



**United States Department of the Interior
KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Shantatalik Creek Fire July 8 afternoon update.

The Shantatalik Creek fire is burning on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, north of Tustumena Lake. The fire was ignited by lightning on June 29th, is estimated between 3,000 and 4,000 acres pending a mapping flight later in today. Fire behavior continues to be moderate and most movement continues to the northeast, away from developed areas.

The fire has burned to some wetlands on the northern perimeter and is not currently active on that flank. The fire is burning in a “limited” fire suppression area, and is being managed to reduce hazardous accumulations of beetle-killed and other forest debris.

Today helicopters are working the western edge of the fire with water bucket drops.

Cooling the western edge of the fire will allow it to continue to burn to the east away from developed areas.

The fire is progressing well and should continue to burn to the east as long as current weather patterns persist. Monitoring and mapping flights continue daily.

Questions should be referred to: Doug Staller, Kenai Refuge Deputy Refuge Manager:
260-2805.

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