



**F
I
R
E

U
P
D
A
T
E**

Monday, May 31, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Tom Lavagnino - Incident Information Officer (530) 598-9303

email: gillescreek@gmail.com

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1965>

Incident Command Post is located in Delta Junction, Alaska

Start date: 5/26/1009	Cause: Lightning	Estimated Size: 14,000 acres	% Contained: 5%	# of Firefighters: 175
Injuries to date 0	Estimated Containment: TBA	Closures: None.	# of 20-person hand crews: 7	# of helicopters: 1 – Light-lift

Gilles Creek Fire Update:

Delta Junction, AK – The Gilles Creek Fire was actively burning towards the northwest and was burning in other directions when vegetation and topographic conditions supported fire growth. The winds over the fire area varied, but were reported as light. Air tankers dropping water were effective in the southern part of the fire along Cottonwood Creek and the Shaw Creek Flats.

Dozers and hand crews continued to construct fire lines where feasible, to contain the fire along the south, east and west flanks of the fire. The Gilles Creek Fire is now estimated at 14,000 acres, and is considered 5% contained.

Today fire crews will continue constructing fire lines near the Pogo Mine Road and have prioritized the protection of the electric power lines that supply power to the Pogo Mine. Electricity has been shut off for the past few days for safety reasons to protect fire fighters. All efforts are being made to quickly restore power to the Pogo Mine.

The live and dead vegetation, or fuels in this area are extremely dry and have supported very active fire behavior with some spotting potential. During the evenings large plumes of smoke, reaching high into the atmosphere have contributed to the rapid spread of the fire. Some of the slopes in the northern part of the fire are approaching 60%, and have burned very aggressively.

There are 175 firefighters assigned to this fire and no injuries have been reported to date. The Oregon and California (ORCA) Incident Management Team assumed command of this fire at 8:00 pm last night.