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Exceptional Events Waiver  
Request  
For Exceptional PM<sub>2.5</sub> Events  
June 18 - 28,  
July 1 - 31, and  
August 8, 2015  
in the Fairbanks North Star  
Borough, Alaska

-Appendix A-  
Media Coverage

February 15, 2018

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# Trout Fire on Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Showing Signs of Life - June 22

🕒 June 22, 2015 by [Alaska National Park Service](#) on Trout Fire on Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Showing Signs of Life

EAGLE, Alaska: The Trout Fire, which had no visible smokes for a couple of weeks, has come back to life and is now creating some smoke due to the hot, dry and windy conditions in Interior Alaska. The fire is in monitor status, and its acreage is unchanged at 376 acres. At this time it does not pose a threat to the community of Eagle, nor to any structures within the Preserve. It was ignited on May 24th by a lightning strike.

There will be no additional updates on the Trout Fire until conditions change significantly.

The Seventy Mile Fire burning south of the Preserve was also ignited by lightning in late May, and is currently mapped at 2902 acres. Eagle residents may see fire personnel in the area as the fire is receiving additional staffing. It currently poses no threat to Eagle.

Additional park information is available on the web at [www.nps.gov/yuch](http://www.nps.gov/yuch) or by calling the Eagle Visitor Center between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at (907) 459-3730.

# Lightning storm sparks several wildfires in Denali National Park and Preserve - June 23

🕒 June 23, 2015 by [Alaska National Park Service](#) on Lightning storm sparks several wildfires in Denali National Park and Preserve

DENALI PARK, Alaska: Following a lightning storm that threw over 31,000 lightning strikes from June 19 – June 21, five wildfires are now burning in remote locations in Denali National Park and Preserve. None of the wildfires are threatening park structures or sensitive resources. Due to the remote locations, fire managers have opted to monitor these fires.

The largest and most active wildfire in Denali National Park is the 1,500 acre Iron Wildfire. Spotted from a Kantishna Air Taxi pilot on the evening of June 20. Under the very hot and dry conditions, extreme fire behavior was observed with aggressive crown runs. Smoke may be visible from Turtle Hills.

## June 21 Observations:

The Foraker River was burning approximately 28 miles southwest of Wonder Lake. It was approximately 50 acres, actively running and torching in black spruce.

At approximately 10 acres, burning in black spruce, the McLeod Wildfire was actively growing around 80 percent of its perimeter.

A fourth fire was spotted near the upper reaches of the Highpower Creek. Further information will be provided when available.

## June 22 Observations:

On June 22, a fifth fire was reported five miles Northwest of Kantishna. The Bear Creek Wildfire, estimated at 30 acres, is burning in black spruce. Active fire behavior was observed.

Forest fire smoke has moved into the area from the numerous interior Alaska fires. The smoke and local air quality will be highly variable, with dense smoke possible in the afternoons. Smoke may be visible in the park and preserve. For more information about smoke and smoke management, visit: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>

Due to the recent dry lightning event in the region and accidental human-caused fires statewide, park officials have determined it is necessary to prohibit the use of all open fires and activities. The term “open fires” refers to any flame source not immediately extinguishable or controllable and applies to any form of wood or charcoal-based fire, even in established fire rings. Use of gas



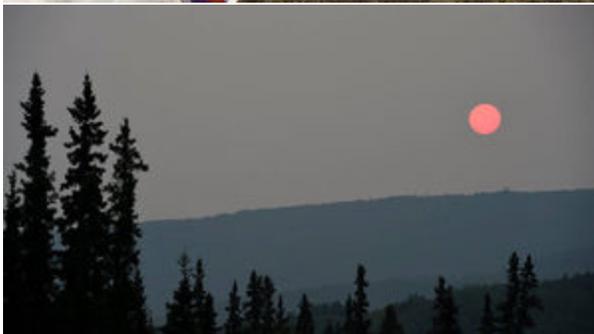
# Updated: Interior Alaska fires spread, threaten homes, villages - June 24



ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS-MINER

## Lower 48 Firefighters Stage in Pleasant Valley

Fabian Plemons, right, and Nick O'Shea talk with Daniel Jolly, inside his tent, at the Pleasant Valley Community Center on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The firefighters are with the Daniel Boone Fire Crew from Kentucky. Two fire crews from North Carolina, a fire crew from Kentucky and a fire crew from Virginia are staging in the community center to help fight the Anaconda Creek Fire north of Chena Hot Springs Road.



Posted: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 6:15 pm

FAIRBANKS - Here is a Wednesday evening update of notable fires burning in Interior Alaska:

### **Tozitna Fire**

The lightning-caused fire near Tanana continued to grow aggressively, reaching 33,000 acres as of Wednesday's report. Heavy smoke was making attacking the blaze by air difficult. Ground crews largely focused on protecting the community. The nearby Spicer Creek Fire was reported at 21,000 acres.

### **Rex Complex Fires**

The two fires in the complex down the Parks Highway near the area of Anderson grew to total of 16,257 acres on Wednesday, and there are nearly 400 people responding to the fire. The fire threatens 20 structures. Four others have been destroyed.

### **Baker Creek**

The lightning-caused fire is still at 1,800 acres outside the Baker Subdivision in Eureka. Evacuation recommendations are still in place and smokejumpers continue with structure protection.

### **Anaconda Creek Fire**

The lightning-caused fire about nine miles north of 27 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road grew to 2,000 acres on Wednesday. Four crews are preparing to fight the fire, but access is limited to helicopter and those weren't available yet.

### **Aggie Creek Fire**

The lightning-caused fire grew to 14,030 acres on Wednesday and was reported to be continuing to grow off the Elliott Highway. There are sporadic road closures between Milepost 25 and Milepost 27.

### **Railroad 364.5 Fire**

Lightning sparked the 20-acre fire on Tuesday, roughly five miles north of Nenana and near the Alaska Railroad tracks. More than 60 people and three tankers are assigned to the fire.

### **Long Lake Fire**

Progress is being made on battling the 17,100-acre human-caused fire to keep it from reaching the Alaska Highway community of Northway. There are 87 firefighters working to establish a fire line on the north end of the blaze.

### **Nulato Fire**

The lightning-caused fire outside Nulato, 300 miles west of Fairbanks, grew to 1,200 acres as of Wednesday morning. The fire, which is located west of Nulato, was reported to be moving north on Wednesday.

### **Hamlin Creek Fire**

The 9,600-acre lightning-caused fire was started on Monday five miles south of Stevens Village. The fire was in monitor status as of Tuesday and was reported to be pushing east. Wind shifts could endanger cabins.

**Healy Lake Fire**

The 14,000-acre lightning-caused fire on the north side of the Tanana River 25 miles east of Delta Junction remained at 25 percent contained, but structure protection efforts were close to complete on Wednesday.

**Hayes Creek**

The human-caused fire near the Himalaya Subdivision off the Elliott Highway was hit hard on Tuesday with water and dozer lines and was in monitor status Wednesday with two personnel on site. It was reported at 1.4 acres.

# List of notable fires burning in Interior Alaska - June 25

Posted: Thursday, June 25, 2015 6:41 pm

- **List of notable fires burning in Interior Alaska Staff Report, [newsroom@newsminer.com](mailto:newsroom@newsminer.com)**
  - Here is a Thursday evening update of some of the notable fires burning in Interior Alaska:
  - **Tozitna Fire** — The lightning-caused fire near Tanana is still estimated at about 33,000 acres. Fire crews are attempting to set an indirect line on the fire and continue structure protection. Air support has been unavailable due to excessive smoke. The nearby Spicer Creek Fire is also still estimated at 21,000 acres.
- **Rex Complex Fires** — The two fires in the complex down the Parks Highway near the area of Anderson grew to total of 16,257 acres on Wednesday, and there are more than 400 people responding to the fire. The fire threatens 20 structures. Four others have been destroyed.
- **Bear Creek Fire** — At 60,155 acres, this fire inside Denali National Park and Preserve became the largest wildfire in the state overnight as of Thursday morning. The fire isn't being fought, but a helicopter crew surveyed it Wednesday. It's about 4 miles from the Kantishna Lodge near the end of the Park Road.
  - **Baker Fire** — The lightning-caused fire is still estimated at 1,800 acres outside the Baker Subdivision in Eureka. A dozer line was cleared around several structures on the west side of the highway. Evacuation recommendations are still in place and smokejumpers continue with structure protection.
  - **Anaconda Creek Fire** — The lightning-caused fire about 8 miles north of 27 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road is at about 2,100 acres. A flyover of the fire was planned Thursday evening to get more accurate mapping. About 140 personnel are assigned to the fire but have not yet arrived at the fire.
  - **Aggie Creek Fire** — The lightning-caused fire's growth was slowed by the heavy cloud of smoke surrounding it. It's size is estimated at about 12,189 acres. The fire has jumped the highway between 33 Mile and 36 Mile Elliott Highway, and motorists are warned to be cautious and reduce speeds to 35-40 miles per hour.

- Hayes Creek Fire — The human-caused fire near the Himalaya Subdivision off the Elliott Highway was hit hard on Tuesday with water and dozer lines and was in monitor status Thursday. It was reported at 1.4 acres with no acreage gains.
- Railroad 364.5 Fire — This 20-acre fire 5 miles north of Nenana saw no growth on Thursday. A crew of 60 firefighters was reduced to 40 firefighters and worked to build a line around the fire.
- Long Lake Fire — The fire grew by about 1,500 acres between Wednesday and Thursday. Progress is being made on battling the 18,550-acre human-caused fire to keep it from reaching the Alaska Highway community of Northway. There are 89 firefighters working to establish a fire line on the north end of the blaze. About 15 minor structures are threatened by the fire.
- Healy Lake Fire — The lightning-caused fire is estimated at 9,473 acres. The fire on the north side of the Tanana River 25 miles east of Delta Junction remained at 25 percent contained and crews have been continuing structure protection as well as working with archaeologists to protect cultural resources.
- Nulato Fire — This fire triggered the evacuation of about 100 people in the village of Nualto. As of Thursday other residents remained in town and a crew of 103 firefighters were working to protect buildings in the fire, which had spread to 20,000 acres.
- Rainbow Fire— The 12,500-acre Rainbow Fire is burning northeast of Fort Yukon in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Lightning started the fire on Wednesday. The fire is being monitored.

# Rain this weekend does not mean fires are over - June 27

🕒 June 27, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](#) on Rain this weekend does not mean fires are over

June 27, 2015

“There’s been rain! Does that mean the fires are over and I can use my charcoal grill this weekend?”

This is a common question received by the Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center since rain moved into the area beginning yesterday. The rains this weekend are providing a brief slow-down in fire activity. Any diminished fire activity due to rain will be short-lived. Fuel conditions across the state are still very dry overall. Any moisture gained during these weekend rains will become a minimal factor as vegetation dries out very quickly when the rain stops. That means that existing fires will come back to life, and the possibility of new fire starts and growth on existing fires may pose serious threats once again.

Fire managers are very grateful for the rain because it has allowed them extra time to make long-term plans and move firefighters, aircraft, and supplies to different areas around the state. However, the small, intermittent amounts of rain that have fallen do not mean the fires and fire season are over. Extended-duration precipitation in late summer or fall will be what it takes to end fire season.

Precipitation amounts have varied across the state. Some areas have received true, wetting rain up to an inch. However, other locations nearby these rain-soaked areas have received little to none. The driest portions of the state are generally to the north and west of a line from Eagle to Tanana to Aniak; in addition there are pockets of dry land throughout the interior.

In areas that have not received larger amounts of rain, fires will burn actively today. There will be subdued fire behavior for much of the central Interior and South Central, but fire activity is expected to continue in portions of the Copper River Basin and south of Tok.

