



Nenana Ridge Complex Update

July 19th 2025



Bonanza Creek Fire (#238): 12,576 acres, 15% containment

Goldstream Creek Fire (#270): 20,530 acres, 14% containment

Personnel: 433

Evacuation Information: Evacuation levels were downgraded Wednesday, July 16th by the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management along the Parks Highway corridor.

● Level 3 'GO!':

- Outside the Borough: From the borough's western edge, 4.5 miles west; from Sled Road north for 7 miles from the Alaska Railroad. This includes Standard Creek Road and nearby timber harvest access areas. The areas more than ½ mile west of the highway corridor from MP 317 to the borough boundary. The areas more than ½ mile east of the highway corridor from MP 312 to the borough boundary and to the Tanana River east of the Maich Logging Rd.
- Inside the Borough: Zones include Skinny Dick's Logging Road, Nenana Ridge Forestry Road and Bonanza Creek Forestry Area.

● Level 2 'SET':

- Outside the Borough: Parks Highway MP 308-317 extending west of the highway to include homes along Little Goldstream Road, agricultural areas, and the Alaska Railroad. Extending east of the highway to include homes and agricultural areas, west of the Maich Logging Rd, including Farmview Subdivision. And for residents within ½ mile on each side of the highway from MP 317 to the borough boundary.
- Inside the Borough: Residents with ½ mile on each side of the highway from the borough boundary to MP 338. The Standard Cache zone that includes the middle portion of Standard Creek Road and the beginning of Cache Creek Road.

● Level 1 'READY':

- Outside the Borough: Parks Highway MP 305-309, extending to the Tanana River.
- Inside the Borough: Evacuation zones Parks Mile 338-342, Old Nenana Highway, Standard Creek, Old Ridge Trail, and Cache Creek Road.

Evacuation shelters in both Nenana and Fairbanks have closed. Shelter options for both people and animals will be provided again if they are needed due to evacuations or fire behavior. Call Fairbanks North Star Borough at 907-459-1308 for additional information.

Fire Weather: Saturday will see mostly sunny, drier conditions with the possibility of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Winds will be light. Temperatures will reach a high around 77. This trend will continue until Sunday,

when we begin a transition to a southwesterly flow which will bring cooler temperatures and more moisture. Fire potential remains as we continue to be in a dry, warm period. Isolated smokes may be visible from interior pockets burning but no significant growth is expected.

Fire Update: Across both fires, crews continue to mop-up around the edges to build additional containment, which has primarily been achieved on the northern portion of the Bonanza Creek Fire south of the Parks Highway, as well as the southwest section of the Goldstream Creek Fire. Heat is persistent in the unburned fuel pocket west of Twomile Lake. Firefighters continue to focus their efforts on working hotspots along both east and west sides of this pocket.

An infrared drone module detected heat signatures near mile post 327. A Type 1 helicopter, UH60, also known as a Blackhawk, was utilized to support the ground crew efforts, deploying water bucket drops on hotspots in this area. All resources used in wildfire operations are classified by a typing system. Type 1 helicopters have a higher lift capacity, giving them the ability to move over 700 gallons of water.

White Mountain Type 2 IA crew and Pike Hotshots have made great headway where they are spiked out in the Ohio Creek drainage. They have progressed 150 feet in from the fire line, cutting out jack-strawed trees and extinguishing any hotspots. The crews are pulling heavy fuels that are still burning deeper into the fire footprint to prevent fire from escaping the containment line.

Heat remains in the burned sections along the Parks Highway. The road will continue to be one of the primary focal areas today, with crews being repositioned from other areas to mop-up heat parallel to the road. A skid-mounted fire engine, also known as a skidgine, has been deployed to support these efforts. Skidgines are well equipped to travel off-road in rough terrain. This equipment increases firefighter safety by minimizing their use of the highway to access the fire.

No Drone Zone: Firefighters working in the area of Dineege Avenue reported an unauthorized drone operating in the area, halting aerial fire operations for several hours while an investigation took place. Flying drones near wildfires is illegal and extremely dangerous, often leading to the grounding of firefighting aircraft and potentially causing harm to firefighters and property. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the Nenana Ridge Complex. For more information go to <https://tfr.faa.gov>

Road Safety: As you drive the Parks Highway, you may not see much firefighting activity, but crews are working deeper in the fire area and are still accessing these areas via the highway. Please use extra caution and watch for firefighters and equipment, especially between MP 318 to 340. Pilot car operations are taking place through an active construction zone unrelated to fire activities. For more information about this construction project go to: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parks319to325/>. For real-time road updates, visit 511.alaska.gov.

More Information: For official updates, visit Alaska Wildland Fire Information at akfireinfo.com or follow facebook.com/AK.Forestry.

For the interactive Alaska Wildland Fire Information Map Series go here: <https://arcg.is/1a0yT03>

For video briefings and more fire-related content from the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, visit our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@AlaskaDNRDOF>

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