

# DOF Daily WildFire Update

June 29, 2021

## 2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Tuesday, June 29



- **Number of wildfires to date: 269**
- **Estimated acres burned statewide to date: 71,171**
- **New fires yesterday: 0**
- **Current active fires: 60**
- **Current number of staffed fires: 5**
- **Personnel assigned to fires: 376**
- **Human-caused fires to date: 174**
- **Lightning-caused fires to date: 81**
- **Natural-caused fires to date: 5**
- **Undetermined fire causes to date: 9**



The UAF Nanooks Crew heads to the fireline on the Brock Road Fire Sunday, June 27, 2021.  
Josh Turnbow/UAF Crew

### Quick Hits

- No new fires reported anywhere in the state yesterday.
- Conditions in the Interior continue to remain dry with a high-pressure system sitting over that part of the state. The duff layer throughout the central and eastern Interior, as well as the upper Yukon Flats, is drying out as a result of the stretch of hot, dry weather. With deeper fuels drying, current and new fires will burn deeper, making them more resistant to control. This trend will likely continue until weather moderates.
- There were only 298 lightning strikes detected yesterday across Alaska and lightning activity will remain low until a low-pressure system from the Arctic collides with the current high-pressure system baking the Interior on Friday. Alaska Interagency Coordination Center meteorologist Eric Stevens described the meeting of the two weather systems “a classic fire weather pattern for Alaska” that could produce lightning. Until that happens, human ignitions remain the primary concern.
- The same low-pressure system will move east over the state this weekend, producing a good chance of precipitation for much of Alaska, notably in Southcentral, Southwest and the Interior.

- With the Fourth of July weekend approaching, DOF information office will be messaging fire safety over the weekend pertaining to fireworks and other human-caused ignition sources.
- A burn suspension remains in effect for the Fairbanks Area through Friday. Burn suspensions that had been in place for Delta Junction and Tok were lifted on Tuesday as a result of moderating weather.
- The Alaska Type 2 Black Incident Management Team that has been managing the Haystack Fire north of Fairbanks will turn the fire back to Fairbanks Area Forestry on Thursday morning. The fire is 100% contained and Fairbanks Area Forestry will monitor the fire from the ground and air.
- There are currently 149 firefighting personnel from the Lower 48 working in Alaska. That number dropped by 100 today after five Lower 48 hotshot and Type 2 initial attack crews that came to Alaska on June 17 were demobilized. The five crews are flying back to the Lower 48 today after spending almost two weeks here.
- The National Preparedness Level remains at PL 4 with more than 7,100 firefighting personnel assigned to incidents across the western U.S. There are three Type 1 incident management teams assigned to fires in Arizona and Colorado and eight Type 2 incident management teams assigned to fires in Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, California, Montana. The Pacific Northwest is in the throes of a record-breaking heat wave with triple digit temperatures recorded in northern California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The hot, dry weather could lead to new fire starts that could increase competition for resources nationwide.

### **Brock Road Fire (#294)**

**Acres:** 21

**Containment:** 75%

**Personnel assigned:** 53.

**Resources assigned:** 3 crews – 1 Type 2IA; 2 Type 2.

**Location:** 8.5 miles SE of Fairbanks

**Weather:** Continued warm and dry. High temperatures today in the mid 70s with relative humidity's in the low 30% range.

- Drop in containment was due to better mapping and fire surveillance.
- Crews have a saw/dozer line and hose line around the entire fire and are working to get water on it to mop up. mop it up. Crews have gridded 5 feet into the burn area from the perimeter for hot spots and continue to grid the unburned green area around the fire for possible hot spots.



Two members of the UAF Nanooks Crew fall a tree during initial attack of the Brock Road Fire on Sunday, June 27. Photo by Josh Turnbow/UAF Nanooks Crew.

- A drone equipped with infrared imagery will be used today to identify any hot spots within the perimeter of the fire and along the outside of the perimeter.
- Fire was human-caused and is under investigation.
- Estimated cost to date is \$277,103.

### **Haystack Fire (#196)**

**Acres:** 927

**Containment:** 100%

**Personnel assigned:** 201 (will drop dramatically in next two days).

**Resources assigned:** 2 Type 1 crews, 2 Type 2 initial attack crews, 2 helicopters, 2 engines, 1 bulldozer, 1 water tender.

**Location:** 18 miles N of Fairbanks

**Weather:** Continued warm and dry. High temperatures today in the mid 70s with relative humidities in the low 30% range.

- A recent infrared flight showed no active hot spots within the fire perimeter.
- No fire activity reported on the fire as four crews continue to seek out and extinguish any remaining hot spots on the southern half of the fire.
- A drone equipped with infrared technology is being used to fly over the fire area to search for hot spots so crews can focus their attention on extinguishing those sources of heat. Use of the drone helps reduce expensive helicopter time and reduces risk to firefighters on the ground and in the air.
- Crews are backhauling supplies on the northern portion of the fire using helicopters.
- Alaska Type 2 incident management team will turn fire back over to Fairbanks Area Forestry on Thursday morning and fire will be placed in Monitor status.
- A suppression repair plan has been developed but rehabilitation work on containment lines put in for the fire will be done at a later date when fire activity elsewhere diminishes.
- The Alaska Black Type 2 Incident Management Team will turn the fire back over to Fairbanks Area Forestry on Thursday morning and Fairbanks Area Forestry personnel will be monitoring the fire from the ground and air.
- The Bureau of Land Management has re-opened Moose Creek Cabin in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.
- Estimated cost to date is \$3,047,949.

### **Munson Creek Fire (#235)**

**Acres:** Estimated 329

**Containment:** 0%

**Personnel assigned:** 20

**Resources assigned:** Type 3 incident commander, Yukon Crew (18 persons) and one engine from Fairbanks Area Forestry.

**Location:** In a Limited protection area 50 miles NE of Fairbanks and 4 miles south of Chena Hot Springs in Chena River State Recreation Area.

**Weather:** Continued warm and dry. High temperatures today in the mid 70s with relative humidities in the low 30% range.

- Despite cooler, cloudier conditions, the fire showed a bit of movement on Monday as it inches closer to Chena Hot Springs and a shelter cabin on the Angel Creek to Chena Hot Springs Trail. The fire is still about 4 miles south of the hot springs.
- Fire behavior is described as smoldering and creeping behavior.
- Public information officer assigned the fire reported talking to more than 200 people at Angel Rocks trailhead and Chena Hot Springs over the weekend to provide them information about the fire. Information boards have been set up at the Angel Rocks trailhead and Chena Hot Springs to provide info for the public.
- Messaging to the public is that the fire is being allowed to burn to reduce fuels, create a mosaic of different habitat types and reduce future fire danger similar to a natural fire regime.
- Firefighters will continue to monitor the fire. If the fire reaches the top of the ridge behind Chena Hot Springs they will determine whether to try to slow the approach of the fire to structures, or to drop back and conduct point protection at the structures.
- Estimated cost of the fire to date is \$54,725.

### **About Mountain Fire #193**

**Acres:** 2,179

**Containment:** 100%

**Personnel assigned:** 23.

**Location:** 6 miles south of McGrath along the east bank of Kuskokwim River.

**Resources assigned:** Pioneer Peak Hotshot Crew, local boat operators.

- Fire was transferred to a Type 4 organization (Pioneer Peak Hotshots) at 7 a.m. Monday.
- All personnel will be demobilized at the end of shift Wednesday.
- Estimated cost to date is approximately \$1,600,000.

### **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.