



DOF Daily WildFire Update

July 30, 2021



2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Friday, July 30



- **Number of wildfires: 349**
- **Acres burned statewide: 209,205**
- **New fires yesterday: 1**
- **Active fires: 47**
- **Staffed fires: 3**
- **Personnel assigned: 75**
- **Human-caused: 220**
- **Lightning-caused: 109**
- **Natural-caused: 6**
- **Undetermined causes: 14**



The Gannett Glacier Type 2 Initial Attack Crew boards a jet from the National Interagency Coordination Center at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage on Friday, to be transported to Montana to assist with wildfires in the Lower 48. Laurie Boeck/Alaska DNR-Division of Forestry.

Fire activity

Munson Creek #235, Fairbanks Area, 49,660 acres, Limited protection, 52 miles E of Fairbanks near Chena Hot Springs.

- Acreage reduced to 49,660 acres based on satellite imagery so it is not the largest wildfire in Alaska this season. That title still belongs to the 50,XXX-acre Dry Creek Fire south of Manley Hot Springs.
- Reconnaissance flight conducted on Thursday showed only a few smokes in areas along the Middle Fork Chena River and to the east where no values are threatened. No smoke was seen along the Chena Hot Springs Road corridor.
- Crews checked hose and sprinkler systems put in place at cabins/homes between miles 53-55 and all systems were still in place.
- Two engines from Fairbanks Area Forestry are monitoring the fire daily with road patrols.

Marten Creek Fire, Upper Yukon Zone, 626 acres, 35 personnel, Full protection, 13 miles east of Venetie

- Fire did not receive rain on Thursday and was most active to the north with minimal creeping to the east and northeast.
- Firefighters anticipate more activity with the drier, breezy weather as these fires burn through spruce and tundra in the area.
- Fire managers were meeting with community members today for input on plans to construct fuel breaks around the village. The BLM Alaska Fire Service North Star Crew is already clearing out brush on an indirect fire break established around the northeastern side of the village in 2004.
- Fire managers plan on improving this existing control line and utilizing existing barriers such as roads to extend the fire break to help protect Venetie from this and future wildfires.
- Three smokejumpers cleared burnable vegetation from around a historical cabin southwest of the fire. They'll take similar action on two other historical cabins that are 4.5 to six miles from the fire.
- Estimated cost to date: \$358,841.

Discovery Creek, Upper Yukon Zone, 736 acres, 27 personnel, Modified protection, 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- Fire received quite a bit of rain Thursday that significantly subdued fire behavior. There was no visible activity on the fire that is burning in a mixture of black and white spruce and tussock tundra.
- The UAF Nanooks Crew started constructing a saw line around a Native allotment directly threatened by the fire.
- Smokejumpers continue to mop up a burn operation conducted in the initial response to protect the allotment.
- Estimated cost to date: \$39,184

Lightning in Alaska has dropped off and will continue to do so

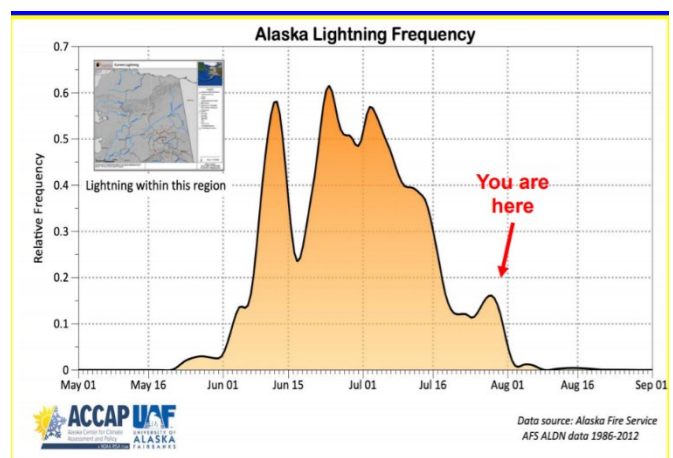
We're past our peak in terms of lightning activity in Alaska for the summer. We've only had 23 lightning-caused fires in the past two weeks and as you can see from this graph from the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, chances of increased lightning starts decreases significantly once we hit August.

Of the 349 wildfires reported in Alaska this summer, 109 have been confirmed as lightning-caused fires. While there have been twice as many human-caused fires as lightning-caused fires this season, lightning-caused fires have burned 95% of the 209,206 acres burned by wildfires this summer.