So, what can you do? Do not see this rainy weekend as an opportunity to utilize grills and start fires that could smolder and flare up again when the sun comes out. There is a burn closure in effect on all state, private and municipal lands throughout Alaska, with the exception of the North Slope. The state closure pertains to all open burning, including campfires, burn barrels, debris burning and charcoal grills, even in established fire rings or grills. Gas grills and backpacking or camps stoves that use fuel or compressed canisters that can be regulated and shut off are still permitted for use. For more information, visit <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/publicnote.cfm>.

Regulations on open fires on federal lands throughout the state vary by specific location. For a list of some of these closures and suspensions, please visit

<http://akfireinfo.com/2015/06/24/updated-alaska-burn-restrictions-and-closures/>. When in doubt, contact the agency in charge of the land you want to visit for current, specific information.

**It is everyone's responsibility to remain extremely aware and fire safe.**

# Southwest Area Fire update - July 5

🕒 July 5, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Southwest Area Fire update, July 5

## FIRE REPORT, SOUTHWEST AREA, July 5, 2015

**Contact:** Francis Mitchell, Public Information Officer, SW Area, Div. of Forestry  
Ph 907 524 0064 [fireinfoSWS@gmail.com](mailto:fireinfoSWS@gmail.com)

**During the next four days, there will be no daily press release fire reports for Southwest because the Public Information Officer will be off-duty. You can expect another report on Friday, July 10th.**

### ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

Six crews and 8 smokejumpers are engaged with fire suppression and site protection actions on the north and south sides of the Kuskokwim River between Aniak, Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. Fire 229-Whitefish1, south of the river is estimated now at 57,000 acres. Fire 547-North Aniak, is estimated to be 51,000 acres. The crews assigned to these fires and staged out of Aniak are the Kalskag village crew, Gannett Glacier T2 IA, and four Hotshot crews: Idaho Panhandle, Flathead, Bitterroot and the newly arrived Payson crew.

A squad from the Payson Hotshots has relieved six Helitak personnel who had initiated site protection work near Fire 596 –Ophir Creek which has been moving toward the remote home of a woman who has lived there for many years.

The 8 smokejumpers working site protection on structures near Fire 413 –Paul’s Creek, north of King Salmon are completing their work. The fire will be monitored by aircraft as weather permits. Additional rain is expected during the next few days.

The Kentucky Type 2 IA crew is mopping up at Fire 624 –Mishevik, south of Tuluksak, gridding the interior of the fire for hotspots and extinguishing them.

The site protection planning and staging of protective equipment at Takotna has been completed and the two Miller Timber Services contract crews will be reassigned.

The Nikolai crew is completing spruce thinning near the village of Nikolai.

# Baker Fire update - July 7

🕒 July 7, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](#) on Baker Fire update, July 7

## Baker Fire Update

**Tuesday, July 7, 2015—12:00pm**

Baker Fire #456, North Fork Fire #457 and the Beauty Fire #551 are being administratively managed together as the Baker Fire. All three fires lie to the north of Baker Creek and the Elliott Highway, between mileposts 131 & 137, and south of New York Creek. The combined acreage of these fires is approximately 14,128 acres. An infrared flight was conducted early Tuesday, however additional growth occurred after the mapping was completed.

The Baker Fire saw increased fire activity on Monday. With the southeast winds, the fire grew significantly on the northern flanks. As of 11:00 pm Monday night, the fire had worked its way into the upper portions of the Chicago Creek drainage, and into Omega Creek. A helicopter with bucket was used to cool down the fire in that area.

Winds will shift today and will be out of the west, possibly causing growth on the eastern edge of the Baker Fire. However, the increased smoke, higher humidity, and light rain in the area may limit fire spread.

Residents of the Baker Creek/Eureka area that have been under a voluntary evacuation notice, will be advised today of the possibility that burnout operations may be conducted in the next several days, if fire and weather conditions warrant it. The fire is still approximately 1.5 miles from the closest structure along the Elliott Highway.

The #456 Fire, which is the small fire located to the southwest of the main fire also showed continued signs of growth, mostly in a westerly direction. At its closest point, it is approximately 1.75 miles from the Tofty Road. It is not posing any threat to structures at this time, and will continue to be monitored.

The Beauty Fire showed some signs of fire activity within the interior of the fire, during reconnaissance flights Monday evening, and it remains in a patrol/monitor status.

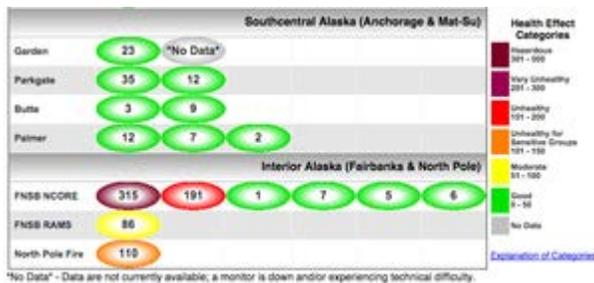
Due to the increased fire activity on the Hay Slough Fire near Fish Lake, a Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered and will be arriving in Manley Hot Springs over the next several days. This team will take control of the Hay Slough Fire and the Baker Fire. Resources currently assigned to the Baker Fire will continue with the ongoing structure protection work, and new resources will be ordered to manage and support the Hay Slough Fire. Expect to see an increase of fire personnel and equipment along the Elliott Highway, the Tofty Road and in Manley Hot Springs.

# Interior Alaska wildfires blow up in near-record temperatures - July 7



## Smoky Fairbanks

Heavy smoke from area wildfires drifted into Fairbanks Tuesday morning, reducing visibility and lowering the air quality to unhealthy levels.





Posted: Tuesday, July 7, 2015 11:41 am | Updated: 6:55 pm, Tue Jul 7, 2015.

**Interior Alaska wildfires blow up in near-record temperatures** By Robin Wood, [rwood@newsminer.com](mailto:rwood@newsminer.com)

FAIRBANKS—Near-record temperatures earlier this week brought Alaska's fire season back into full swing. Officials expected the uptick in fire activity, which followed a cool stretch with some rain that allowed crews to hold or make progress on some fires. More than 3.1 million acres have burned in Alaska as of Tuesday, and thick smoke pushed the air quality index to "hazardous" in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. If the trend continues, Alaska will likely set a new record for total acres burned in a summer, passing the 6.6 million mark in 2004.

The Tanana zone continues to be one of the most dynamic and unknown situations in Alaska. Winds reached 40 mph throughout Tuesday morning, resulting in big fire growth and the merger of Tozitna and Spicer Creek fires. Officials can't estimate the fire's size because of extreme smoke in the area.

Crews had to "jump on" fire activity near Tanana's airport, according to Kale Casey, a public information officer at the Joint Information Center on Fort Wainwright.

The Hay Slough Fire southeast of Tanana pushed approximately 3 miles north and now totals more than 40,000 acres. Thirty-five miles south of Tanana, the 25,522-acre Lloyd Fire exhibited extreme fire danger on Monday, forcing crews to pull back.

More than one dozen fires are in the vicinity of Tanana. Even though only a few are near the town's boundaries, Casey said, "They're gonna be in smoke for a long time."

Smoke is proving to be a huge logistical issue, he said. Managers must be extra diligent not to put crews where they can't resupply or extract them, and surveys become impossible.

"They're (managers) not gonna put people into an area with extreme fire danger if they can't support them," Casey said.

Even on established runways smoke is an issue — a plane with fire crews was rerouted from Fort Wainwright to Fairbanks International Airport on Tuesday because of smoke.

Smoke and flames were visible from Milepost 290 of the Parks Highway because of a flare-up in the Fish Creek Fire, part of the multiple-fire Rex Complex. The fire increased more than 100 acres on the northwest corner, threatening one structure. The command center at Anderson School also was powerless for a period of time after a semi truck clipped a transformer.

Three large plumes of smoke rose from the nearly 17,000-acre Aggie Creek Fire on Monday night, during which time air tankers dropped retardant loads on the fire for four hours. Recommended evacuations were lifted Tuesday for the Tatalina Subdivision and Globe Creek camp. Because of the fire's proximity to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, Elliott Highway and structures, 641 personnel have been assigned to the blaze.

"In the last week, even with the rain, we've doubled the number of people on that fire," Casey said.

Crew numbers have also grown in Nulato and now total 212. The Nulato Fire is active on northeast and southwest flanks, but progress is being made with fire breaks, as wide as 300 feet in some areas.

Hot and dry weather reignited already-burned portions of the West Fork Fire out Chena Hot Springs Road. That fire had been placed in monitor status, but six smokejumpers and the Alaska-based Pioneer Peaks hot shot crew were called upon to hold containment.

Two highly specialized crews called "fire-use modules" were dispatched to the 2,742-acre Deep Creek Fire, 2.5 miles south of Lake Minchumina. The modules are working to protect six structures. "These guys and gals are specifically trained to really interface with fire, push fire in a certain direction." Casey said.

Depending on winds, smoke is expected to linger around Fairbanks at least through Wednesday. Temperatures are expected to be in the low 70s, but minimal rain is forecast.

"The smoke will probably be continuing for the next several days," said Joe Kryston, a forecaster at the National Weather Service.

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Alaska's worst fire seasons, by millions of acres burned

6.6 million in 2004

5 million in 1939 and 1957

4.65 million in 2005

4.5 million in 1940

4.23 million in 1969

3.65 million in 1941

3.2 million in 1990

**3.1 million in 2015**

2.93 million in 2009

2.3 million in 1977

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Contact staff writer Robin Wood at 459-7510. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMcity.

# Lake Minchumina Structure Protection update - July 7

🕒 July 7, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](#) on Lake Minchumina Structure Protection update, July 7

## **Lake Minchumina Structure Protection**

**July 7, 2015 @ 4:30 PM**  
**Alaska Joint Information Center**

Hot and dry weather over the past two days caused fires throughout interior Alaska to become more active. The 2,742-acre Deep Creek Fire #669 lies 1.5 miles southwest of the lake, while the 13,823-acre Carlson Lake Fire #635 lies 3.5 miles southeast it. Firefighters have established firelines in the vicinity of Lake Minchumina, Alaska, to protect structures near the lake.

The Whiskeytown Fire Use Module from northern California and White River Wildland Fire Module out of Rifle, Colorado; along with Alaskan smokejumpers have established firelines and are providing protection to structures around the lake. Fire Use Modules are eight to ten-person teams specialized in managing fires in remote areas.

# Anaconda Creek Fire and West Fork Fire update - July 9

🕒 July 9, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](#) on Anaconda Creek Fire and West Fork Fire update, July 9

**Thursday July 9, 2015**  
**Karen Scholl, Incident Commander**  
**Abe Davis, Incident Commander Trainee**

## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4321/>

**Facebook:** Anaconda Creek Fire

**E-mail:** [anacondacreekfire@gmail.com](mailto:anacondacreekfire@gmail.com)

### **West Fork Fire:**

Pioneer Peak Hotshots continued to work interior heat yesterday. Hot spots smoldering in thick duff layered on top of shale have potential to creep out of the interior. If left unchecked this heat could challenge containment lines in the future. Pioneer Peak plans on mopping up this area through Saturday.

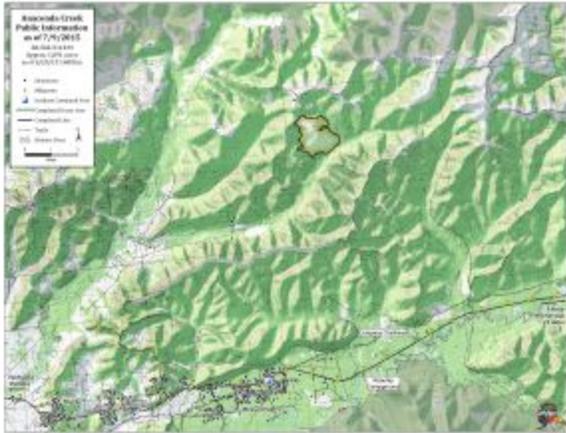
### **Anaconda Creek Fire:**

Yesterday the UAF Nanooks hand crew was able to build the last piece of line necessary to attain 100% containment. The Nanooks were also dedicated to mopping up any remaining heat. Today firefighters will prepare back-haul and facilitate its removal. Once operations are complete personnel will be released.

