



## FIRE UPDATE

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July 19, 2025

[www.blm.gov/AlaskaFireService](http://www.blm.gov/AlaskaFireService)

### “Ready” evacuation level lifted for Central area

The Level 1 “Ready” evacuation notice has been lifted for the Central area due to moderated fire activity and successful suppression efforts on the Ptarmigan Complex. Residents should remain alert, however, as fires are still active nearby and Alaska remains in fire season. Residents can take simple steps to reduce wildfire risk: move flammable items like firewood, ATVs, and gas cans at least 30 feet from homes; clear needles, leaves, and brush from roofs, decks, and yards; trim grass and low branches; and keep the first 5 feet around your home free of anything that could ignite. Cover attic vents with metal mesh to block embers, and ensure water sources like hoses or barrels are ready to use.

The current Type 3 incident management team assigned to the Ptarmigan Complex is transitioning at Type 4 organization with the transfer of command set to take place Sunday at 7 a.m. Firefighters and aviation resources will continue their work on the fires.

The Type 3 team is grateful for support firefighters have felt from the communities of Circle, Central, and Circle Hot Springs. They recognize the impact firefighting activities can have on small communities, given the influx of additional vehicles, aircraft and people and the toll it can have on roads and infrastructure. Thank you for having us in your communities.

There was moderate fire activity across the complex Friday with some areas experiencing isolated torching. Fire continues to creep, back, and smolder in places and there was increased smoke observed due to warmer, drier conditions. The long-term forecast still calls for a southwest flow to potentially kick in by early next week, which should bring wetter weather.

Fire behavior on the **Turtle Fire (#243)** was moderate Friday with creeping and smoldering observed along with some isolated tree torching. Crow Peak Wildland Fire Module and Alaska Range Suppression Module will continue mopping up hotspots on the north end of the fire. They are working toward obtaining a depth of 300 feet of along the edge without any remaining heat. The Turtle Fire was reported on June 19. It is about 10 miles east of Central and 12 miles south of Circle and was started by lightning.

The **Deadwood Fire (#214)** is in monitor status. It was started by lightning, was discovered on June 20, and is in Central. The **Birch Fire (#256)** is in monitor status. It was discovered on June 20, was caused by lightning, and is located about 4 miles northwest of Circle. The **Buckley Bar Fire (#264)** is in monitor status. It is 17 miles to the southwest of Central. It was discovered on June 20 and was caused by lightning. The **Alligator Fire (#265)** is in monitor status. It was discovered on June 20, was started by lightning, and is located about 3 miles north of Central.

**NOTAM #:** 07/118 is in place for the Central Airport (CEM): Increased air traffic 5,000 ft MSL and below within a 20 nautical mile radius of the Central Airport (CEM) due to firefighting aviation operations.

*This is the final update for the Ptarmigan Complex barring any unforeseen changes in fire activity.*

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