220 human-caused fires = 9,774 acres

115 lightning- and natural-caused fires = 198,927 acres

14 undetermined fires = 505 acres



More AK crews head south to Lower 48

Four more Alaska wildland firefighting crews departed for the Lower 48 on Friday to assist with wildfires burning in the western United States.

- The Alaska DNR- Division of Forestry's Gannett Glacier Type 2 Initial Attack Crew.
- The U.S. Forest Service Region 10 Type 2 Initial Attack Crew.
- The Type 2 Yukon Crew from Chugachmiut Native Corporation.
- The BLM / Alaska Fire Service Type 2 Capstone contract crew made up of firefighters from Minto and Tanana.

All four 20-person crews boarded a jet from the National Interagency Fire Center at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage on Friday morning for the flight south.

All the crews are headed to Montana to respond to new or ongoing wildfires burning in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area that covers Montana and Idaho. There are currently 36 staffed fires in the Northern Rockies with more than 5,000 firefighting personnel assigned. The Northern Rockies has burned more than 430,000 acres this season.

Counting the crews that departed today, there are now approximately 350 Alaska firefighting personnel spread across the western U.S. assisting with wildfire management and suppression. The number will likely continue to increase as Alaska's wildfire season continues to wind down and more firefighting resources are made available for assignment in the Lower 48.

Alaska crew status

Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Assigned to the 1,000-acre Deer Fire 12 miles northwest of Boise, Idaho in the Boise National Forest. The fire was reported Wednesday and on Friday was reported to be 25% contained. There are 192 personnel assigned to the fire. The Forest Service expects to have the fire contained by Saturday.

Chena Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Currently assigned to the 9,039-acre Green Ridge Fire in the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon. The fire was started by lightning on July 7 and is 15% contained. There are 268 personnel assigned to the fire. It is being managed by a Type 2 California IMT.

Midnight Sun Interagency Hotshot Crew

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



White Mountain Type 2IA Crew

- At home base at Fairbanks Area Forestry. Available for assignment.

Gannett Glacier Type 2IA Crew

- Enroute to Northern Rockies Geographic Area for preposition assignment in Montana.

Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew

- At home base at Tok Area Forestry. Available for assignment.

Yukon Type 2 Crew

- Enroute to Northern Rockies Geographic Area for preposition assignment in Montana.

UAF Nanooks Type 2 Crew

- Currently assigned to Discovery Fire 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Upper Yukon Zone.

North Star Type 2 Crew

- Currently assigned to Marten Creek Fire 13 miles east of Venetie in Upper Yukon Zone.

DOF engines arrive safely in Tacoma; on to Oregon tomorrow

The strike team of 5 DOF engines that was transported to Tacoma, Washington by boat earlier this week have arrived safely and DOF engine crews have married up with the engines to drive them to Oregon tomorrow.

The engines and crews are tentatively scheduled to travel to the 22,955-acre Elbow Creek Fire, which is burning approximately 17 miles northwest of Wallowa, Ore. The Elbow Creek Fire was 57% contained as of Friday evening with 971 personnel assigned, including 31 crews, 33 engines, 7 helicopters, 11 dozers, 20 water tenders, 7 masticators, 3 skidgines, 3 excavators and 14 feller bunchers. The fire is being managed by an Oregon Department of Forestry Type 1 Incident Management Team.

Each DOF engine is staffed with DOF personnel that flew down to Seattle and were reunited with the engines. Fairbanks Area Assistant Fire Management Officer John Dibert is serving as a liaison between DOF and ODF.

Here's the staffing line-up for each engine:

F-64 – Teo Fusco, ENGB; Megan Mitchell, ENGB(t); Conrad Moses, FFT1.

F-65 – Tom Lesatz, ENGB; Sam Allen, ENGB(t); Shane Peters FFT1.

T-61 – Neal Charlie, ENGB; Drew Patrick, FFT2 EFF; Mike Williams, FFT2 EFF.

M-69 – David Camacho, ENGB; Joe Shaw, ENGB(t), Jared Kemp, ENOP.

C-62 – Esai Jasso, ENGB; Andrew Coulter, ENGB(t); Greg Miller, ENGB, Aisake Finau, ENOP(t).



Approximately 350 Alaska firefighting personnel in Lower 48

As of Friday, there are approximately 350 Alaska firefighting personnel assigned to incidents or on preposition orders in the Lower 48. That includes state, federal and EFF/AD personnel. Here's a breakdown of personnel in L48 by agency and then a list of some of the resources that have been sent south.