There was cloud cover and smoke across the fire area yesterday. Weather for the next several days should be similar to yesterday with slightly lower relative humidity and higher temperatures. Fuels remain dry and available to burn; no critical fire weather is forecasted.

All trails north of Chena Hot Springs Road in the Chena River State Recreation Area are planned for reopening Friday June 10 at 8:00 am. All trails south of Chena Hot Springs Road are open. Chena Hot Springs and local businesses also remain open. For more information about closures please contact Brooks Ludwig at (907) 451-2698, or [brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov](mailto:brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov).

Temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect over the Anaconda Creek Fire. The West Fork TFR has been lifted. Pilots are advised to visit <http://www.pilotweb.nas.faa.gov> to view these Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs), and additional TFRs also in place across Alaska.



### **Trails and cabins to reopen in Chena River State Recreation Area**

Trails and cabins on the north side of Chena Hot Springs Road will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, July 10 due to significant progress by fire crews this week in containing the Anaconda Creek Fire as well as a forecast for cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity and the chance of rain. As of Friday, all State Park facilities within the recreational area will be open to the public.

Waiting to reopen the cabins and trails on the north side will give firefighters time to finish mopping up and demobilizing. Although the fire is largely contained, visitors may see smoke for weeks within the burned area.

The Division of Forestry Fairbanks Area is continuing to monitor this fire even though firefighting efforts are ending and asks the public to stay out of the burned area. Fire-weakened trees can fall and cause injury without warning.

**CONTACT:** Brooks Ludwig, 451-2698, [brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov](mailto:brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov)

# Galena Zone Fires update - July 9

🕒 July 9, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Galena Zone Fires update, July 9

**Contact: Public Information Officer: Peri Suenram**  
**Phone: 907-987-9838**

**What:** Galena Zone Fires

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** A series of fires are located on both sides of the Yukon River within the Galena Fire Management Zone and the western end of the Tanana Zone, stretching over 150 river miles from east to west. The major firefighting efforts at this time are concentrated on 3 fires on the south side of the Yukon River near the village of Ruby and on 1 fire near the village of Nulato.

**Fire Names:** The following fires are now being reported in the daily Incident Status Summary (ICS-209) as “Middle Yukon Fires”: Nulato #458 (39548 acres), Ruby Slough #423 (49 acres), Bruno Creek #479 (13480 acres), and Big Creek Two #533 (283760 acres). The Eldorado #576, Kaiyuh #351, and Sulatna #429 fires are in a monitoring status.

**Size:** Approximately 337,000 acres.

## CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AT GALENA FIRES

**Nulato Fires:** Twenty five buckets of water were dropped on the eastern flank of the Nulato fire on Wednesday, taking advantage of the moderate weather to subdue any lingering fire. Community and structure protection work is completed in Nulato and Koyukuk and will be left in place for contingency actions. The Nulato 1 crew will be retained in the area to secure suppression efforts.

**Ruby Fires:** Wednesday was a relatively slow fire day in the area. A reconnaissance flight confirmed the Big Creek Two, Flint Creek, and Lost River Fires burned together. GPS was used to refine the mapping of the perimeter estimating the fire size to now be nearly 284,000 acres. Firefighters reconned the south end of Poorman Road and worked to hold and maintain site protection. The Ruby firefighting crew was hired on Wednesday to staff local fires. Crews at the Quinn, Smith Slough, FWS Admin, and Atchley Cabins were re-supplied and are working to complete structure protection. Structure assessment and protection activities are continuing along the Yukon and Nowitna River banks and will be prioritized based on projected fire progression. To date, structure protection has been accomplished on approximately 18 of the nearly 60 remote structures. The public is urged to limit travel on Poorman Road, which is experiencing active fire, to minimize conflicts with the firefighting forces.

**Other Galena Zone Fires:** The Galena Zone BLM personnel are closely monitoring other fires in the zone. Structure protection plans are in place for any fires that threaten private property.

**There is a Notice to Airmen in effect for a 25 mile radius around the village of Ruby. For other areas, please see and avoid air traffic around fires.**

**Weather:** Humidity will be in the 40% range today. Isolated showers and isolated thunderstorms are possible along the thermal trough that has set up over the Alaska interior and will remain in place through Saturday. Gusty winds around thunderstorms may cause erratic fire behavior.

**Contact Us:** [galenafires2015@gmail.com](mailto:galenafires2015@gmail.com) or <http://inciweb.gov/incident/4327/>



# BLM Closes Nome Creek Valley again update - July 11

July 11, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on BLM Closes Nome Creek Valley again update, July 11

## Fairbanks District Office

**July 11, 2015 Release No. AK15-30**  
**For Immediate Release Contact: Craig McCaa**  
**907-474-2231**

### BLM Closes Nome Creek Valley Again After Strong Winds Rekindle U.S. Creek Fire

**FAIRBANKS, AK** — Strong winds and hot, dry weather rekindled the U.S. Creek Fire on Saturday afternoon, forcing the Bureau of Land Management's Eastern Interior Field Office to close the Nome Creek valley in the White Mountains National Recreation Area for a second time this summer. The Nome Creek valley includes the Mt. Prindle and Ophir Creek campgrounds, Nome Creek Road, Table Top Mountain and Quartz Creek trails, and the put-in for Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River.

The closure took effect at 5 p.m. today. Yesterday the BLM had reopened Nome Creek valley after a period of cooler weather and rain resulted in minimal fire activity in the area.

The western portion of the White Mountains (Wickersham Dome area) also remains closed due to the Aggie Creek Fire. Information on other Alaska wildland fires and BLM's temporary fire restrictions may be found at <http://akfireinfo.com>.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Eastern Interior Field Office**  
**1150 University Avenue**

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

## TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER

July 11, 2015

### Nome Creek Valley in the White Mountains National Recreation Area

**Location:** Nome Creek valley in the White Mountains National Recreation Area, Alaska: Township 6 North, Range 3 East, Sections 1 and 2, 11-14, and 23-26 ; Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Sections 1-30; Township 6 North, Range 5 East, Sections 1-30 ; Township 6 North, Range 6 East, Sections 5-8 , 17-20, 29-30; Fairbanks Meridian.  
**Order:** Effective at 5:00pm, July 11, 2015, the above BLM public lands will be temporarily closed to all public access for public safety and emergency wildland fire suppression operations.

**Dates:** This temporary closure on public access to the Nome Creek valley will remain in effect from July 11, 2015, until such time as public health and safety are no longer at risk due to wildland fire incidents on public lands in and adjacent to the closure area. The BLM will provide appropriate public notification when public access restrictions are lifted for the area.

**Supplemental Information:** The temporary closure order will be posted at the major entry points to the closure area at Mile 42 and Mile 57 Steese Highway. The closure will be enforced by wildland fire suppression and law enforcement personnel. Copies of the closure order and maps of the closed area will be available at the BLM Fairbanks District Office. The closure will also be publicized on the BLM website and distributed to local government agencies and media contacts.

**Rationale:** The purpose of this temporary public access restriction is to minimize risks to public health and safety from an active wildland fire incident occurring in the vicinity of US Creek. This incident was started by lightning on June 22. Current extreme fire conditions and Red Flag warnings have created the possibility of further fire spread, possibly cutting off the only road access to Nome Creek valley. During the temporary closure, the BLM may utilize facilities in the Nome Creek valley as base camps for wildland fire suppression operations.

**Penalties:** This temporary closure order has been implemented under the authority of Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), and 43 CFR 9268.3(d). Any person who violates the above restriction order may be issued a citation, tried before a United States Magistrate, and fined no more than \$1,000, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571 and 3581.

###

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral

estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

# Alaska wildfires still growing, now fifth worst year on record - July 13



National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

## Aggie Creek Fire

Helicopters on the Aggie Creek Fire in this Saturday, July 11, 2015 photo provided by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Posted: Monday, July 13, 2015 6:11 pm | Updated: 4:24 pm, Tue Jul 14, 2015.

**Alaska wildfires still growing, now fifth worst year on record** By Robin Wood, [rwood@newsminer.com](mailto:rwood@newsminer.com)

FAIRBANKS—More than 4.44 million acres had burned in Alaska as of Monday morning, making 2015 the fifth worst fire season in Alaska's history, right behind 2005 when 4.65 million acres burned.

And the season isn't over.

Acreage gains during the weekend were described as "significant" by fire officials.

Winds have kept skies clear in Fairbanks recently, but Nome and Tanana are reported to have heavy smoke due to Tanana- and Galena-zone fires.

Extreme fire behavior and 60- to 80-foot flames from the Blair Fire produced a towering column of smoke northwest of Delta Junction on Sunday. The fire is estimated to have grown 3,000 to 4,000 acres and now totals 30,082 acres, but structure protection in the Clear Creek community has been completed.

"In terms of activity, that was a big one for the area," said Kale Casey, public information officer at the Joint Information Center on Fort Wainwright.

Many fires remained active or grew over the weekend, while rain and humidity tempered others.

The Aggie Creek Fire grew by about 3,200 acres on Sunday and now totals 31,755 acres. Control measures continue on the south and northwest, but no additional burnouts occurred Sunday. A miles-long burnout was done adjacent to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline system last week. The fire is 37 percent contained with 495 personnel on the scene.

The western portion of the White Mountains National Recreation Area, or the Wickersham Dome area, remains closed due to the Aggie Creek Fire.

The Nome Creek Valley in the eastern White Mountains has been closed for the second time this summer due to the 459-acre U.S. Creek Fire. The valley includes Mount Prindle and Ophir Creek campgrounds, Nome Creek Road, Table Top Mountain and Quartz Creek Trails and the put-in for Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River.

The 74,340-acre Hay Slough Fire in the Manley area continues to threaten structures and mining operations as it burns with single- and group-tree torching. Also in the Manley area, favorable weather and burnouts continued Monday on the 21,815-acre Baker Fire, about 14 miles southwest of Manley Hot Springs.

All fires in the Tanana area were expected to grow moderately Monday night. Seven miles from Tanana, the Spicer Creek Fire continues to creep toward the village.

Fighting fires takes extensive resources, and fire warehouses in Fairbanks and Palmer have been busy keeping up with equipment demands. Enough fire hose has been processed to stretch the 360 miles from Anchorage to Fairbanks, plus an additional 100 miles to reach Delta Junction.

As of July 10, the warehouses had filled 11,000 5-gallon water containers and processed 11,700 cases of meals ready to eat, 3,000 sleeping bags, 1,300 chainsaws, 11,100 quarts of chainsaw bar oil, 336,600 AA batteries and 4,100 cans of bug repellent. At one point, warehouses almost ran out of MREs.

Firefighters may receive a weather reprieve the next few days as the possibility of showers continues in the Interior. National Weather Service meteorologist Nick Schwartz said there's a good chance many places in the Interior will receive some wetting rains, with isolated thunder showers possible. Wetting rains are anything more than one-tenth of an inch.

After Wednesday the chance of rain diminishes and highs should increase back into the 70s.

