighters to staff the second strike team of engines will be flying to Seattle on Friday to marry up with the engines.

Here's a breakdown of personnel in L48 by agency and a list showing where Alaska crews are working.

By agency

State of Alaska (DOF) – 125

Bureau of Land Management – 109

U.S. Forest Service – 39

Other – 12

National Park Service -5

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 9

U.S. Air Force – 4

Bureau of Indian Affairs - 1

Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Working on the Bean Creek Fire in the Deschutes National Forest in Central Oregon. The fire was reported to be 138 acres and 20% contained as of Sunday. There were 63 personnel assigned, including 2 crews and 5 engines. A Type 3 incident management team from the Central Oregon Fire Management Service took over command of the fire Sunday night.

Chena Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Assigned to the Devil's Knob Complex a grouping of 40+ lightning-caused fires with the majority burning on the Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest. The fires were started from thunderstorms on July 29th and August 1st. The Devil's Knob Complex is situated between the Rough Patch Complex and Jack Fire to the north, which is being managed by Northwest Incident Management Team 13 and the Skyline Ridge Complex to the southwest, which is being managed by Oregon Department of Forestry Team 1. The Devil's Knob Complex is managed by Northwest Incident Management Team 8 from an incident command post at the Milo Academy near Tiller, Oregon. As of Sunday, there were 612 personnel working on the fire, including 4 Type 1 hotshot crews, 2 Type 2 initial attack crews, 11 Type 2 crews, 36 engines, 11 dozers and 16 water tenders.

Midnight Sun Interagency Hotshot Crew

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

White Mountain Type 2IA Crew

- Assigned to the 2,663-acre Marten Creek Fire 10 miles northeast of Venetie. There are 50 personnel and 2 crews assigned to the fire, which is being managed by a Type 3 organization from the BLM Alaska Fire Service.

Gannett Glacier Type 2IA Crew

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

USFS R-10 Type 2IA Crew

- Currently assigned to 2,072-acre Boulder 2700 Fire 9 miles east of Polson, Montana. The fire was 31% contained as of Monday morning with 279 personnel assigned to the fire. The fire received anywhere from 0.5 to 1.4 inches of rain on Sunday. The rain event was described as a season-slaking, not season-ending event. The fire is being managed by Type 2 Northern Rockies IMT 4. The fire has burned 31 structures.

Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew

- Will be assigned to the 2,663-acre Marten Creek Fire 10 miles northeast of Venetie today. They will join the White Mountain and North Star Crews on the fire, which is being managed by a Type 3 organization from the BLM Alaska Fire Service.

Yukon Type 2 Crew

- Currently assigned to 31,591-acre Harris Mountain Fire 7 miles south of Cascade, Montana. The fire was 43% contained as of Monday morning with 370 personnel assigned. Fire received 0.4 inches of rain on Sunday and fire activity was minimal due to rain and cloud cover. 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

- Assigned to the 2,663-acre Marten Creek Fire 10 miles northeast of Venetie. There are 50 personnel and 2 crews assigned to the fire, which is being managed by a Type 3 organization from the BLM Alaska Fire Service.

Alaska Fire Weather

Rain is still falling this afternoon over much of the Tanana Valley, Fortymile Uplands, and White Mountains and west to the Lower Yukon. Cooler and showery weather will then setup over the Mainland for the next several days as a trough remains over the Mainland, sending summer back into Canada and the Lower 48. In Southcentral Alaska, expect, steady rain to spread across Kodiak Island today, then all of Southcentral tonight. The heaviest precipitation will be across the Prince William Sound region, right ahead of the upper level short-wave and in the area of best jet dynamics. The primary short-wave will quickly exit into the Yukon Tuesday morning, though additional weaker short-waves behind it will cause precipitation to linger, especially across the northern Susitna Valley and all of the Copper River Basin. Rainfall totals tonight through Tuesday will be quite a bit lighter than Sunday's event for inland areas of Southcentral, ranging from one quarter to one half inch.

