



DOF Daily WildFire Update

July 21, 2021



2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Wednesday, July 21



- **Number of wildfires: 322**
- **Acres burned statewide: 185,860**
- **New fires yesterday: 6**
- **Current active fires: 40**
- **Current number of staffed fires: 2**
- **Personnel assigned to fires: 54**
- **Human-caused fires: 212**
- **Lightning-caused fires: 91**
- **Natural-caused fires: 6**
- **Undetermined fire causes: 13**



The Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew boards a National Interagency Coordination Center jet on Tuesday at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage enroute to Boise, Idaho to assist with wildfire management in the western United States. Kale Casey/Alaska Incident Management Team.

New wildfire activity

Black Hills Fire #366, Tok Area

- Reported at 2:31 p.m. Wednesday on Tetlin Village Corporation land.
- Tok Area helo flew the fire to get a size up and reported it to be approximately 56 miles southeast of Tok, in Limited protection, estimated at 57 acres with rank 4 fire behavior, burning in continuous black spruce with 10 to 12-foot flame lengths.
- No action taken and fire was placed in Monitor status.

Olympia Creek Fire #365, Fairbanks Area

- Reported by AFS helicopter returning from a mission at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday
- Estimated at 100 acres as of noon Wednesday, approx. 40 miles NE Fairbanks and 15 miles NW of Munson Creek Fire, Limited protection.
- Fairbanks Area helo flew fire Wednesday morning and reported it was mostly a ground fire creeping, backing and smoldering.
- Cabin located 2.5 miles NE of fire with two other cabins .
- 3 cabins located 3-4 miles N and SE of fire.

Ballaine Road Fire #364, Fairbanks Area

- Multiple spot fires in grass were reported along Ballaine Road off Farmers Loop at 8 p.m. Tuesday.
- Fairbanks Area engines, Helitack and the University Fire Department responded and found multiple fires burning alongside the road. Engines extinguished the fires with water and cold trailed them. Fires were called contained and controlled at 8:43 p.m.

Staffed fires

Munson Creek #235, Fairbanks Area

- Estimated at 44,200 acres as of Tuesday evening.
- 43 personnel assigned to fire, including White Mountain Crew and six engines patrolling Chena Hot Springs Road and checking structure protection.
- Recon flight on Wednesday evening revealed fire was threatening mining camp on Ottertail Creek along Middle Fork Chena River and helicopter will do bucket work to protect the camp.
- Fire activity has picked up in the area of Bear Paw Butte about 1 mile east of Chena Hot Springs Road near Mile 53 but fire is still held up in creek drainage and riparian area.
- Fire perimeter continues to expand into Limited protection area on the north and east.



Activity on northeast corner of Munson Creek Fire on Tuesday, July 20 during helicopter reconnaissance flight. Ernest Prax/Alaska DNR-Division of Forestry

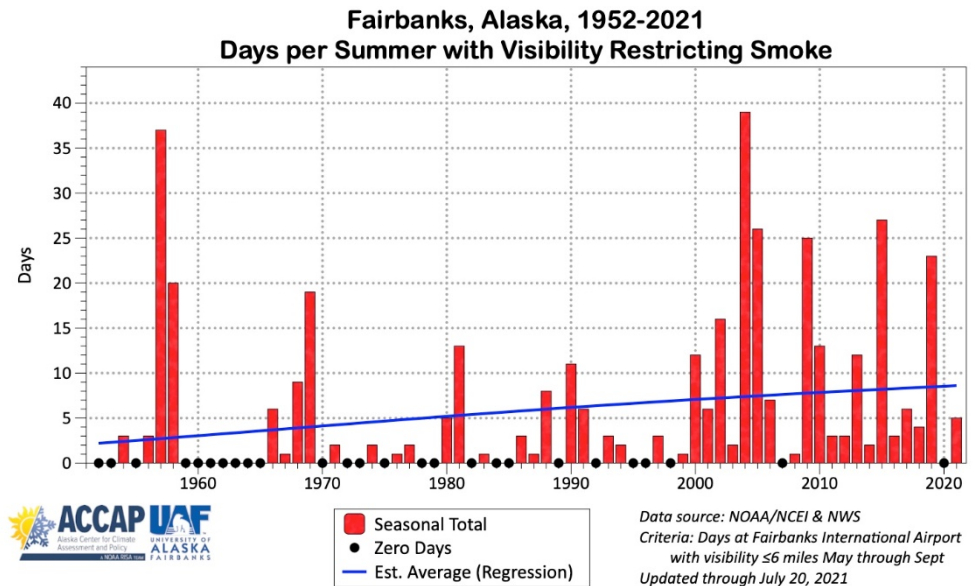
Tanker 540 makes “splash and dash” retardant drops in Yukon

Yukon Protective Services requested assistance from DOF late Wednesday afternoon to make retardant drops on a fire burning about 20 kilometers (12 miles) southwest of Dawson. The Bell Creek Fire is approximately 37 acres. The fire is one of 11 new lightning starts reported today. The fire is on the opposite (west) side of the Yukon River from Dawson but there is a community that could be threatened if the fire advances over a ridge and creek between the community and the fire. Bird Dog 840 and Tanker 540 were dispatched out of Palmer to make retardant drops. A Yukon air tanker group and an initial attack crew are working on the fire.

DOF has a “splash and dash” agreement with Yukon Protective Services in which tankers from Alaska or the Yukon can make retardant drops on fires across the border at the request of either agency. Tanker 540 will reload and refuel at the Tanacross Tanker Base in Tok if it makes more than one retardant drop.