*Contact staff writer Robin Wood at 459-7510. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMcity.*

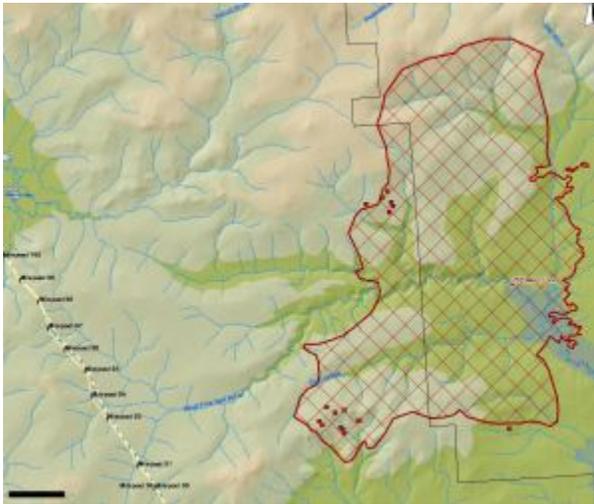
# Yukon Flats wildland fire roundup Monday - July 13

July 13, 2015 by [piosamharrel](#) on Yukon Flats wildland fire roundup Monday, July 13

**1 p.m. — A roundup of fires in the Yukon Flats area that have updated information from Sunday.**

**#363 West Fork:** 63,802.1 acres. Lightning on 6/19-128 miles southwest of Fort Yukon, 32 miles northwest of Stevens Village

07/12 Sunday: The fire is approximately 5.5 miles east of the Dalton Highway near MP 91. Road updates are available on [511.alaska.gov](http://511.alaska.gov). An increase of 2,274.3 acres was reported.



07/11 Saturday: No new update per the AICC Situation Report.

07/10 Friday: Fire activity was minimal with creeping and backing reported. Recent rains have helped keep fire spread to a minimum. Fire spread is expected on the west and SW portions of the perimeter. Increase in acreage reflects more accurate mapping. Fire is in monitor status.

07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be smoldering and 30 percent active on the south side and 20 percent active on the northwest side. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: No new update.

07/06 Monday: An increase of 5,708.9 acres was reported.

07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 80% active with backing, running, torching, and continuous crowning. Fire is in monitor status.

07/04 Saturday: No new update.

07/03 Friday: Reconnaissance reported the fire be 60% active and backing to the southwest. An increase in acreage was reported. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/02 Thursday: No new update.

07/01 Wednesday: Active fire behavior with torching and backing observed. There is activity along all of perimeter and continued growth to the southwest. An increase in acreage was reported. Fire is in monitor status.

**#592 Chahalie Lake:** 56,834 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/23-10 miles north of Chalkyitsik

07/12 Sunday: Continuing patrol and mop-up with a focus on the interior south side. Six smokejumpers were demobilized. An increase of 51,277.6 acres was reported

07/11 Saturday: Fire behavior was minimal with smoldering reported. The Fort Yukon #1 crew continues to work the south flank where there is interior heat.

07/10 Friday: A new helispot was added on the fire. The southwest perimeter is the current area of focus. The Fort Yukon #1 Crew continues to staff the fire.

07/09 Thursday: Fire behavior was minimal with smoldering reported. Winds on Monday night pushed the northwest and southwest corners of the fire to the northwest for an additional 1,000 acres. The fire received 1/5 inches of rain on Wednesday, so minimal spread is expected. Some overhead swapping occurred Thursday. There were nine additional jumpers were put on the fire. The fire was reconned today and only a couple smokes were showing on the interior. Resources are working to secure the southern flank. The Fort Yukon Crew is working the east side while smokejumpers are securing the southern flank to prevent the fire from threatening Chalkyitsik.

07/08 Wednesday: Fire behavior was minimal with creeping and smoldering reported. The fire is 40 percent contained. The containment lines are expected to hold and no significant growth is expected. The transition of Incident Commanders is planned.

07/07 Tuesday: Firefighters continued mop-up operations. Fire activity did increase on Monday due to winds, high temps, and low relative humidities. The fire received 2 inches of rain on Tuesday. There is very low visibility because of smoke around the fire making resupply for the firefighters difficult.

07/06 Monday: Fire activity picked up in the evening with a wind change. Growth is expected to the southwest. Firefighters continue to reinforce containment lines.

07/05 Sunday: Fire was active Sunday with crowning, running, and smoldering reported. Crews made good progress on both flanks, even though there were flare-ups on both the northwest side and the east side. There is no significant growth expected.

07/04 Saturday: Moderate fire behavior with isolated torching and backing was reported. Firefighters are working on both the west and east flanks. Flare ups are reported due to hotter and drier weather.

07/03 Friday: Fire is reported to be smoldering. The southwest winds are keeping the fire in check, but are drying fuels potentially resulting in increased fire behavior over the next three days.

07/02 Thursday: Fort Yukon #1 split into two squads, one working the west and the other working the east side of the southern flank. Two miles of hose lay were completed and will be continued Friday. Minimal fire behavior was reported. A reduction in acreage is due to better mapping.

07/01 Wednesday: Fort Yukon #1 arrived on the fire and began their work.

06/30 Tuesday: Fort Yukon #1 Type 2 Crew is mobilizing to deploy to the fire. Fuel cache set up in Chalkyitsik for air operations. Acreage increase due to new mapping.

**#568 Mt. Schwatka:** 11,674.3 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/23-74 miles southwest of Fort Yukon

07/12 Sunday: An increase of 8,144.5 acres was reported.

07/11 Saturday: No new update.

07/10 Friday: Increase in acreage due to more accurate mapping. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reports that this fire was 30 percent active with smoldering on

the west end. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: No new update.

07/06 Monday: An increase of 430 acres was reported.

07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 30% active with smoldering. Fire is in monitor status.

07/04 Saturday: No new update.

07/03 Friday: A reconnaissance flight reported the fire to be 5% active on the southwest corner and backing in spruce. No smokes were visible in the interior portion of the fire. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/02 Thursday: No new update.

07/01 Wednesday: Minimal fire behavior is reported. Fire remains in monitor status.

06/30 Tuesday: New mapping added to the acreage.

**#536 Hamlin Creek:** 27,273 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/22-five miles south of Stevens Village

07/12 Sunday: An increase of 8,109.8 acres was reported

07/11 Saturday: No new update.

07/10 Friday: Increase in acreage due to more accurate mapping. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reports that this fire was 60 percent active and smoldering. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: No new update.

07/06 Monday: An increase of 135.8 acres was reported.

07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 50% active. The activity was along the entire southern side and east flank. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/04 Saturday: No new update.

07/03 Friday: Fire is reported to be most active on the northwest corner and east flanks. Fire remains in monitor status.

07/02 Thursday: No new update.

07/01 Wednesday: No new update.

06/30 Tuesday: Acreage increase reflects more accurate mapping.

# Manley Area Fires; update - July 15

🕒 July 15, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter.com) on Manley Area Fires; update July 15

## Manley Area Fires

### Fire Update – July 15, 2015

#### Fire Information (907) 672-3202

**Approximate Acreage:** Baker – 26,999 Hay Slough – 84,567

**Incident Commander:** Shane Greer

**Start Date:** June 21, 2015

**Cause:** Lightning

**Total Personnel:** 238

**Structures Lost:** 0

**Jurisdiction:** Alaska Fire Service

**Cooperators:** Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

#### **Baker Fire**

**Yesterday:** Crews conducted mop-up operations along the Elliott highway and in the Eureka areas. Areas of the Baker Fire received precipitation. Along with cooler temperatures, new fire growth was minimal. Interior forest fuels continued smoldering with local hot spots. Approximately 29 acres were burned. Fire perimeter measures 51 miles in length.

**Today:** Continued cooler temperatures and precipitation are forecasted and expected to moderate fire behavior. Crews will continue to mop-up existing fire-lines on the north, east, and south. Back haul operations of hose and pumps put in place for structure protections will begin where feasible. Thick fog is possible along the Elliott Highway.

#### **Hay Slough Fire**

**Yesterday:** Fire perimeter continued growing north towards the Yukon river, past Fish Lake to the east, and towards the Tanana river to the south, southwest. Backing fire with one-foot flame lengths were observed in more sheltered areas. Approximately 1,514 acres were burned. The fire perimeter measures 200 miles in length. Good progress was made with structure protection operations. Sections of the fire received precipitation.

**Today:** Low fire behavior is expected with cooler temperatures and precipitation forecasted. Two engines and a fire module crew with 10 firefighters will be conducting structure protection and gather intelligence about values at risk in the area.

## **Manley Area Fire Information**

**Phone:** (907) 672-3202

**Email:** manleyareafires@gmail.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/people/Manley-Area-Fires/100009991115926

**InciWeb:** <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4338/>

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4374/>

For information about fires across Alaska: Phone: (907) 356-5511

Web: <http://akfireinfo.com/>

# Yukon Flats wildland fire roundup Thursday - July 16

🕒 July 16, 2015 by [piosamharrel](#) on Yukon Flats wildland fire roundup Thursday, July 16

**11 a.m. — A roundup of fires in the Yukon Flats area that have updated information from Tuesday.**

**#363 West Fork:** 66,593.1 acres. Lightning on 6/19-128 miles southwest of Fort Yukon, 32 miles northwest of Stevens Village

07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported the fire to be smoldering and 50 percent active on sides. An increase of 1,209.1 acres was reported. The fire remains approximately 5 miles east of the Dalton Highway near milepost 91. Drivers should use caution when driving the Dalton Highway between MP 85-100. Drive with headlights on in areas of smoke because of poor air quality and visibility. Road updates are available on [511.alaska.gov](http://511.alaska.gov).



07/14 Tuesday: Another acreage increase was reported. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/13 Monday: A new perimeter map reports a 297 acre increase.

07/12 Sunday: An increase of 2,274.3 acres was reported.

07/11 Saturday: No new update per the AICC Situation Report.

07/10 Friday: Fire activity was minimal with creeping and backing reported. Recent rains have helped keep fire spread to a minimum. Fire spread is expected on the west and SW portions of the perimeter. Increase in acreage reflects more accurate mapping. Fire is in monitor status.

07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be smoldering and 30 percent active on the south side and 20 percent active on the northwest side. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: No new update.

07/06 Monday: An increase of 5,708.9 acres was reported.

07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 80% active with backing, running, torching, and continuous crowning. Fire is in monitor status.

**#608 Rainbow:** 13,574 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/24- 45 miles north of Chalkyitsik, 73 miles northwest of Fort Yukon

07/15 Wednesday: Fire was observed to have minimal activity with smoldering. It has increased by 500 acres on the southeast side.

07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/13 Monday: No new update.

07/12 Sunday: No new update.

07/11 Saturday: No new update.

07/10 Friday: No new update.

07/09 Thursday: No new update.

07/08 Wednesday: An increase of 656.1 acres was reported.

07/06 Monday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 20% active. Fire is in monitor status.

07/05 Sunday: No new update.

**#604 Christian River #2:** 15,058.1 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/23-60 miles north of Fort Yukon. This fire has burned together with #605 Christian River #3 Fire.

07/15 Wednesday: The fire was reported to have minimal creeping and smoldering with some smoke showing. Light precipitation in the area was also reported.

07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/13 Monday: No new update.

07/12 Sunday: No new update.

07/11 Saturday: No new update.

07/10 Friday: The fire was flown and appeared to be 5% active, burning in white spruce. Fire behavior was minimal with creeping and smoldering. Minimal growth is expected. The fire continues to be in monitor status. Fire acreage increased (note, fire now also includes #605 Christian River #3).

07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reports that this fire has burned together with #605 Christian River #3.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: An increase of 1,338.5 acres was reported.

07/06 Monday: Reconnaissance reported one interior smoke showing on the north end. Fire is in monitor status.

07/05 Sunday: No new update.

**#589 Halfway:** 209.7 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/23-31 miles southeast of Fort Yukon

07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported the fire to be one percent active with smoldering in white spruce on the east side. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/13 Monday: No new update.

