Announcement
BLM Alaska Fire Service

Media Contact: Beth Ipsen, eipsen@blm.gov, (907)356-5510

July 11, 2025

Firefighters injured in boating incident on Salcha River

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Three firefighters working on the Ninetyeight Fire southeast of Fairbanks were injured in a boating incident on the Salcha River this morning. The injured firefighters were transported to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital for further treatment. The extent of the injuries is yet to be determined. The cause of the boating incident is under investigation.

More details about this incident will be released as they become available.

Firefighters working on the Ninetyeight Fire are primarily concentrating on protecting structures along the Salcha River. The fire was discovered on the Yukon Training Area east of Eielson Air Force Base on June 19 and merged with the nearby Brigadier Fire to burn a total of approximately 15,600 acres. There are 100 firefighting and support personnel assigned to this fire. Additional information on the fire is available on the Alaska Fire Information webpage.

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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. 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.