



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Fire Update

BLM Alaska Fire Service

P.O. Box 35005 1541 Gaffney Road, Fairbanks AK 99703-0005

Contact: Beth Ipsen, epsen@blm.gov; (907)356-5510

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Smokejumpers, Aircraft Corral New Wildfire Near Central

Smokejumpers, aided by aircraft, were able to corral the **Deadwood Fire (#315)** burning near Central late Friday night. Firefighters will spend Saturday tracking down any spot fires that sprung up outside the main fire’s perimeter and making sure the sawed control line around the main fire holds. The BLM Alaska Fire Service Midnight Sun Hotshots will join the 16 smokejumpers on the ground today to help work toward the goal of making sure the 33-acre fire is completely extinguished.

The countless water drops by six Fire Boss airplanes who were scooping from nearby Medicine Lake were instrumental in keeping the fire in check Friday night. An Alaska Division of Forestry air tanker dropped three loads of fire retardant at the edge of the fire to slow it down.

Fire activity significantly moderated Saturday morning due to good overnight humidity recovery and morning cloud cover. Smokejumpers on scene reported the fire area experienced heavy rain for about an hour in the early morning hours. The forecast is for cooler temperatures with southwest winds around 12 mph. The area is predicted to continue to receive cooler weather in the next couple of days to help firefighters with their efforts.

The fire was reported by a resident at 4 p.m. Friday and quickly drew a response due to its close proximity to Central. The fire was originally torching in black spruce on both sides of the Circle Hot Springs Road about 2 1/2 miles from the intersection with the Steese Highway in Central. No structures were lost in the fire.

A [Temporary Flight Restriction \(TFR\)](#) was issued for the airspace to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft. Firefighters will seek help from agency aircraft again today – either an airplane or drone – to provide eyes in the sky while seeking out hot spots and spot fires to extinguish.

The human-caused fire is under investigation.

Start date: July 2

Acres: 33

Personnel assigned: 36

Crews: 1

Cause: Human



Map series

Find fire information at akfireinfo.com, Alaska Wildland Fire Information Map Series or follow BLM Alaska Fire Service on Facebook @BLMAFS



Akfireinfo.com

The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (AFS) located at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, provides wildland fire suppression services for over 236 million acres of Department of the Interior and Native Corporation Lands in Alaska. In addition, AFS has other statewide responsibilities that include: interpretation of fire management policy; oversight of the BLM Alaska Aviation program; fuels management projects; and operating and maintaining advanced communication and computer systems such as the Alaska Lightning Detection System. AFS also maintains a National Incident Support Cache with a \$16 million inventory. The Alaska Fire Service provides wildland fire suppression services for America’s “Last Frontier” on an interagency basis with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Military in Alaska.