07/12 Sunday: No new update.

07/11 Saturday: The fire was flown and was found to be 0% active with no smoke showing. It remains in monitor status. No acreage change was reported.

07/10 Friday: No new update.  
07/09 Thursday: An increase of 209.2 acres was reported.  
07/08 Wednesday: No new update.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: Two MODIS dots indicating activity on this fire were discovered via satellite. The fire was mistakenly declared out on 6/30. A reconnaissance mission will fly the fire for an update.  
**#536 Hamlin Creek:** 27,273 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/22-five miles south of Stevens Village  
07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported the fire had a 50 percent active perimeter, smoldering in white spruce and hardwoods. The fire has grown in the middle of the eastern side.  
07/14 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/13 Monday: No new update.  
07/12 Sunday: An increase of 8,109.8 acres was reported  
07/11 Saturday: No new update.  
07/10 Friday: Increase in acreage due to more accurate mapping. Fire remains in monitor status.  
07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reports that this fire was 60 percent active and smoldering. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/08 Wednesday: No new update.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: An increase of 135.8 acres was reported.  
07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire to be 50% active. The activity was along the entire southern side and east flank. The fire remains in monitor status.

**#512 White Lake:** 6,103.7 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/22-45 miles north of Fort Yukon  
07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported minimal fire activity with smoldering. No smoke has been visible for the last three days. Light precipitation has been reported in the area. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/14 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/13 Monday: No new update.  
07/12 Sunday: No new update.  
07/11 Saturday: No new update.  
07/10 Friday: The fire was flown and no smoke was showing. It remains in monitor status.  
07/09 Thursday: No new update.  
07/08 Wednesday: A decrease of 16,462.3 acres is due to better mapping.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: Reconnaissance reported two smoldering spots with smoke showing from each. Fire is in monitor status.  
07/05 Sunday: No new update.  
07/04 Saturday: No new update.

**#480 Hardpac Creek:** 60,763.1 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/21-100 miles west of Fort Yukon  
07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reports the fire as two percent active, smoldering white spruce on the south central perimeter. Smoke was visible from four areas in the interior.  
07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/13 Monday: No new update.  
07/12 Sunday: No new update.  
07/11 Saturday: No new update.  
07/10 Friday: Increase in acreage due to more accurate mapping. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reported no visible smoke. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/08 Wednesday: No new update.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: A 3,767.3 decrease in acreage was due to better mapping.  
07/05 Sunday: Fire reconnaissance reported a 6% active perimeter with smoldering, creeping, backing, and group torching. Fire is in monitor status.

**#428 Crazy Slough:** 8,019.8 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/20-27 miles west of Fort Yukon

07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported the perimeter was 100 percent active and smoldering in white spruce. The fire was reported to be three miles west of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's camp in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. No change in size was noted. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/14 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/13 Monday: No new update.  
07/12 Sunday: No new update.  
07/11 Saturday: No new update.  
07/10 Friday: Decrease in acreage due to more accurate mapping. Fire remains in monitor status.  
07/09 Thursday: Reconnaissance reported the fire was not active and no smoke visible. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/08 Wednesday: No new update.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: No new update.  
07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported the fire was 5% active with smoldering and creeping. There were three smokes showing. Fire is in monitor status.

**#299 Back Yukon Slough:** 59 acres. Human, discovered on 6/15-12 miles west of Fort Yukon

07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported no visible smoke showing. The fire remains in monitor status.  
07/14 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/13 Monday: No new update.  
07/12 Sunday: No new update.  
07/11 Saturday: No new update.  
07/10 Friday: No new update.  
07/09 Thursday: No new update.  
07/08 Wednesday: No new update.  
07/07 Tuesday: No new update.  
07/06 Monday: No new update.  
07/05 Sunday: No new update.

**#287 Birch Creek 2:** 18,164.7 acres. Lightning, discovered on 6/14-88 miles south of Fort Yukon, 37 miles south of Circle

07/15 Wednesday: A reconnaissance flight reported the fire to be ten percent active and smoldering in some areas with trees torching in others. An estimated 300 acre increase was reported in the northeast corner of the fire. The fire remains in monitor status.

07/14 Tuesday: No new update.

07/13 Monday: An increase of 3,302.6 acres was reported.

07/12 Sunday: No new update.

07/11 Saturday: No new update.

07/10 Friday: No new update.

07/09 Thursday: No new update.

07/08 Wednesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: No new update.

07/07 Tuesday: An increase of 269.3 acres was reported.

07/06 Monday: No new update.

07/05 Sunday: Reconnaissance reported one smoke showing on the east side. Fire was smoldering.

# Aggie Creek Fire update - July 16

🕒 July 16, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Aggie Creek Fire update; July 16

**SOUTHWEST INCIDENT  
MANAGEMENT TEAM #5  
Rich Nieto-Incident Commander  
AGGIE CREEK FIRE UPDATE  
Thursday July 16, 2015 AM**

**Acres:** 31,885

**Start Date:** June 22, 2015

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** 30 miles NW of Fairbanks, AK

**Containment:** 44%

**Fuels/Topography:** Timber, grass/rugged terrain

**Total personnel:** 422

**Yesterday:** For the second day, there was no new growth on the fire. Crews continued mop-up of existing fire perimeter line to extinguish any remaining heat near the fire line. The fire continued to hold heat and smolder in interior pockets of previously unburned timber.

**Today:** The fire is predicted to receive warmer, dryer winds off of the Alaska Range today. With higher temperatures and lower humidity, fire managers will remain vigilant and continue active mop-up work. Sprinkler systems in nearby neighborhoods will continue to be removed as needed. The fire is expected to continue creeping and smoldering internally.

**Smoke:** Residual smoke from interior smoldering forest fuels may impact local areas in the Elliott Highway area. Caution is recommended.

**Closure:** None. The area closure for the White Mountain National Recreation Area has been lifted. For full details please visit: <http://akfireinfo.com/>

# Tok Area Fires update - July 18

🕒 July 18, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Tok Area Fires update, July 18

## Tok Area Fires Update for July 18, 2015

**(Tok, AK)** – Afternoon winds in the Tok area increased fire activity on the Chisana 2, Long Lake and Tetlin Hills Fires yesterday. Due to the warming trend, smoke can be seen from the Alaska Highway. Containment lines continue to hold on the fires despite the warmer windy weather.

**Tetlin Hills Fire** – Crews observed trees killed or weakened by the fire due to the high winds yesterday. These hazard trees are being mitigated to increase the safety of the firefighters and reduce containment loss. Firefighters have completed 75 percent containment primarily on the south and east perimeters. Crews will continue to improve the north, northwest, and west dozer lines to prevent fire spread. The fire has shown no growth for multiple days and remains at 1878 acres. Fire personnel are evaluating staffing needs based on the weather and achievement of operational objectives. Incident Commander T3 Jason Devcich transitioned with incoming Incident Commander T3 Jason Kraling yesterday at 0700. Currently 122 firefighters are working on the Tetlin Hills Fire.

**Long Lake Fire** — Containment percentage increased to 27 percent on northern perimeter, keeping fire from spreading north to the village of Northway. A strategic spike camp is being constructed, optimizing operational resources to secure structure protection efforts on the remote cabins on the east side of the fire. Firefighters continue to build line utilizing natural boundaries, lakes and ponds. The fire is currently 23,430 acres and is staffed with 147 fire personnel.

**Chisana 2 Fire** — Fire activity increase due to interior pockets of unburned trees burning yesterday. Smoke will continue to be visible from the Alaska Highway. The Chisana 2 Fire is approximately 38,385 acres. The fire will continue to be unstaffed and in monitoring status.

**Contact:** Public Information Officer, Sarah Saarloos at email: [tokareafires@gmail.com](mailto:tokareafires@gmail.com) or call 907-356-5511.

### **FIRE INFORMATION RESOURCES:**

**Inciweb:** <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/unit/210/>

**Fire Info:** <http://akfireinfo.com/> (907) 356-5511

**Forestry Info:** <http://forestry.alaska.gov>

<http://www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry>



Windy and warm conditions, smoke visible from the Alaska Highway near Northway.

# Tok Area Fires Update - July 21

🕒 July 21, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Tok Area Fires Update; July 21

## Tok Area Fires Update for July 21, 2015

**(Tok, AK)** – Firefighters took advantage of the increased cloud cover yesterday to continuing containment objectives and engaging in site protection missions. Clear skies and warm temperatures may amplify fire activity in the interior of the Tetlin Hills and Long Lake Fires today. Fire personnel in the Long Lake and Tetlin Hills fires are evaluating staffing needs based on the weather and achievement of operational objectives.

**Tetlin Hills Fire** – (1,878 acres) Firefighters achieved 90 percent containment yesterday with continued line construction around the fire. Firefighters continued to improve the north, northwest, and west dozer lines yesterday and backhaul supplies that are no longer needed on the fire. Due to the completion of operational objectives the threat of fire spread has been reduced. The remaining scope of work the Tetlin Hills Fire will be downgraded to a type 4 incident. The new type 4 IC (Wade Johnson) will be taking control of the fire 7am on July 23, 2015. Currently 139 firefighters are working on the Tetlin Hills Fire.

**Long Lake Fire** — (25,469 acres) Cooler temperatures and cloudy skies reduced fire activity yesterday. Containment percentage increased to 40 percent on north, west and east flanks, mitigating the fire spread northward to the village of Northway. Firefighters will continue reinforcing existing fire line and building additional fire line near Dog Lake. Pending favorable conditions, crews will continue backhaul supplies and resources will begin to demobilize tomorrow. Smoke will be visible from the Alaska Highway as the fire continues to burn into the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge for ecosystem benefit. The Long Lakes Fire will be downgraded due to scope of work to a type 4 incident at 10 am on July 23, 2015. The fire is currently staffed with 164 fire personnel.

**Chisana 2 Fire** — (38,385+ acres) Fire activity increase due to interior pockets of unburned trees burning yesterday. Smoke will continue to be visible from the Alaska Highway. The fire will continue to be monitored by aircraft. Wildfires in Alaska typically burn unevenly, resulting in a mosaic pattern, or patchwork, of vegetation across the landscape. The burn patterns on the landscape from the Long Lake, Chisana 2, and Tetlin Hills Fires are a good example of this type of mosaic burn pattern. Smoke is anticipated from interior pockets of unburned vegetation. Wildfires in the Tok area will eventually be “out” by sustained cool and rainy weather conditions, which typical arrive in late summer or early autumn.

**This will be the final update unless significant activity occurs.**

**Contact:** Division of Forestry Fire Information at 907--356--5511 or <http://akfireinfo.com/>



# Tanana Area Fire updates - July 26

July 26, 2015 by [alaskajointinformationcenter](http://alaskajointinformationcenter) on Tanana Area Fire updates, July 26

## Tanana Area Fire Facts at a Glance

**TOTAL ACRES:** 489,673

**Cause:** Lightning

**Spicer Creek** (4 mi. N Tanana) ~ 178,779 acres;

**Harper Bend** (6 mi. SE Tanana) ~43,270 acres

**Moose Point** (~55 mi. W Tanana) ~26,600 acres

**Kokrine** (~50 mi. W Tanana) ~4,811 acres;

**Bering Creek** (37 mi. SW Tanana) ~236,213 acres

**NOTE:** *Hay Slough Fire information available from Echeverria's IMT – below.*

**Date Started:** 06/19/2015

**Percent Contained or Completed:** 80%

**Personnel:** 320, including various support/logistics personnel; Four Type 1 (Hotshot) and six Type 2 crews and 1 Type 3 Tanana crew.

