



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

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Shanta Creek Fire Update

Winds out of the south, southwest helped fan the flames on the Shanta Creek Fire during the past couple days, increasing the total acreage burned to approximately 10,000 acres as of this morning. Fire behavior was moderate yesterday as temperatures and winds decreased. Airtankers yesterday continued dropping water along the fire's northern edge in order to slow the fire's growth and keep it from spreading towards the north.

Residences along Funny River Road were not considered threatened by the fire; therefore no evacuations are currently in 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 (5 Type-1 crews and 10 Type-2 crews), an assortment of fire fighting apparatus, and aircraft both fixed wing and helicopters.

In addition, a National Incident Management Team, lead by Steve Gage, Incident Commander arrived last evening to assume command and responsibility of the incident,

starting at 7a.m. Friday morning. The team and all fire fighting personnel will set up an Incident Command Post and operate from the Skyview High School, just west of Soldotna, off Sterling Highway.

The Shanta Creek Fire started June 29th , as a result of lightning. For additional fire information and 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 <http://kenai.fws.gov> and then click of the incident link for current releases and photos. To comment and ask questions on the incident, please use the fire email address at, r7shanta@fws.gov.

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