



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska Wildland Fire  
Management

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## Alaska National Parks Wildland Fire Information

### Wrangell- St. Elias National Park and Preserve July 7, 2009 @ 2:00pm

#### Chakina Fire Update...

- Mapped and monitored on July 6<sup>th</sup>, the fire is currently 5000 acres.
- Southern side of the fire is most active and the northern side is slowing backing towards the Chitna River. A backing fire spreads into (against) the wind or down slope.
- Smoke column remains very visible from McCarthy, having pushed up to 8,000 feet.
- McCarthy and structures within the general vicinity of the fire are not threatened.
- National Park Service and Division of Forestry fire staff will monitor the fire by mapping it from the air, document fire behavior observations as needed and access structure protection needs if it becomes necessary.

Smoke is expected to stay in the Copper River Valley through Tuesday due to light and variable winds. Overall air quality will be good to moderate with some areas experiencing periods that are unhealthy for sensitive individuals. Keep in mind that worse conditions generally occur during the nighttime to early morning hours. During the day, air quality typically improves temporarily. Visit [www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm) for information on how you can protect yourself from smoke.

The potential for a fire to ignite is high due to warm and dry conditions. Currently the McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department is patrolling the McCarthy Road providing fire prevention information to visitors and residents. Please be safe with fire and remember that just a spark can ignite a wildfire.

Lightning and warm weather resulted in the Chakina wildfire 13.5 miles southwest of McCarthy on July 2, 2009. A local air service reported the fire south of the Chitina River and up the Chakina River.

Be sure to visit <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm> for the most- up- to- date information, photos and maps.

#### For More Information,

- Mark Keogh, Wrangell- St. Elias, Public Information Officer, 907.960.1024
- Division of Forestry in Glennallen, 907.822.5534

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