**Aircraft:** One Type 2 helicopter and one Type 3 helicopter

**Equipment:** 8 boats, 1 watertender, 1 excavator, 1 dozer, a susv track vehicle, 2 dump trucks, ATV's and other misc. equipment.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Division of Forestry, Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs' Conference (TCC), Doyon, Tanana Volunteer Fire Department, City of Tanana, Tanana School District, Tozitna Limited

Management responsibility for the Spicer Creek, Harper Bend, Moose Point, Kokrine, and Bering Creek fires is assigned to Jim Grant's Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT). The Spicer Creek Fire, which threatens the village of Tanana, Alaska, is the primary focus. The Hay Slough and Baker fires are managed by Annamaria Echeverria's IMT. The Hay Slough Fire continues to be jointly managed by Grant's and Echeverria's teams.

Well-over 100 miles of the Yukon and Tanana rivers are assigned to Eastern Area IMT. On the Yukon River, responsibility for fire response and structure protection stretches over 115 miles from the mouth

of the Nowitna River near Moose Point upstream to Stevens Creek. On the Tanana River, responsibility extends from the Yukon upstream to the mouth of the Cosna River; a distance of over 35 miles.

Yesterday, they received rain on the north edge of the Spicer fire. Smoke jumpers and members of a hot shot crew continued with structure protection, monitoring the fire and mopping up after the burn out operation along the Tozitna River.

Personnel flew a reconnaissance flight yesterday looking for hot spots on the fires targeting containment lines and structures along the rivers. Fires were moderately active within the interior of fire perimeters, especially in unburned pockets of black spruce.

On the Spicer Creek fire, multiple hot spots were detected by the infrared camera and field observation along the west edge of Bear Creek. Despite difficult walking conditions, crews made progress grubbing out and mopping up many locations with significant heat. The infrared camera also showed a couple of hot spots along the Bear Creek containment line toward Site Road. Firefighters addressed these hot spots, and also mopped up to a depth of 50 feet along most of the line. Due to repeated and persistent bear encounters at the Bear Creek spike camp, crews took action to dismantle camp and return to Tanana for the night.

In the Site Road and Mission area, patrols, mop up and rehabilitation on the dozer and hand lines continued. Several brush piles were removed from the area. Several water pumps and hoses were collected and sent back to fire camp to become available in other locations if necessary.

Boat patrols continued along the Yukon River and additional water pumps and hoses were collected and returned to supply camp for possible use in other areas. The reconnaissance flight along the rivers showed a few pockets of fire activity within the interior of the fires.

Today, the crews from the Bear Creek spike camp will be flown back out to work the western edge of Bear Creek in the areas of greatest concern with numerous hot spots.

The smoke jumpers and hot shot crew members will continue mopping up after the burnout operations from yesterday's structure protection operation up the Tozitna River.

Patrols and rehabilitation of dozer and handlines will continue in the Site/Mission area. Several more brush piles will be removed and pumps and hose will be taken back to supply in Tanana.

Patrols and collecting pumps and hoses will continue along the Yukon River.

A persistent stationary thermal boundary will come into play again today. Weather will be cloudy with areas of smoke. Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are likely. Maximum temperature will be around 67, minimum humidity 62%. Light winds are expected with gusty and erratic winds expected near thunderstorms. Tonight, mostly cloudy with areas of smoke are anticipated. Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are likely throughout the night with scattered rain showers after midnight. Minimum temperature will be 52 degrees and maximum humidity 92-98%. West winds will be 5 mph in the evening becoming light. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms. Tomorrow will be partly sunny with areas of smoke in the morning, scattered rain showers, and a slight chance of thunderstorms through the day. Maximum temperature will be around 68 degrees and humidity 45-50%. Light winds are expected with gusty and erratic winds expected near thunderstorms.

### **Special Announcements:**

**The next public meeting will be held Monday, July 27th at noon at the Tanana Community Hall** to provide updated fire information.

A smoke advisory is in effect for Tanana today until 4:00 pm, Monday. Smoke and air quality indices and alerts can be found on the Alaska DEC Division of Air Quality website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/Index>. Weather forecast can be found at: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>

**The public is advised to avoid traveling Site Road because of the danger of falling trees and heavy equipment use in the area.**

**For more info:** Please contact Information Officers, Bill Paxton or Kristen Miller, Tanana school ICP, at 907-987-9835 or [TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com](mailto:TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com). Inciweb (<http://inciweb.nwec.gov>) also provides fire information. From the Inciweb homepage, select “Tanana Area Fires” fires from the drop down list at the top right of the page.

**To obtain fire information regarding the Hay Slough and Baker fires, contact:**

907-672-3202 or [ManleyAreaFires@gmail.com](mailto:ManleyAreaFires@gmail.com) .

**To obtain fire information regarding other fires in Alaska, contact:**

The AICC Information Center at 907-356-5511 or <http://akfireinfo.com/>.



# Denali National Park and Preserve Monitoring 13 Wildfires - July 27

🕒 July 27, 2015 by [Alaska National Park Service](#) on Denali National Park and Preserve  
Monitoring 13 Wildfires

For Immediate Release – July 27, 2015

Contact: Michelle Fidler – 907-644-3418 or Kathleen Kelly 907-683-9504

## Denali National Park and Preserve Monitoring 13 Wildfires

DENALI PARK, Alaska: Fire managers are currently monitoring 13 lightning-ignited wildfires burning in remote areas of Denali National Park and Preserve. There are no threats to park structures or sensitive resources at this time. The Type 3 team that had been supporting all of the fires burning in Denali National Park and Preserve demobilized July 26. The Alaska Fire Service – Tanana Zone, the wildland fire protection agency for the area, is working closely with interagency managers from the National Park Service (NPS) to monitor the fires periodically from the air as they take their natural course. Firefighters will take measures to protect life and property as necessary.

The **Iron Fire #460** (4,148.5 acres) started June 21. The fire is located 13 miles southwest of Wonder Lake. It is burning in black spruce. On July 17 a NPS helicopter monitored the fire by air and reported no visible activity.

The **McLeod Fire #463** (452.1 acres) started June 21. The fire is located 11 miles southwest of Wonder Lake. The fire is burning in black spruce. On July 17 a NPS helicopter monitored the fire by air and reported no visible activity.

The **Foraker River Fire #474** (1,043.1 acres) started June 21. It is located approximately 28 miles southwest of Kantishna. The fire is burning in black spruce. On July 16 a NPS helicopter monitored the fire by air and reported no fire activity.

The **Bear Creek Fire #543** (5,774.7 acres) started June 21. It is located approximately 5 miles north of Kantishna. It is burning in black spruce. Fire managers flew over the fire on July 19, but were unable to assess fire activity due to limited visibility from smoke from other Minchumina fires. Fire managers previously reported no visible smoke when they monitored the fire by helicopter on July 17.

The **Herron Fire #571** (903.8 acres) started June 23. The fire is located 43 miles southwest of Kantishna near the headwaters of Highpower Creek and Herron River. The fire is burning in black spruce, grass and brush. On July 16 a NPS helicopter monitored the fire by air and reported no visible activity.

The **Carlson Lake Fire #635** (40,257.7 acres) started June 25. The fire is located 36 miles northwest of Kantishna and 2.6 miles east of Lake Minchumina. It is burning in black spruce. As of July 22 the fire was smoldering and creeping. Smokes were visible on the eastern perimeter. The fire has received moderate rain.

The **Bear Paw Fire #639** (29.7 acres) started June 25. The fire is located 15 miles northeast of Kantishna in the Kantishna Hills. The fire is burning in tundra and brush. As of July 6 the perimeter was 0% active.

The **Castle Rock Fire #650** (323.0 acres) started June 24. The fire is located 36 miles west by southwest of Kantishna, 1.2 miles south of Castle Rocks. It is burning in black spruce. A NPS helicopter flew the fire on July 20. No fire activity was observed.

The **Chilchukabena Fire #652** (361.3 acres) started June 25. The fire is located 21 miles northwest of Kantishna. The fire is burning in black spruce and tundra. As of July 9 the fire was 1% active with smoldering observed. There was one smoke on the perimeter.

The **Moose Creek Fire #654** (2,865.4 acres) started June 25. The fire is located 22 miles north of Kantishna. It is burning in black spruce and hardwoods. The latest acreage update was on July 22.

The **Munsatli 2 Fire # 703** (91,442.6 acres). The fire is located 11 miles southwest of Lake Minchumina. A portion on this fire is burning in the park on the western most park boundary. It is burning in brush, hardwoods and black spruce. As of July 25, minimal creeping and backing fire behavior was reported. Most of the activity is on the northeast portion of the fire, with pockets of activity on each side of the fire, as well as interior pockets burning out. *The portion of the fire that has burned into the park was previously known as the Lonestar Fire #664, which started to the west of the Denali National Park and Preserve boundary on June 26. On July 24 the 6,940.5 acre Lonestar Fire #664 was declared administratively out when it and the Munsatli Fire #730 merged with the Munsatli 2 Fire #703.*

The **Foraker Fire #716** (1,725.0 acres) started June 21. The fire is located 33 miles west of Kantishna. It is burning in black spruce. The fire continues to creep. A helicopter reconnaissance flight on June 20 showed no change in acreage.

The **Diamond Fire #791** (15.0 acres) started July 23. The fire is located 27 miles north of Kantishna near Otter Creek. It is burning in black spruce and tundra. The fire was discovered by aircraft on the evening of July 23, the perimeter was 10% active, with light west winds.

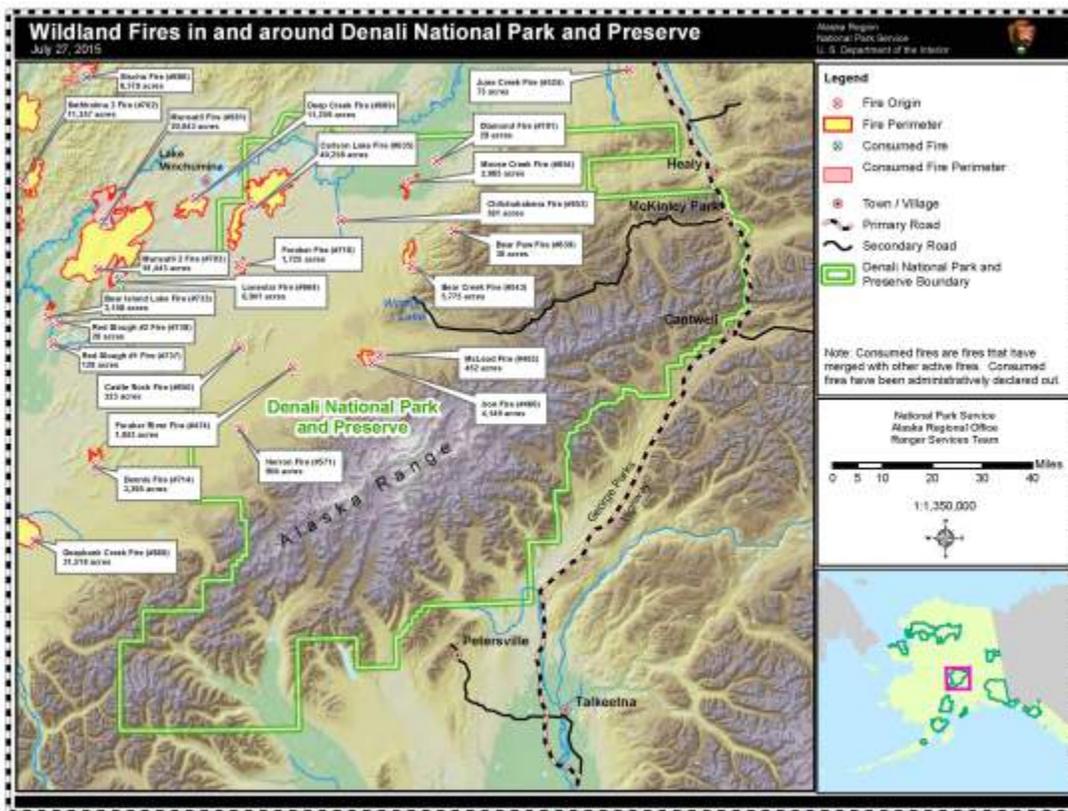
Fire in the boreal forest of Alaska is an essential process that restores ecosystem health and helps to maintain species diversity. Throughout time, fires have served to select plants and animals that adapted to fire-caused change. Both black and white spruce depend on intense ground fire to clear organic layers thereby exposing fertile seedbeds. Moreover, black spruce partially depends upon fire, in that its seeds ready for germination at the peak of the Alaskan interior fire season and are released when its semi-serotinous cones open by canopy fire. Furthermore, fire plays a key role in the regulation of the permafrost table. Without the routine occurrence of fire, organic

matter accumulates, the permafrost table rises, and ecosystem productivity declines. Vegetation communities, wildlife habitat and wildlife become less diverse. Fire, the agent of change, removes some of the insulating organic matter, elicits a warming of the soil, maintains and rejuvenates these systems.

