



## Alaska Interagency Incident Management Team

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 30, 2007 8:30 pm

Fire Information: 907-714-2484  
Website: [www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us/emergency)  
Website: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

### **Caribou Hills Winds Down**

(Ninilchik, Alaska) Firefighter crews continue to strengthen lines around the perimeter of the Caribou Hills Fire, which is currently 70% contained. The majority of the remaining fire line is within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Due to the wilderness status of this portion of the refuge, M.I.S.T. (Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics) are being implemented. Monitoring efforts will continue daily. If the fire burns beyond approximately 3 1/2 miles south of the fire's current location, appropriate suppression response will be implemented. Residents and visitors to the peninsula will continue to see smoke from the eastern flank as green islands of fuel burn within the fire. Crews continue to work to finish the line on the NE flank, which is nearest Kasilof.

The fire lines held well today despite dry and windy conditions. There were "smokes" or hot spots identified which crews extinguished if they were within 200 feet of the fire line or posed a threat to structures. Mop-up and rehabilitation work is progressing deeper into the burn area along the entire perimeter.

Several crews left today and more are preparing to depart tomorrow. They will take a much-needed rest to prepare for any new fires. Plans for downgrading the fire status from a Type 2 team to a Type 3 organization supervised by the Soldotna Area Office, are under way. The transition is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, 7/3/07. The Type 3 team will consist of 4 crews, a medium helicopter, a bull dozer and 2 excavators along with required overhead. Additional resources will be available if needed.

**Oilwell Road is open between 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM Sunday and will open permanently Monday evening at 7:00 PM.** Fire officials appreciate the cooperation received on the road closure and the support by the public during the fire. Anyone traveling near the incident is advised to exercise extreme caution and drive with their lights on.

The temporary flight restriction over the fire area will be lifted during the evenings, from 10:00 pm, until 8:00 am. Caribou Lake is outside the current TFR area, so pilots are free to fly in and out of it at any time.

**Dave Jandt's Type 2 Interagency Incident Management Team is coordinating suppression activities. Current resources assigned include 8 Type 1 crews, 9 Type 2 crews, 4 helicopters, 5 engines, 1 dozer, and 2 water tenders, with a total of 505 personnel.**