



## Overview

The Alaska geographic area experienced 461 wildfires for a total of 1,007,220 acres burned, ranking it as the third highest year of acres burned in the past 10 years. Although USDA Forest Service personnel supported fire response efforts throughout the geographic area and nationally, only 17 fires for a total of 6 acres occurred within Forest Service protection area boundaries.

### Fire Activity Increased in June

Low humidities and hot weather primed interior Alaska for increased wildfire activity in mid-June this year. A record number of widespread lightning strikes kicked off the season with 176 new fires starting between June 15 and 29. By July, there were 205 active fires across the state, with an estimated 422,604 acres burned, prompting the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center to elevate to preparedness level 5 from July 5 to July 12. Firefighters were challenged in remote locations with protecting values at risk. Public impacts included road closures, evacuations and fire restrictions.

### Chugach and Tongass Area Fires

There were 8 starts for the Chugach Protection



Area that includes the eastern portion of the Kenai Peninsula. Those fires totaled 1.6 acres. In the Tongass Protection Area, which is in the “panhandle” of Alaska, there were 12 reported fires for 4.8 acres.

### New Aircraft

New this year were two exclusive use aircraft. Chugach and Tongass National Forests were home base for light helicopters that were used on fires throughout Alaska. Combined, the helicopters logged 386 flight hours.

### Out of State Support

Crews and engines were sent to the lower 48 states, many to the Pacific Northwest, to help with national wildland fire response efforts.



*“Alaskan fires burned just over one million acres in 2025. The USDA Forest Service supported the geographic area by staffing a Type 2 initial attack crew, two Type 6 Engines, and two Type 3 Exclusive Use helicopters. These resources had multiple assignments within and outside Alaska. Efforts to increase the number of qualified personnel to support wildland fire paid off this season.”*

Shane Jeffries

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