Currently there are 291 active wildfires in the state; so far this year 723 fires have burned more than 4.7 million acres in Alaska. For statewide wildfire information, visit [akfireinfo.com](http://akfireinfo.com) or <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>.

Where there is fire, there is smoke. Due to the current and expected statewide fire activity, anticipate the possibility of varying levels of smoke at times. Keep informed of local fire information and air quality reports. Wildfire smoke information is available at <http://dec.alaska.gov/air/smokemain.htm>. You can also monitor current conditions on the park's webcams at <http://go.nps.gov/1dtx7j>.

Additional park information is available at [nps.gov/dena](http://nps.gov/dena) or by calling 907-683-9532 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Stay connected with "DenaliNPS" on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, and iTunes – links to these social media sites are available at [nps.gov/dena/connect](http://nps.gov/dena/connect).



# Tanana Area Fire updates - July 28

🕒 July 28, 2015 by [piosamharrel](#) on Tanana Area Fire updates, July 28

## Tanana Area Fire Facts at a Glance

**TOTAL ACRES:** 491,366

**Cause:** Lightning

**Spicer Creek** (4 mi. N Tanana) ~ 178,971 acres;

**Harper Bend** (6 mi. SE Tanana) ~43,378 acres

**Moose Point** (~55 mi. W Tanana) ~26,600 acres

**Kokrine** (~50 mi. W Tanana) ~4,811 acres;

**Bering Creek** (37 mi. SW Tanana) ~237,606 acres

**NOTE:** *Hay Slough Fire information available by calling Alaska Fire Information at (907)356-5511.*

**Date Started:** 06/19/2015

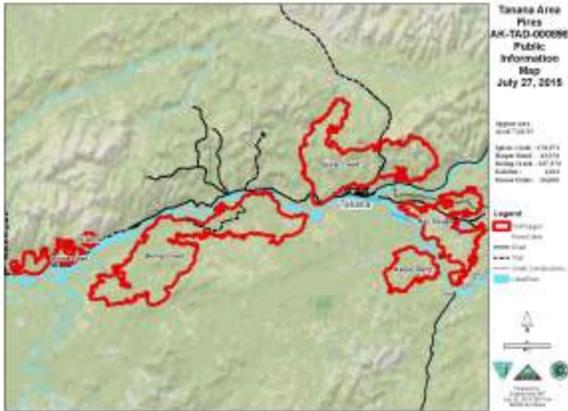
**Percent Contained or Completed:** 90%

**Personnel:** 256, including various support/logistics personnel; Four Type 1 (Hotshot) and three Type 2 crews and 1 Type 3 Tanana crew.

**Aircraft:** One Type 2 helicopter and one Type 3 helicopter

**Equipment:** 7 boats, 1 watertender, 1 excavator, 1 dozer, an SUSV track vehicle, 2 dump trucks, ATV's and other misc. equipment.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Division of Forestry, Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs' Conference (TCC), Doyon, Tanana Volunteer Fire Department, City of Tanana, Tanana School District, Tozitna Limited



Management responsibility for the Spicer Creek, Harper Bend, Moose Point, Kokrine, and Bering Creek fires is assigned to Jim Grant's Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT). The Spicer Creek Fire, which threatens the village of Tanana, Alaska, is the primary focus. The Baker fire is managed by Mike Bradley's Type 4 team. The Hay Slough Fire continues to be jointly managed by Grant's and Bradley's teams.

Well-over 100 miles of the Yukon and Tanana rivers are assigned to Eastern Area IMT. On the Yukon River, responsibility for fire response and structure protection stretches over 115 miles from the mouth of the Nowitna River near Moose Point upstream to Stevens Creek. On the Tanana River, responsibility extends from the Yukon upstream to the mouth of the Cosna River; a distance of over 35 miles.

Yesterday, smoke jumpers and hot shots completed the operation on the north end of Spicer Creek Fire and returned to fire camp in Tanana.

On the Spicer Creek fire, multiple hot spots are still an issue on the west side of Bear Creek near the Yukon River. Fire personnel completed a reconnaissance trip by boat to the mouth of Bear Creek and found an access point ¼ mile up the creek that will provide a route for crews to continue fire suppression operations on the hot spots.

The Bear Creek to Site Road containment line is secure and clear of fire activity. Crews began pulling hose lines and water pumps to return them to camp in Tanana.

In the Site Road and Mission area crews continued patrols and mop up. Rehab was completed on the primary dozer line and continued on secondary hand lines. Crews continued to haul brush piles and dismantle water pumps and hose lays in preparation for returning the equipment and supplies back to fire camp in Tanana. Hot spots that had been located by infrared camera along Site Road were further mopped up.

The river group pulled several more water pumps and hoses along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. They checked remaining water pumps to ensure they were operating in the event they are needed for structure protection.

Today, fire crews will be accessing the west side of Bear Creek by boat from the Yukon River. They will be cutting an access route into the area along Bear Creek containing the largest number of hot spots.

With the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line completed and mopped up, crews will continue pulling hose lines and water pumps and returning them to camp in Tanana. They will also pull the 1 1/2-mile stretch of hose line and water pumps from the Yukon River that supplied water to the containment line between Bear Creek and Site Road.

Patrol and repair of hand lines will continue in the Site Road/Mission area. No equipment work will be done today due to the wet conditions. Brush piles will continue to be hauled off. More water pumps and hoses will be dismantled and returned to camp in Tanana. The hot spots that showed up on the infrared camera along Site Road will continue to be mopped up, and the road patrolled for additional hot spots.

The Yukon River group will continue patrols, checking existing pumps left in place near structures in the event they are needed. They will continue to pull excess pumps and return them to fire camp in Tanana.

There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms to develop later today as the temperature rises. Expect partly sunny today with patchy fog in the morning and smoke throughout the day. There is a chance of isolated rain showers in the morning and afternoon and isolated thunderstorms throughout the day. Maximum temperature will be between 66-71 degrees with 46% humidity. Light winds with gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms. Tonight expect

mostly cloudy conditions with patchy fog and smoke throughout the night. Expect scattered rain showers in the evening, with isolated thunderstorms and rain showers through the night. Minimum temperature will be around 52 degrees and maximum humidity 79-87%. Light winds will become north around 5 mph after midnight. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms. Wednesday, expect partly sunny skies with patchy fog and isolated rain showers in the morning. Isolated thunderstorms are expected throughout the day and scattered rain showers are predicted in the afternoon. Maximum temperature will be 64-70 degrees with minimum humidity 42%. Light winds will become west at 5-7 mph in the afternoon. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms.

**Special Announcements: The next public meeting will be held Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Tanana Community Hall (Please note the change) to provide updated fire information.** This will be the last public meeting provided by the Eastern Area Incident Management Team. The new Type 3 fire organization will begin the next day on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

An air quality advisory is in effect today for Tanana. Air quality indices and alerts can be found on the Alaska DEC Division of Air Quality website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/Index>. Weather forecast can be found at: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>

The public is advised to avoid traveling Site Road because of the danger of falling trees and heavy equipment use in the area.

**For more info:** Please contact Information Officers, Bill Paxton or Kristen Miller, Tanana school ICP, at 907-987-9835 or [TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com](mailto:TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com). Inciweb (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>) also provides fire information. From the Inciweb homepage, select “Tanana Area Fires” fires from the drop down list at the top right of the page. To obtain fire i

# Tanana Area Fire updates - July 29

🕒 July 29, 2015 by [Alaska Division of Forestry](#) on Tanana Area Fire updates, July 29

## Tanana Area Fire Facts At A Glance

**TOTAL ACRES:** 496,131

**Spicer Creek Fire** (4 mi. N Tanana) ~ 183,415 acres;

**Harper Bend Fire** (6 mi. SE Tanana) ~43,378 acres

**Moose Point Fire** (~55 mi. W Tanana) ~26,612 acres

**Kokrine Fire** (~50 mi. W Tanana) ~4,811 acres;

**Bering Creek Fire** (37 mi. SW Tanana) ~237,906 acres

**NOTE:** *Hay Slough Fire information available by calling Alaska fire information at (907) 356-5511.*

**Date Started:** 06/19/2015

**Cause:** Lightning

**Percent Contained or Completed:** 92%

**Personnel:** 239, including various support/logistics personnel; Four Type 1 (Hotshot) and three Type 2 crews and 1 Type 3 Tanana crew.

**Aircraft:** One Type 2 helicopter and one Type 3 helicopter

**Equipment:** 7 boats, 1 watertender, 1 excavator, 1 dozer, a SUSV track vehicle, 2 dump trucks, ATV's and other misc. equipment.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Division of Forestry, Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs' Conference (TCC), Doyon, Tanana Volunteer Fire Department, City of Tanana, Tanana School District, Tozitna Limited

Management responsibility for the Spicer Creek, Harper Bend, Moose Point, Kokrine, and Bering Creek fires is assigned to Jim Grant's Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT). The Spicer Creek Fire, which threatens the village of Tanana, Alaska, is the primary focus. The Baker fire is managed by Mike Bradley's Type 4 team. The Hay Slough Fire continues to be jointly managed by Grant's and Bradley's teams.

Well-over 100 miles of the Yukon and Tanana rivers are assigned to Eastern Area IMT. On the Yukon River, responsibility for fire response and structure protection stretches over 115 miles from the mouth of the Nowitna River near Moose Point upstream to Stevens Creek. On the Tanana River, responsibility extends from the Yukon upstream to the mouth of the Cosna River; a distance of over 35 miles.

Yesterday, on the Spicer Creek fire west of Bear Creek, two hot shot crews were inserted to mop up hot spots that spread the length of one and a half miles on the Bear Creek edge from the

mouth of the creek. They were able to access by boat from the Yukon River then traveled ¼ mile up Bear Creek.

Crews on the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line mopped up a couple of hot spots that showed up on the infrared camera then continued pulling hose lines and water pumps to return them to camp in Tanana. At the supply area in the Tanana fire camp, they rolled more than 14 miles of hose. There were over 80 miles of fire hose and 188 water pumps deployed on the Tanana Area Fires.

In the Site Road and Mission area crews continued patrols and mopped up on the interior hot spots detected by infrared. They continued repair on the hand lines and hauled brush piles. They dismantled water pumps and hose lays and sprinkler systems and returned the equipment and supplies back to fire camp in Tanana.

The river group pulled several more water pumps, hoses and sprinkler systems from some of the structures along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. They checked remaining water pumps and sprinkler systems to ensure they were operating in the event they are needed for structure protection.

Today, two hot shot crews will return to the west side of Bear Creek to continue mopping up problem hot spots near the mouth of the creek. Fire crews will be accessing the west side of the creek by boat, entering from the Yukon River. With the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line completed and mopped up, crews will dismantle, clean up and rehabilitate spike camp.

