



U.S. Department of the Interior

INTERIOR **WILDLAND FIRE**

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Kopshesut Fire News Release

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U.S. Wildland Fire Service Firefighters, Aircraft Continue Efforts to Contain the Kopshesut Fire near Ambler

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Fire activity significantly moderated overnight, allowing U.S. Wildland Fire Service personnel to advance efforts to stop the spread of the Kopshesut Fire toward Ambler. Using a direct extinguishment strategy, 24 smokejumpers — supported by single-engine water scoopers, helicopters, and two Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection air tankers — made good progress on the eastern edge Thursday and reported 10% containment with an estimated 500 acres burned.

With help from the water scoopers and helicopters, the smokejumpers will continue concentrating their efforts on the right flank to keep the fire from reaching the village.

Wind gusts up to 30 mph pushed flames burning through black spruce southeast toward the Kobuk River on Thursday, rather than directly toward Ambler. The fire is estimated to be within a mile of the community.

Two USWFS crews — the Type 2 North Star Crew and the Midnight Sun Hotshots — each with just over 20 firefighters, will be shuttling from Fairbanks to the fire over the next two days.

After a morning of cloudy skies Friday, similar conditions are expected across the fire area. West to northwest winds will persist, with occasional gusts up to 25 mph later in the day. Overnight humidity recovery is expected to be good again. Isolated showers are possible Saturday afternoon, with precipitation becoming more widespread as another weather system moves south over the fire. However, because this system is dropping down from the Arctic, the potential for meaningful wetting rain remains low. It will bring a period of cooler, seasonable temperatures early next week.

For updated fire information, visit Alaska Wildland Fire Information (akfireinfo.com) and [USWLF Alaska Fire Service](#) on Facebook.

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