



McDonald Fire Update

[BLM Alaska Fire Service](#)

Contact: Beth Ipsen, 2024.McDonald@firenet.gov, 907-356-5511

June 9, 2024

www.akfireinfo.com

Hot, dry conditions push McDonald Fire to an estimated 8,000 acres

Size: 8,000 acres	Personnel: --	Start Date: June 8, 2024	Cause: Lightning
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FAIRBANKS, Alaska – The McDonald Fire (#119) burning 31 miles south of Fairbanks was active Sunday, growing to an estimated 8,000 acres thanks to hot, dry and windy conditions. While the winds diminished since Saturday, the warmer temperatures helped push the fire out from both flanks as it burned through stringers of black spruce. The fire has had little eastward progression and remains 7 miles west of Harding Lake and the Tanana River.

The lightning-caused fire is burning in an area with a mixture of black spruce and hardwood trees. Saturday’s 20 mph winds pushed the lightning-caused fire west and deeper in the Tanana Flats military training area. The fire is burning the southeast corner of the large training area on the west side of the Tanana River. Weather is expected to cool this week with some thunderstorms predicted to move into Interior Alaska. Temperatures will decrease by about 10 degrees starting Monday and there is a 50-70% chance of rain for the next two days.

The training area has a long history of fire activity that has reduced much of the vegetation available to burn. However, the area the fire is burning in doesn’t have any fire history.

Contact BLM AFS Public Affairs Specialist Beth Ipsen at (907)356-5510 or eipsen@blm.gov for more information.

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Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005 1541 Gaffney Road, Fort Wainwright, Ak 99703
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The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (AFS) located at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, provides wildland fire suppression services for over 240 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 \$18.1 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.