By agency

Bureau of Land Management – 104

State of Alaska (DOF) – 74

U.S. Forest Service – 24

National Park Service -10

U.S. Air Force – 6

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 5

Other – 17

Crews

- Alaska's three hotshot crews – Chena, Midnight Sun and Pioneer Peak – are all in the Lower 48. The Chena Hotshots are working on the Green Ridge Fire in Oregon; Pioneer Peak Hotshots are on the Chin Fire in Nevada; and the Midnight Sun Hotshots are prepositioned in Montana awaiting an assignment.
- Two BLM Alaska Fire Service Type 2 contract crews – CATG and S.E.S. – traveled to the Lower 48 last week and are assigned to the Tamarack Fire in Nevada.
- The Gannett Glacier Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, the U.S. Forest Service R10 Type 2 IA Crew, the Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew and the Capstone contract crew flew to Montana aboard a National Interagency Coordination Center jet on Friday.

Smokejumpers

- 23 BLM Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers are on assignments in the Lower 48.

Aircraft

- Tanker 52, one of DOF's two contract air tankers from Conair, left Alaska two weeks ago and is based at the Moses Lake Tanker Base in Moses Lake, Washington, where it has been flying on fires pretty much every day it has been available.
- Tanker 540, the second DOF contract air tanker, flew south Wednesday to marry up with Tanker 52 in Moses Lake, Wash. to support fire suppression efforts in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
- The BLM Alaska Fire Service has sent four helicopters to the L48, two Type 3s and two Type 2s.
- The BLM Alaska Fire Service air attack plane, ASM B9, is in the L48.
- Two smokejumper jump ship on assignment in the L48.
- DOF's air attack platform, ASM A4, traveled south on Thursday to the National Interagency Coordination Center this week.

Engines

- A strike team of 5 DOF engines has arrived in Tacoma and will be driving to Oregon tomorrow for assignment on the Elbow Creek Fire in Oregon's Umatilla National Forest. DOF is working

on putting together a second strike team of engines to go to Washington some time next week. Stay tuned.

Alaska Fire Weather

While the western half of the state continues to receive substantial amounts of rain, Eastern Alaska remains the last hold out for fire season.

