



**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

Winds out of the south, southwest have helped fan the flames on the Shantatalik Creek Fire last night and into the early morning hours today, increasing the total acreage burned to 10,000 acres as of this morning. A large column of smoke was visible last night within the Soldotna and Sterling communities and along Funny River Road. Residences along Funny River Road were not considered as threatened from last night's fire behavior, therefore no evacuations were put into place.

Fire officials from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge responsible for the incident, have since ordered additional resources in support and are now assigned to the incident.

Resources include, 15 additional crews, (10 Type 2 crews and 5 Type 1 crews) an assortment of fire fighting apparatus and aircraft both fixed wing and helicopters.

In addition, a national fire fighting team, lead by Steve Gage, Incident Commander has arrived this evening to assume command and responsibility of the incident, starting at

7:00am tomorrow morning. The team and all firefighting personnel will reside and operate from Skyview High School, just west of Soldotna, off Sterling Highway.

The Shantatalik Creek Fire started June 29<sup>th</sup>, as a result of lightning. For additional fire information relating to the incident, please visit or call the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge office during business hours, at (907) 262-7021, or visit their web site at <http://kenai.fws.gov> for current releases and photos. To comment and ask questions on the incident, please use the fire email address at [r7shanta@fws.gov](mailto:r7shanta@fws.gov).

Questions should be referred to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge at (907) 262-7021 or email [R7Shanta@fws.gov](mailto:R7Shanta@fws.gov).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)*

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