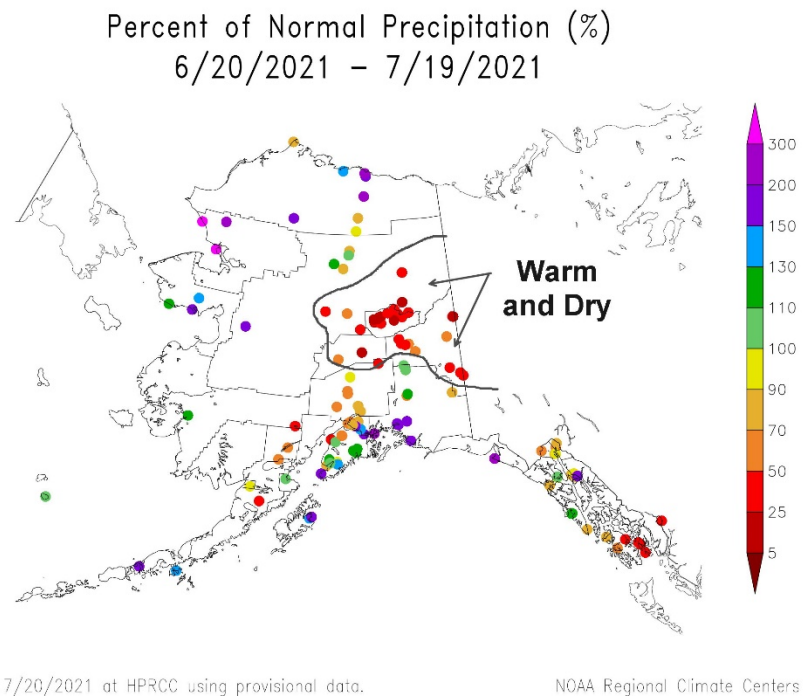
Smoky in Fairbanks

Tuesday marked the fifth day this summer at Fairbanks International Airport with wildfire smoke thick enough to reduce visibility less than 6 miles. As you can see in this graph, smoky days in Fairbanks have become more frequent since 2000. In several instances, that smoke has been the result of wildfires burning in Siberia that has drifted into Alaska.



Hot and dry in eastern Interior

While Northwest, Southwest, Southeast and Southcentral Alaska have received abundant rainfall over the past month to temper fire danger in those regions, that has not been the case in the eastern and central Interior. It's turned quite dry across parts of the eastern and central Interior. Rainfall for the last 30 days (June 20-July 19) at Fairbanks International Airport has totaled just 0.45", which is about one-third of normal. All that rain has come in July and the 0.45" is nearly 1 inch below normal rainfall through July 20. In addition, there have been nine days in July with a high temperature of 80 degrees or higher. There were five 80+ degree days in June for a total of 14 so far this summer. That compares to just three days with a temperature of 80 or higher last summer, two of which were in May. There were no 80-degree days in July of last year.



National Situation Report

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity:	Light (147 fires)
New large incidents:	3
Large fires contained:	3
Uncontained large fires: ***	61
Area Command teams committed:	0
NIMOs committed:	1
Type 1 IMTs committed:	14
Type 2 IMTs committed:	18

Nationally, there are 31 fires being managed under a strategy other than full suppression. ***Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy.

Active Incident Resource Summary							
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	3	77,246	8	7	1	108	0
NWCC	18	616,888	152	446	45	6,954	118
ONCC	6	206,489	94	298	27	4,736	651
OSCC	5	14,973	14	18	13	550	-33
NRCC	39	296,458	89	308	31	5,047	247
GBCC	12	70,916	45	123	25	2,105	256
SWCC	9	60,197	1	5	2	86	-50
RMCC	6	17,982	17	42	11	921	173
EACC	2	146	5	7	2	277	9
SACC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	1,361,296	425	1,254	157	20,784	1,437

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	85	0	0	208	11	304
	ACRES	0	124,734	0	0	54,681	5	179,421
Northwest Area	FIRES	104	173	21	3	1,405	281	1,987
	ACRES	47,523	13,134	1,178	19	69,793	445,993	577,641
Northern California Area	FIRES	43	24	4	21	2,074	323	2,489
	ACRES	38	268	332	1	13,844	155,789	170,274
Southern California Area	FIRES	16	92	11	29	2,662	348	3,158
	ACRES	1,299	3,510	199	2,995	16,465	9,285	33,754
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	976	58	19	3	918	513	2,487
	ACRES	73,404	2,640	2,520	20	165,372	112,233	356,190
Great Basin Area	FIRES	34	486	51	16	571	277	1,435
	ACRES	3,007	53,864	10	2,190	53,217	36,464	148,754
Southwest Area	FIRES	469	166	8	21	343	787	1,794
	ACRES	24,698	83,886	1,518	3,362	22,762	490,117	626,345
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	405	186	6	13	404	183	1,197
	ACRES	4,009	22,263	1,260	1,115	80,822	22,525	131,994
Eastern Area	FIRES	431	0	22	13	6,714	397	7,577
	ACRES	12,367	0	13,276	560	31,890	15,818	73,911
Southern Area	FIRES	376	0	53	35	12,325	371	13,160
	ACRES	28,685	0	11,844	8,182	261,761	27,347	337,822
TOTAL FIRES:		2,854	1,270	195	154	27,624	3,491	35,588
TOTAL ACRES:		195,031	304,302	32,138	18,446	770,611	1,315,579	2,636,109

Ten Year Average Fires (2011 – 2020 as of today)	32,207
Ten Year Average Acres (2011 – 2020 as of today)	3,422,418

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.