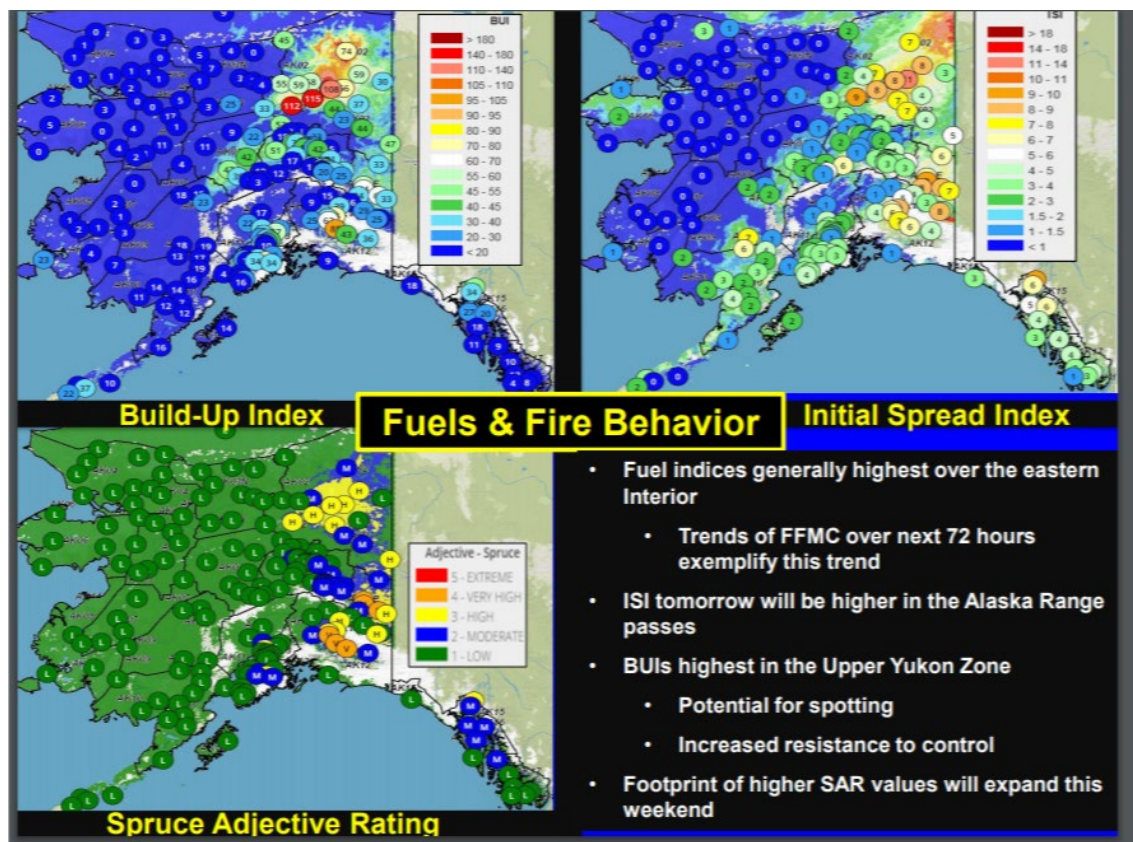
SHORT-TERM FORECAST

- No (or nearly no) thunder again today.
- Yet more cool and wet weather for western Alaska.
- Highs in the 70s for the Interior, Copper River, and the Panhandle.
- Local humidity down to 25% for Copper River and southeast Interior... but RH generally higher.
- Local south-southwest winds in the west and along the Brooks Range

LONG-RANGE FORECAST

- Dearth of thunder continues this weekend, possibly even into the early work week.
- Continued cool and wet in western Alaska through the weekend.
- Local south winds 15-30 mph through Alaska Range passes Saturday only: Red Flag is unlikely.
- Warm with showers for the Interior next week
 - Humidity mainly 25% and higher
 - Fuels indices will rise

Fire danger/potential



National Situation Report for July 27

National Interagency Coordination Center
 Incident Management Situation Report
 Friday, July 30, 2021– 0730 MDT
 National Preparedness Level 5

National Fire Activity:

Initial attack activity: Light (117 fires)

New large incidents: 6

Large fires contained: 6

Uncontained large fires: 64

Area Command teams committed: 0

NIMOs committed: 1

Type 1 IMTs committed: 13

Type 2 IMTs committed: 17

Active Incident Resource Summary							
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	4	59,768	3	7	2	100	20
NWCC	22	718,755	167	400	70	7,139	247
ONCC	4	368,456	106	541	28	6,459	146
OSCC	5	6,543	11	16	5	389	0
NRCC	36	467,944	71	365	43	5,078	194
GBCC	14	95,027	46	68	36	1,854	-273
SWCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMCC	14	28,142	9	66	11	746	28
EACC	2	368	3	1	2	134	10
SACC	1	762	0	1	2	17	0
Total	102	1,745,767	416	1,465	199	21,916	372

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

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	106	0	0	218	11	335
	ACRES	0	139,106	0	0	69,286	5	208,397
Northwest Area	FIRES	154	190	25	10	1,556	337	2,272
	ACRES	47,783	13,824	1,179	22	77,802	509,822	650,434
Northern California Area	FIRES	60	27	4	21	2,226	354	2,692
	ACRES	70	274	332	2	57,597	241,186	299,462
Southern California Area	FIRES	16	94	12	37	2,815	374	3,348
	ACRES	1,299	3,511	199	3,015	16,974	9,468	34,467
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1,065	65	22	5	1,005	561	2,723
	ACRES	73,822	14,092	2,690	51	175,711	166,280	432,646
Great Basin Area	FIRES	35	571	51	18	634	326	1,635
	ACRES	3,005	54,791	10	2,191	55,483	42,045	157,526
Southwest Area	FIRES	481	181	9	27	334	848	1,880
	ACRES	24,878	83,887	1,528	3,362	33,217	490,654	637,529
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	525	280	6	17	460	229	1,517
	ACRES	5,993	24,875	1,260	1,116	88,865	24,887	146,996
Eastern Area	FIRES	440	0	50	17	6,801	412	7,720
	ACRES	12,373	0	11,352	588	32,099	15,874	72,287
Southern Area	FIRES	377	0	53	37	12,432	371	13,270
	ACRES	28,685	0	11,844	8,332	262,127	27,346	338,337
TOTAL FIRES:		3,153	1,514	232	189	28,481	3,823	37,392
TOTAL ACRES:		197,910	334,363	30,395	18,680	869,165	1,527,570	2,978,085

Ten Year Average Fires (2011 – 2020 as of today)	34,707
Ten Year Average Acres (2011 – 2020 as of today)	3,855,502

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.