

Amanda Price  
Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA



Department of  
Public Safety

Anchorage, Alaska

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DPS PR# 19-021

### **UPDATE: State Lifts Fireworks Suspension for Western Alaska**

*Suspensions in other regions remain in effect until further notice.*

**July 2, 2019 (ANCHORAGE)** – The Alaska State Fire Marshal’s Office, in consultation with the State Forester’s Office and in accordance with Alaska Administrative Code 50.025 Fire Code, has canceled the fireworks sales and use suspension in Western Alaska, including Dillingham, Bethel, McGrath, Nome, Kotzebue and surrounding communities.

Until further notice, fireworks sales and use suspensions remain in effect in the following areas:

- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Kodiak Borough
- Copper River Valley, including Glennallen south to Valdez
- Tanana Valley north of the Alaska Range
- Northern Panhandle, including Haines in the north, Skagway, and Juneau to the south

Updates regarding sale and use of and fireworks suspensions status will be posted during regular business hours in the Alaska State Troopers Daily Dispatches at <https://dps.alaska.gov/DailyDispatch/> under the heading “AK Div of Fire and Life Safety.”

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For more information, contact Public Information Officer Ken Marsh at [ken.marsh@alaska.gov](mailto:ken.marsh@alaska.gov) or phone (907) 269-5654.

MEMORANDUM  
Department of Natural Resources

STATE OF ALASKA  
Forestry / Central Office

TO: Richard Boothby  
State Fire Marshall/Director

DATE: July 1, 2019

PHONE NO.: 907-451-2666

FROM: Chris Maisch  
State Forester/Director

SUBJECT: Extreme Fire Danger  
Fireworks Sale and Use  
Suspension Update

Here is the daily update from DOF with our recommendations for the current fireworks suspension status. Also attached is our internal worksheet for fire danger by jurisdiction with related fire activity and planning level information. There remains a shortage of wildland fire fighting resources in the state.

The areas still under suspension will include:

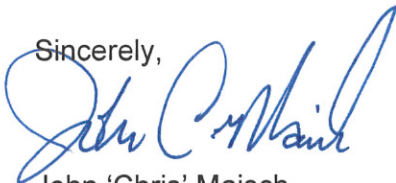
No changes since the previous update.

Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Matanuska- Susitna Borough  
Copper River Valley, including Glennallen south to Valdez  
Tanana Valley north of the Alaska Range  
Northern Panhandle, including Haines Borough, Municipality of Skagway and Juneau Borough  
Kodiak Borough

Please **remove** from the suspension:  
No changes.

Criteria used to determine geographical suspension areas are fire risk conditions in high, very high, and extreme conditions or that have a shortage of wildland firefighting resources. Conditions and areas under suspension will be re-evaluated daily by the Division of Forestry and recommended changes made to the State Fire Marshall's office.

Sincerely,



John 'Chris' Maisch  
State Forester

Cc: DOF Internal daily update on fire risk.



July 1, 2019

RE: Fireworks Suspension

Good morning,

At the request of DOF Director Chris Maisch, the following information is being made available to you as it pertains to the daily status of the closure of the sale and discharge of fireworks in Alaska as defined under:

13 AAC 50.025. International Fire Code

5608.11.14 Suspension of sales and use. "The sale or use of fireworks may be suspended by the state fire marshal in any area where the Department of Natural Resources has declared the wildfire danger to be high/extreme or depleted resources."

**7/1/19 - DOF Statewide Planning Level: 4**

DOF Areas	Fire Danger Level	Planning Level	Burn Suspension?	New Fires	Change in Fireworks Suspension?
Kenai - Kodiak	Very High	4	Yes	1	No
Mat - Su	Very High	2	Yes	2	No
McGrath	Very High	4	No	2	No
Fairbanks	High	3	Yes	0	No
Delta	Very High	4	Yes	0	No
Tok	High	3 (down from PL4)	Yes	2	No
Valdez/Copper River	Very High to Extreme	4	No	1	No
Alaska Interagency Coordination Center	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska Fire Service/BLM Zones	-----	3	-----	0	-----
Chugach National Forest	Very High	4 (up from PL3)	-----	0	-----
Tongass National Forest	Unknown	2	-----	0	-----

Respectfully,

Dan Govoni  
Alaska Division of Forestry  
Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention Coordinator  
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Email: [dan.govoni@alaska.gov](mailto:dan.govoni@alaska.gov)