

# ALASKA REGION JUNE–AUGUST 2015

## Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook



### WEATHER AND CLIMATE HIGHLIGHTS

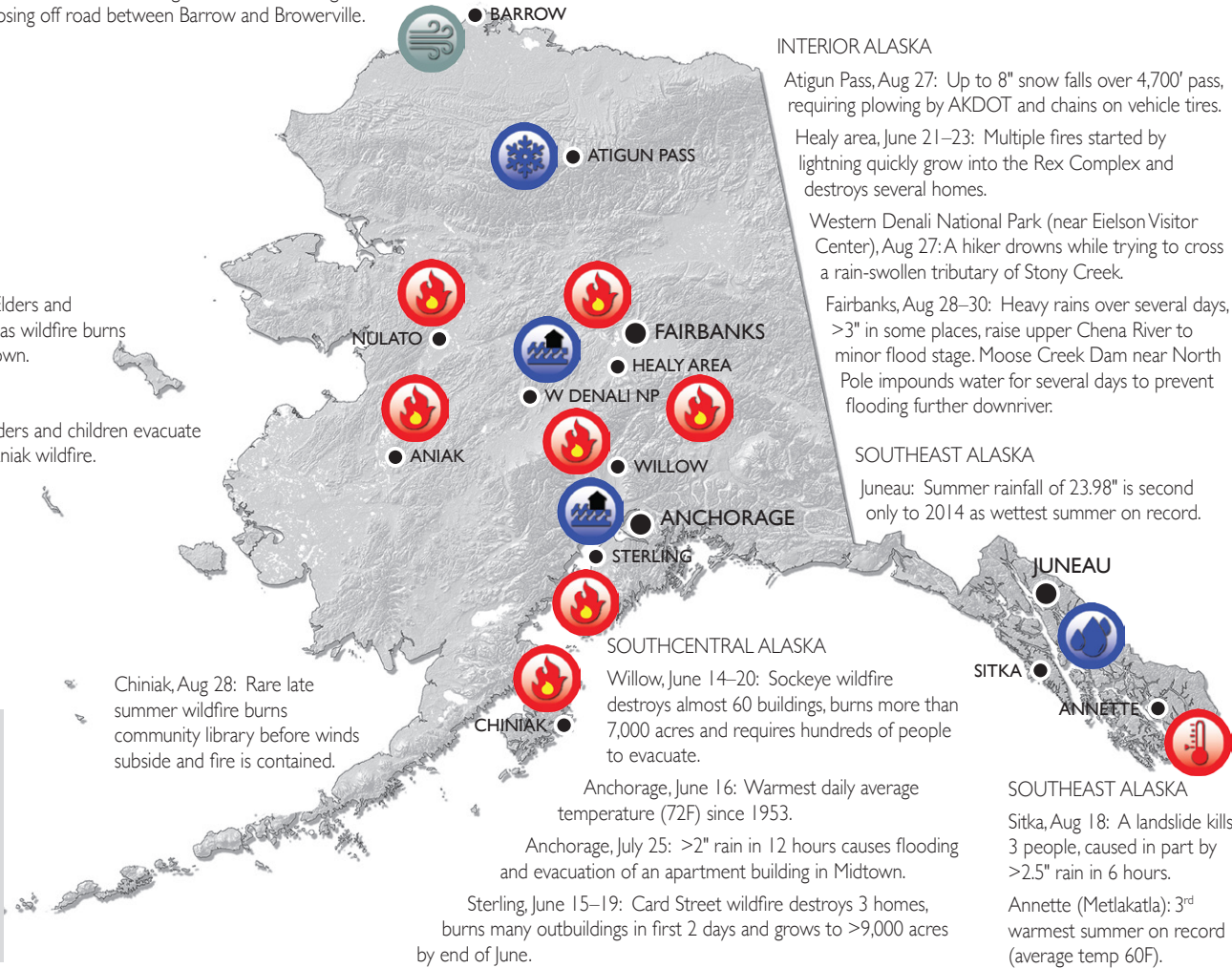
Barrow, Aug 27: Waves erode sand and gravel berms, allowing seawater to flow inland and closing off road between Barrow and Browerville.

Nulato, June 23: Elders and children evacuate as wildfire burns right to edge of town.

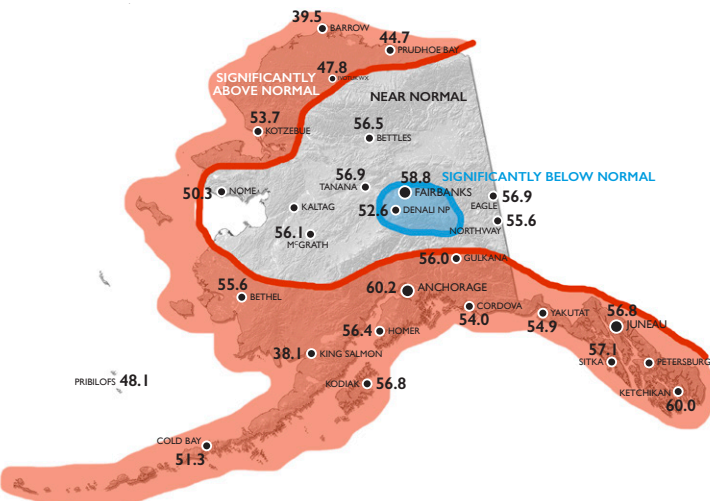
Aniak, June 25: Elders and children evacuate from the North Aniak wildfire.

