



# News Release

BLM Alaska Fire Service  
P.O. Box 35005 1541 Gaffney Road, Fairbanks AK 99703-0005  
Tel: 907-356-6500 [www.akfireinfo.com](http://www.akfireinfo.com)  
Contact: Beth Ipsen, [eipsen@blm.gov](mailto:eipsen@blm.gov); (907)388-2159

News Release No. 20-03  
Date: April 10, 2020

---

## BLM AFS Awards Three Contracts for Alaska Village-Based Type 2 Wildland Firefighting Crews

FAIRBANKS – The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (BLM AFS) awarded three contracts for Type 2 wildland firefighting hand crews based in rural northeastern and Interior Alaska villages for the 2020 fire season. The contractors selected will base crews in the [Upper Yukon](#) and [Tanana](#) Fire Management Zones for quick response to fires within BLM AFS protection areas.

Unlike federal emergency firefighter (EFF) crews that are hired only on an as-needed basis, contracted crews allow for work outside of fire suppression, such as fuels mitigation and other funded projects. Contract crews may also provide more stable employment than the current EFF program. The contract crews will adhere to [national qualifications for Type 2 hand crews](#) and can be ordered for wildfire response in Alaska and the Lower 48.

The three contracts were awarded by region as follows:

- Upper Yukon Region: Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments with assembly points in Fort Yukon, Venetie and Arctic Village
- Lower Tanana Region: Capstone Fire & Safety Management with assembly points in Minto and Tanana
- Upper Koyukuk Region: S. E. S. Fire with assembly points in Huslia, Hughes and Allakaket

In light of the changing requirements for federal EFF, the contract crew concept intends to meet the need for Type 2 wildland firefighting crews available for response in Alaska and the Lower 48. The solicitation was a competitive process for qualified entities to ensure viable crews are available when called upon.

The contract crews will not be a part of the statewide Federal/State Type 2 EFF crew rotation. The BLM AFS will continue to administer Type 2 EFF crews in regions in the [Galena Fire Management Zone](#) that covers Western Alaska where no contracts are awarded as long as enough qualified responders are available.

For more information regarding the contracts, contact BLM Contracting Officer Theresa Coffenberry at the National Operations Center at (303)236-5437 or [tcoffenberry@blm.gov](mailto:tcoffenberry@blm.gov); or BLM AFS EFF Program Coordinator Hudson Plass at (907)356-5611 or [hplass@blm.gov](mailto:hplass@blm.gov).

For other inquiries, contact BLM AFS Public Affairs Specialist Beth Ipsen at (907)388-2159 or [eipsen@blm.gov](mailto:eipsen@blm.gov).

###

The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (AFS) located at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, provides wildland fire suppression services for over 244 million acres of Department of the Interior and Native Corporation Lands in Alaska. In addition, AFS has other statewide responsibilities that include: interpretation of fire management policy; oversight of the BLM Alaska Aviation program; fuels management projects; and operating and maintaining advanced communication and computer systems such as the Alaska Lightning Detection System. AFS also maintains a National Incident Support Cache with a \$10 million inventory. The Alaska Fire Service provides wildland fire suppression services for America's "Last Frontier" on an interagency basis with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Military in Alaska.