

Explosive—

Forest Fire Danger

The forest fire danger in much of Southcentral and Interior Alaska became extreme in the latter part of May and is expected to continue through June, which is normally a dry month.

The fire season to date is the worst since 1957 and possibly the worst since the mid 40's. It is also a record early fire season.

In order to help reduce the danger of uncontrolled fires, a public order was issued prohibiting all open and uncontrolled fires such as berm, slash, debris, rubbish, grass and cropland fires on all state and private lands in the Greater Anchorage area, Matanuska-Susitna and Fairbanks boroughs.

The original order of May 21 was supplemented May 26 with a public order additionally closing most of the Kenai Peninsula, Susitna, Matanuska and Copper River Valleys and the area from the Alaska Range north to the Yukon River and from the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River east of the Alaska-Yukon border.

In addition to the closures by

the state, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has closed the Kenai National Moose Range to uncontrolled burning and the Forest Service has closed portions of the Chugach National Forest.

The closure to uncontrolled burning will continue in effect until further notice.