



Isom Creek Fire Update

June 21, 2020
Incident Commander: Ed Sanford

Start Date: 06/05/2020

Location: 17 miles SW of Stevens Village, AK

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 12,180 acres

Containment: 69%

Total Personnel: 249

(FAIRBANKS, Alaska) – Incident command for the Isom Creek Fire #187 will transfer to a local Type 3 organization early on Monday, June 22. The incoming and outgoing teams are working together to transfer information to efficiently conduct the remaining containment and suppression efforts. Several firefighter crews are being reassigned to other incidents or returning to their home units for rest. Five crews remain on the fire, supported by engines and air support. Native allotments and structures in the river corridor are secured and mopped up.

The fire has had minimal activity in recent days with the cool, wet weather. Conditions prohibit burnout operations until warm, dry weather returns. Until burnout is completed or a more direct line is developed and secured, the eastern edge of the fire will remain a threat for potential spread. Firefighters continue to search for hot spots and initiate suppression repair efforts.

The recent weather pattern has brought several surprising challenges to firefighters. A dense fog settled in the Yukon River valley yesterday morning and persisted until about 1:00pm, on the summer solstice. There was a breeze on the fire, which was expected to mix the air and decrease moisture. Instead, the breeze moved the moist air upslope and cooled it to the dewpoint. Droplets formed in the chilly air, forming a dense fog, with water droplets clinging to trees. Very gradual warming and drying is anticipated in the next few days.

The Dalton Highway remains open to travel, with traffic control as needed for smoke conditions or in support of firefighting efforts. The Five Mile Campground near the Yukon Bridge on the Dalton Highway remains closed to public access; it is reserved for crews fighting the Isom Creek Fire. The Yukon River Camp north of the Yukon River Bridge at milepost 56 is open for food, fuel and lodging.

The fire reached the Trans-Alaska Pipeline; however, it is not damaged as it was designed to withstand wildfires. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in place over the fire and some of the surrounding area to provide a safe operating environment for firefighting aircraft. Go to <https://tfr.faa.gov> for more information on the TFR.

Public Information: (907) 356-5970 **Email:** 2020.IsomCreek@firenet.gov

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