Chiniak, Aug 28: Rare late summer wildfire burns community library before winds subside and fire is contained.

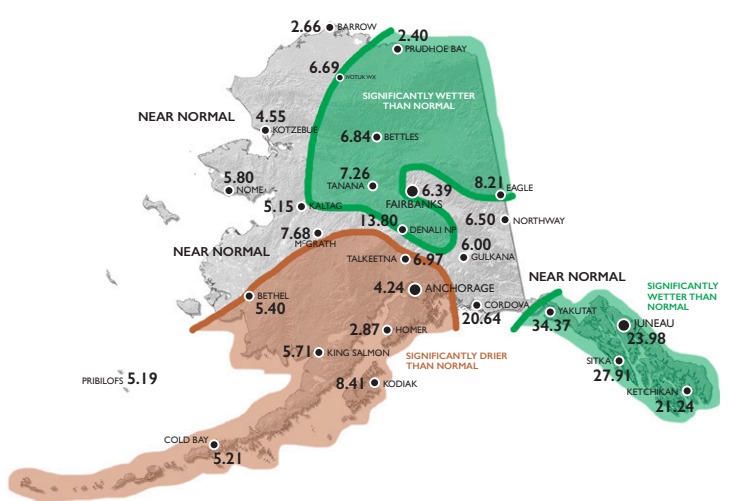
- FLOODING
- HIGH RAIN
- HIGH SNOW
- HIGH TEMP
- WILDFIRE
- WIND



### TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES



### PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES



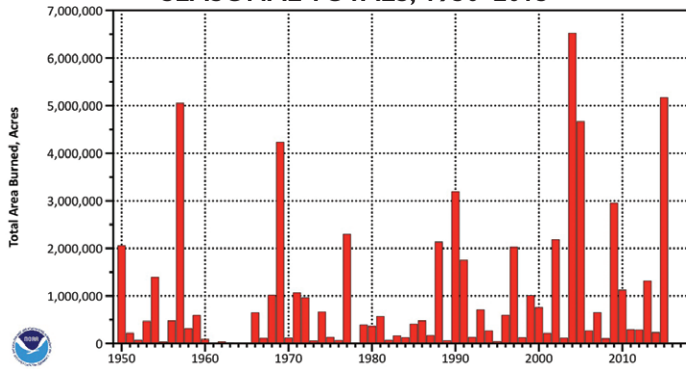
"Significantly above/below" = within the warmest/coolest third of values compared to 1981–2010 reference period

"Significantly wetter/drier" = within the wettest/driest third of values compared to 1981–2010 reference period

Data and analyses are preliminary and subject to revision. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

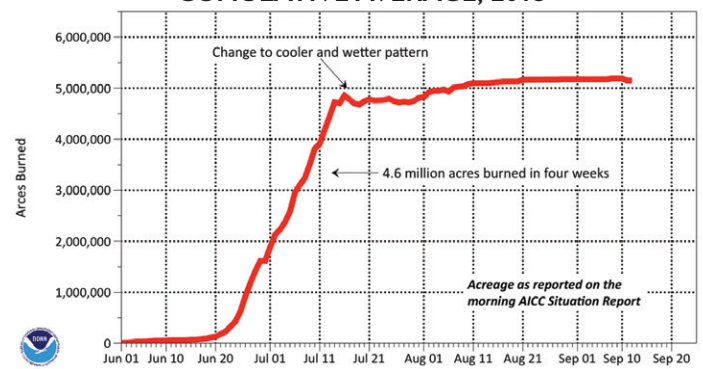
# REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT: WILDLAND FIRE IN ALASKA

## ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE ACREAGE: SEASONAL TOTALS, 1950-2015



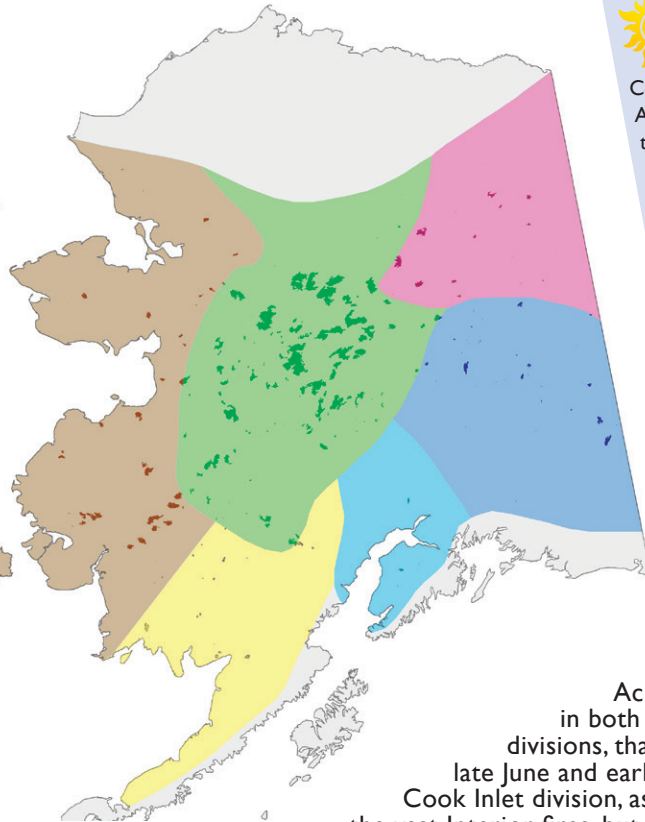
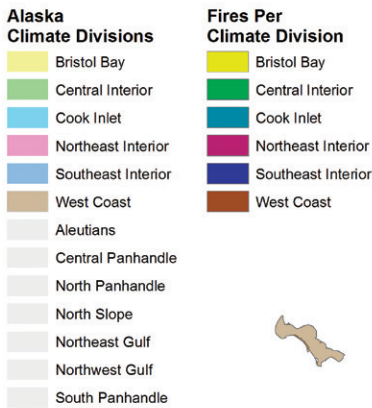
Wildfires burned 5.15 million acres this summer, the second greatest area burned in a season in 66 years of reliable records. Unlike previous years with very large burn acreage, when warm dry Augusts lengthened the fire season, more than

## ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE: CUMULATIVE AVERAGE, 2015



90% of this total burned between June 15 and July 15, and the typical August rains largely halted the spread of fires. There were 104 fires that burned more than 10,000 acres, and nine fires that exceeded 100,000 acres.

## FIRE PERIMETERS ACROSS CLIMATE DIVISIONS



Data and analyses are preliminary and subject to revision. Source: Alaska Interagency Coordination Ctr

Climate Division	Area Burned (acres)
Bristol Bay	65766
Central Interior	3988854
Cook Inlet	17178
Northeast Interior	223197
Southeast Interior	181355
West Coast	663988



Content and graphics prepared in partnership with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy and the National Weather Service Alaska Region

### ALASKA REGION PARTNERS

NOAA / NESDIS / NCEI  
Scenarios Network for Alaska + Arctic Planning

Visit [nccdc.noaa.gov](http://nccdc.noaa.gov) for more climate news.

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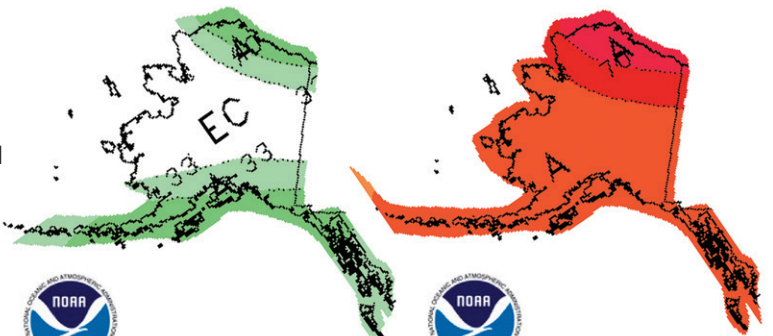
Left: The large majority of acreage burned in 2015 was in the Central Interior division. Many of these fires were ignited during a week in mid-June of intense lightning from slow moving thunderstorms. Substantial acreage also burned over inland portions of the West Coast and Bristol Bay divisions.

Acreage burned was comparatively low in both the Northeast and Southeast Interior divisions, thanks to somewhat wetter conditions during late June and early July compared to areas farther west. The Cook Inlet division, as usual, burned little acreage compared to the vast Interior fires, but occurred in areas with many residents and so were very destructive despite the small area burned.

## REGIONAL OUTLOOKS: OCT-DEC 2015

**PRECIPITATION:** Chances for a significantly wetter than normal Oct-Dec are slightly increased across the southern mainland, northern Panhandle and Kodiak due to the influence of a strong El Niño. Chances for a significantly wetter than normal season are slightly increased across the Brooks Range and North Slope due to dramatically increased open water—which serves as an increased moisture source—in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas compared to the 1981-2010 reference period.

**TEMPERATURE:** Chances for significantly warmer than normal temperatures for Oct-Dec are increased across Alaska due to combined influences of a strong El Niño, warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the N Pacific and Gulf of Alaska, and greatly reduced early autumn sea ice cover in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas compared to the 1981-2010 reference period.



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID OND 2015  
MADE 17 SEP 2015



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID OND 2015  
MADE 17 SEP 2015