



Fire Update

Contact: 907-356-5511

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Containment efforts advance on the Elephant and Lush fires as weather trends hotter and drier

Fire behavior was slightly more active on the **Elephant Fire (#225)** yesterday but remained minimal overall. Crews made steady progress, taking advantage of favorable weather to continue work on the areas where fire previously crossed the Eureka-Rampart Road and Minook Creek. Firefighters made good progress securing the line behind structures on the northeast corner of the fire using strategic burnout operations. In addition, a hotshot crew monitored the fire's southern flank on the ridge above Eureka and saw no fire growth in that area. Assessments of the greater Eureka area for contingency planning remained ongoing.

Today, firefighters will continue mop-up efforts along Eureka-Rampart Road and near Minook Creek. They will also evaluate structure protection needs on both the north and south sides of the fire. In addition, personnel will scout strategic locations to build firelines ahead of the fire as part of future planning.

A Level 1 "Ready" evacuation notice remains in effect for Eureka and the surrounding area. Residents should stay alert and prepared in case conditions change.

The **Lush Fire (#199)** experienced another day of warming and drying yesterday, with minimal fire behavior and limited growth observed. Resources were reprioritized and shifted north to support protection efforts around the Alaska Native Allotments near the uncontained fireline in the northeastern corner of the fire.

Fire behavior is expected to increase slightly today with continued warming and drying. Crews will focus on constructing fireline along the fire perimeter on the north flank to protect values at risk. Firefighters will also continue mopping up and securing around structures and Alaska Native Allotments on the south and east sides of the fire. If conditions allow, a reconnaissance flight is planned over the Lush Fire and several other fires that are in monitor status in the area.

A high-pressure system is bringing warmer and drier weather to the Interior this weekend. Temperatures are expected to reach the 70s and low 80s, with Sunday likely being the hottest day. Humidity levels will drop, but winds are expected to stay light.

Overall, fire managers are monitoring 40 other fires in the Tanana Zone and will staff those fires if conditions warrant.

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