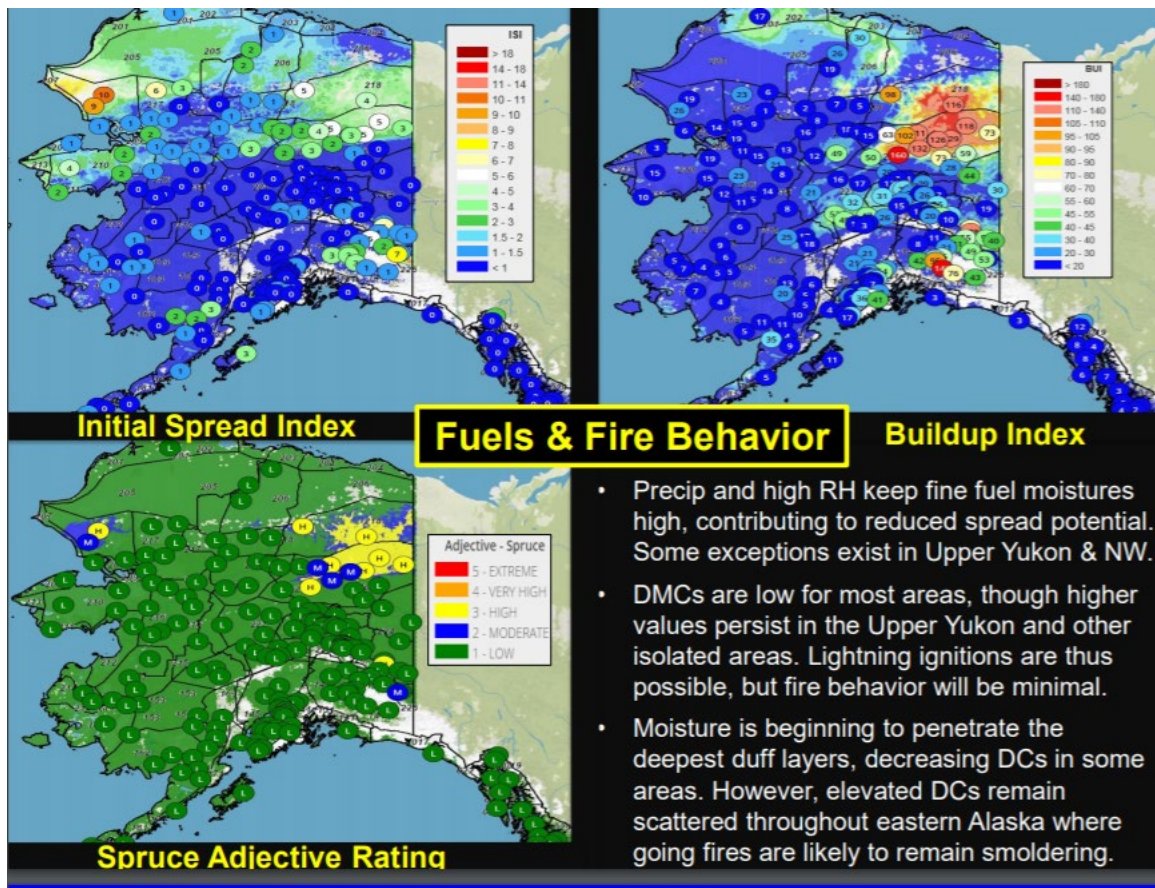
SHORT-TERM FORECAST

- Cool and wet. Some breaks in between waves.
- No thunderstorms today, then slight chance Tuesday/Wednesday.
- Tonight, some moisture will start to creep into Upper Yukon, but still only low to moderate amounts.
- Drier surface fuels in the Northwest, but all deeper fuels there are quite wet.

LONG-RANGE FORECAST

- Models all in agreement in keeping cool and wet weather.
- Perhaps a brief respite over the weekend, but then a return of Southwest Flow.
- As is typical, Upper Yukon will be the last dry holdout.

Fire danger/potential



National Situation Report for August 9

National Interagency Coordination Center
 Incident Management Situation Report
 Monday, August 9, 2021– 0730 MDT
 National Preparedness Level 5

National Fire Activity

Initial attack activity: Light (83 fires)
 New large incidents: 6
 Large fires contained: 4
 Uncontained large fires: 96
 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	7,120	3	0	0	78	-3
NWCC	41	831,297	217	492	66	9,116	513
ONCC	11	814,819	158	772	59	9,188	943
OSCC	2	3,917	2	2	4	85	13
NRCC	42	563,052	83	368	43	5,583	18
GBCC	13	100,646	15	26	10	844	166
SWCC	1	800	0	5	0	30	17
RMCC	4	17,507	2	47	8	358	27
EACC	1	265	0	0	0	6	0
SACC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	117	2,339,425	480	1,712	190	25,288	1,358

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	113	0	0	227	14	354
	ACRES	0	134,280	0	0	96,888	5	231,174
Northwest Area	FIRES	184	265	26	13	1,774	485	2,747
	ACRES	69,787	14,995	13,180	172	144,612	526,576	769,323
Northern California Area	FIRES	60	28	4	23	2,349	448	2,912
	ACRES	70	274	332	2	259,020	385,792	645,491
Southern California Area	FIRES	17	96	12	59	3,025	419	3,628
	ACRES	1,373	3,526	199	3,235	17,440	9,591	35,365
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1,160	69	23	5	1,181	655	3,093
	ACRES	76,014	18,465	2,752	51	217,173	253,392	567,848
Great Basin Area	FIRES	40	640	52	26	689	429	1,876
	ACRES	3,008	57,404	10	2,191	55,899	46,515	165,028
Southwest Area	FIRES	488	187	9	29	336	872	1,921
	ACRES	25,722	83,889	1,528	3,362	33,218	490,707	638,428
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	500	322	6	20	529	276	1,653
	ACRES	7,228	25,051	1,260	1,116	95,404	25,452	155,511
Eastern Area	FIRES	449	0	50	22	6,839	423	7,783
	ACRES	12,380	0	14,336	588	32,673	15,884	75,862
Southern Area	FIRES	377	0	55	39	12,591	373	13,435
	ACRES	28,685	0	11,845	8,437	262,825	27,433	339,226
TOTAL FIRES:		3,275	1,720	237	236	29,540	4,394	39,402
TOTAL ACRES:		224,268	337,886	45,442	19,156	1,215,156	1,781,350	3,623,259

Ten Year Average Fires (2011 – 2020 as of today)	36,828
Ten Year Average Acres (2011 – 2020 as of today)	4,353,584

Fire Information Resources

- 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.