Patrol and repair of hand lines will continue in the Site Road/Mission area. Brush piles will continue to be hauled off. More water pumps and hoses will be dismantled and returned to camp in Tanana. The hot spots that showed up on the infrared camera along Site Road will continue to be mopped up, and the road patrolled for additional hot spots.

The Yukon River group will go to Bible camp and clean up and gather the remaining equipment and supplies to return to supply in fire camp in Tanana. The group going up the river will continue pulling excess pumps and hoses and sprinkler systems to return to camp.

Expect mostly cloudy today with isolated showers. Maximum temperature will be around 74 degrees with a minimum humidity of 38%. Light winds becoming west around 5 mph are expected in the afternoon with gusty and erratic winds expected near thunderstorms. Tonight's forecast is mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the evening and isolated showers overnight. Expect the minimum temperature to be around 54 degrees and maximum humidity 90%. West winds are forecasted to be around 5 mph, becoming light after midnight. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms. Thursday, expect mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Maximum temperature will be around 74 degrees with minimum humidity of 38%. Light winds will become west at 6-10 mph in the afternoon. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms.

**Special Announcements: The next public meeting will be held Thursday, July 30th at 7:00 pm at the Tanana Community Hall to provide fire information.** This will be the last public meeting provided by the Eastern Area Incident Management Team. The new Type 3 fire organization will assume management responsibility for the Tanana Area Fires at 6:00 am, Friday, July 31st.

There are no active smoke advisories in Alaska today. Air quality indices and alerts can be found on the Alaska DEC Division of Air Quality website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/Index>. Weather forecast can be found at: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>

The public is advised to avoid traveling Site Road because of the danger of falling trees and traffic associated with rehabilitation.

For more info: Please contact Information Officers, Bill Paxton or Kristen Miller, Tanana school ICP, at 907-987-9835 or [TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com](mailto:TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com). Inciweb (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>) also provides fire information. From the Inciweb homepage, select "Tanana Area Fires" fires from the drop down list at the top right of the page. To obtain fire information regarding the Hay Slough, Baker and other fires in Alaska, contact the BLM Alaska Fire Service

# Tanana Area Fire updates - July 29

🕒 July 29, 2015 by [Alaska Division of Forestry](#) on Tanana Area Fire updates, July 29

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**Bering Creek Fire** (37 mi. SW Tanana) ~237,906 acres

**NOTE:** *Hay Slough Fire information available by calling Alaska fire information at (907) 356-5511.*

**Date Started:** 06/19/2015

**Cause:** Lightning

**Percent Contained or Completed:** 92%

**Personnel:** 239, including various support/logistics personnel; Four Type 1 (Hotshot) and three Type 2 crews and 1 Type 3 Tanana crew.

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mouth of the creek. They were able to access by boat from the Yukon River then traveled ¼ mile up Bear Creek.

Crews on the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line mopped up a couple of hot spots that showed up on the infrared camera then continued pulling hose lines and water pumps to return them to camp in Tanana. At the supply area in the Tanana fire camp, they rolled more than 14 miles of hose. There were over 80 miles of fire hose and 188 water pumps deployed on the Tanana Area Fires.

In the Site Road and Mission area crews continued patrols and mopped up on the interior hot spots detected by infrared. They continued repair on the hand lines and hauled brush piles. They dismantled water pumps and hose lays and sprinkler systems and returned the equipment and supplies back to fire camp in Tanana.

The river group pulled several more water pumps, hoses and sprinkler systems from some of the structures along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. They checked remaining water pumps and sprinkler systems to ensure they were operating in the event they are needed for structure protection.

Today, two hot shot crews will return to the west side of Bear Creek to continue mopping up problem hot spots near the mouth of the creek. Fire crews will be accessing the west side of the creek by boat, entering from the Yukon River. With the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line completed and mopped up, crews will dismantle, clean up and rehabilitate spike camp.

Patrol and repair of hand lines will continue in the Site Road/Mission area. Brush piles will continue to be hauled off. More water pumps and hoses will be dismantled and returned to camp in Tanana. The hot spots that showed up on the infrared camera along Site Road will continue to be mopped up, and the road patrolled for additional hot spots.

The Yukon River group will go to Bible camp and clean up and gather the remaining equipment and supplies to return to supply in fire camp in Tanana. The group going up the river will continue pulling excess pumps and hoses and sprinkler systems to return to camp.

Expect mostly cloudy today with isolated showers. Maximum temperature will be around 74 degrees with a minimum humidity of 38%. Light winds becoming west around 5 mph are expected in the afternoon with gusty and erratic winds expected near thunderstorms. Tonight's forecast is mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the evening and isolated showers overnight. Expect the minimum temperature to be around 54 degrees and maximum humidity 90%. West winds are forecasted to be around 5 mph, becoming light after midnight. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms. Thursday, expect mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Maximum temperature will be around 74 degrees with minimum humidity of 38%. Light winds will become west at 6-10 mph in the afternoon. Gusty and erratic winds are expected near thunderstorms.

**Special Announcements: The next public meeting will be held Thursday, July 30th at 7:00 pm at the Tanana Community Hall to provide fire information.** This will be the last public meeting provided by the Eastern Area Incident Management Team. The new Type 3 fire organization will assume management responsibility for the Tanana Area Fires at 6:00 am, Friday, July 31st.

There are no active smoke advisories in Alaska today. Air quality indices and alerts can be found on the Alaska DEC Division of Air Quality website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/Index>. Weather forecast can be found at: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>

The public is advised to avoid traveling Site Road because of the danger of falling trees and traffic associated with rehabilitation.

For more info: Please contact Information Officers, Bill Paxton or Kristen Miller, Tanana school ICP, at 907-987-9835 or [TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com](mailto:TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com). Inciweb (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>) also provides fire information. From the Inciweb homepage, select “Tanana Area Fires” fires from the drop down list at the top right of the page. To obtain fire information regarding the Hay Slough, Baker and other fires in Alaska, contact the BLM Alaska Fire Service at 907-356-5511 or [blm\\_ak\\_afs\\_public\\_affairs@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_afs_public_affairs@blm.gov) or <http://akfireinfo.com/>.

# Tanana area fires update - July 30

🕒 July 30, 2015 by [piosamharrel](#) on Tanana area fires update, July 30

## Tanana Area Fire Facts at a Glance

**TOTAL ACRES:** 496,131

**Cause:** Lightning

**Spicer Creek** (4 mi. N Tanana) ~ 183,415 acres;

**Harper Bend** (6 mi. SE Tanana) ~43,378 acres

**Moose Point** (~55 mi. W Tanana) ~26,612 acres

**Kokrine** (~50 mi. W Tanana) ~4,811 acres;

**Bering Creek** (37 mi. SW Tanana) ~237,906 acres

**NOTE:** *Hay Slough Fire information available by calling Alaska Fire Information at (907)356-5511.*

**Date Started:** 06/19/2015

**Percent Contained or Completed:** 90%

**Personnel:** 225, including various support/logistics personnel; Four Type 1 (Hotshot) and two Type 2 crews and 1 Type 3 Tanana crew.

**Aircraft:** One Type 2 helicopter and one Type 3 helicopter

**Equipment:** 9 boats, 1 watertender, 1 excavator, 1 dozer, an SUSV track vehicle, 2 dump trucks, ATV's and other misc. equipment.

**Cooperating Agencies:** Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Division of Forestry, Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs' Conference (TCC), Doyon, Tanana Volunteer Fire Department, City of Tanana, Tanana School District, Tozitna Limited



Management responsibility for the Spicer Creek, Harper Bend, Moose Point, Kokrine, and Bering Creek fires is assigned to Jim Grant's Eastern Area Incident Management Team (IMT). The Spicer Creek Fire, which threatens the village of Tanana, Alaska, is the primary focus. The Baker fire is managed by Mike Bradley's Type 4 team. The Hay Slough Fire continues to be jointly managed by Grant's and Bradley's teams.

Well-over 100 miles of the Yukon and Tanana rivers are assigned to Eastern Area IMT. On the Yukon River, responsibility for fire response and structure protection stretches over 115 miles from the mouth of the Nowitna River near Moose Point upstream to Stevens Creek. On the Tanana River, responsibility extends from the Yukon upstream to the mouth of the Cosna River; a distance of over 35 miles.

Yesterday, on the Spicer Creek fire west of Bear Creek, two hot shot crews worked the 1 ½-mile length where there was still some fire activity and hot spots upstream from the mouth of creek.

Crews on the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line dismantled the north spike camp and continued pulling hose and pumps from the line and returning the equipment and supplies to fire camp in Tanana.

In the Site Road and Mission area crews cut down hazard trees along Site Road. In addition, they patrolled the road, repaired hand lines, hauled brush, dismantled water pumps and hose lays and returned the equipment and supplies back to fire camp in Tanana.

The river group pulled several more water pumps, hoses and sprinkler systems from some of the structures along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. They checked remaining water pumps and sprinkler systems to ensure they were operating in the event they are needed for structure protection. They cleaned up and backhauled the last of the equipment and supplies from Bible Camp.

Today, there will be a reconnaissance flight with the palm infrared camera to look for any problem hot spots that could threaten the containment lines or structures. The flight will cover all fires assigned to the Incident Management Team.

Two hot shot crews will return to the west side of Bear Creek to continue mopping up problem hot spots near the mouth of the creek.

With the Bear Creek to Site Road containment line completed and mopped up, crews will continue pulling any remaining hose east to Site Road.

In the Site Road/Mission area, crews will continue cutting hazard trees along Site Road and patrolling the road for hot spots. Rehabilitation is on hold due to equipment mechanical issues and wet soil conditions.

The Yukon River group will continue dismantling pump and hose systems and sprinklers and return the equipment to fire camp in Tanana. They will clean up and return supplies that were left at one of the last spike camps.

High pressure will begin to build over the area today and remain through the weekend. There may be a few rain showers this afternoon and evening. Today will be mostly cloudy with patchy smoke and isolated rain showers. Maximum temperature will be around 70 degrees with a minimum humidity of 44%. Light winds are expected this morning becoming west from 5-10 mph in the afternoon. Tonight's forecast is for cloudy skies. Expect the minimum temperature to be around 49 degrees and maximum humidity 87%. West winds are forecasted to be 5-10 mph in the evening becoming light. Friday, expect mostly sunny with maximum temperature around 73 degrees and minimum humidity of 39%. Light surface winds from 5-10 mph will become west in the afternoon.

**Special Announcements: Please note the following change: The next public meeting will be held tonight, Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Tanana Community Hall to provide fire information and to introduce the new Type 3 fire organization.** This will be the last public meeting provided by the Eastern Area Incident Management Team. The new Type 3 fire organization will assume management responsibility for the Tanana Area Fires at 6:00 am, Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

There are no active smoke advisories in Alaska today. Air quality indices and alerts can be found on the Alaska DEC Division of Air Quality website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories/Index>. Weather forecast can be found at: <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>

The public is advised to avoid traveling Site Road because of the danger of falling trees and traffic associated with rehabilitation.

**For more info:** For today, please contact Information Officers, Bill Paxton or Kristen Miller, Tanana School ICP, at 907-987-9835 or [TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com](mailto:TananaAreaFires2015@gmail.com). Starting tomorrow (Friday), for fire information on Tanana Area Fires, please contact Information Officer Pat York at Tanana School ICP at 907-987-9835. Inciweb (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>) also provides fire information. From the Inciweb homepage, select “Tanana Area Fires” fires from the drop down list at the top right of the page. To obtain fire information regarding the Hay Slough, Baker and other fires in Alaska, contact the BLM Alaska Fire Service at 907-356-5511