



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

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021



09080mf

Friday, July 10, 2009, 9:00 p.m.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SOLDOTNA, ALASKA

FIRE INFORMATION: (907) 260-2342 or (907) 260-2338

SUBJECT: Shanta Creek Fire Evening Update

Email: r7shanta@fws.gov

Website: <http://kenai.fws.gov>

Weather Helps Moderate Fire Spread on Shanta Creek Fire

Excellent progress on the part of firefighters occurred today during suppression efforts on the Shanta Creek Fire which is located on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 15 miles south and east of Soldotna, Alaska. Moderate weather conditions provided additional support allowing firefighters to begin the process of creating indirect contingency lines, south and parallel of Funny River Road to provide for structure protection. Residents can expect to see firefighters and firefighting equipment along the entire stretch of this road for the next several days. For safety purposes, residents are asked to drive with headlights on for visibility and reduce their speed while using this road.

Closure orders for trails or roads have not been issued as a result of the Shanta Creek Fire. There currently are no evacuation orders for residents residing along Funny

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River Road. However, a temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in place and monitored by the local Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This restriction bans any private aircraft flying over the fire perimeter within a 4,000 foot elevation by a 4,000 foot radius. Pilots need to contact the FAA for further clarification on this restriction. Restriction will remain in place until further notice.

Currently there are over 450 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts. In addition, air tankers and helicopters continued to drop water during the day on the head and flank of the fire to keep it from spreading to the north.

The National Incident Management Team (NIMO) managing this incident, (Steve Gage, Incident Commander) has set up their Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Skyview High School, just south of the community of Soldotna. **New Fire Information numbers will go into effect for public use beginning tomorrow morning at 8:00 am and will be staffed until 10:00 pm, daily until further notice.** Phone numbers for public information will be as follows: (907) 260-2338 and (907) 260-2342.

For additional information on this incident please visit the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge web site at <http://kenai.fws.gov> then click of the link for the Shanta Creek Fire. To comment and ask questions on the incident, please use the fire email address at 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.

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