



Division of Forestry

Alaska Department of Natural Resources



United States Department of the Interior
KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
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Shanta Creek Fire Information Update

Sunday, July 12, 2009, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information: (907) 260-2338 or (907) 260-2342

Fire Information Website: <http://kenai.fws.gov> or <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/>
Fire Email Address: r7shanta@fws.gov

Shanta Creek Fire Remains on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

The Shanta Creek Fire is now mapped at 12,111 acres. The fire was started by a lightning strike on the evening of June 29 northeast of the north end of Tustemena Lake. Minimal overnight movement means that the fire is still more than 10 miles southeast of Soldotna. There was little smoke impacting Soldotna or other Kenai Peninsula towns. Fire managers warn that a lot of hard work remains before the threat to residences and outbuildings in the Funny River Road area along the Kenai River is completely abated.

By late Saturday, significant progress was made in the development of fire suppression lines along the north boundary of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and at strategic locations within the wilderness portion of the Refuge. Fire perimeter growth was limited to the southeast portion of the fire. The fire has moved to the east, away from built-up areas and private land.

A Community Meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sunday evening at the Funny River Community Center. A number of local officials and fire managers will present updates on the fire situation and will answer questions.

Closure orders for trails or roads have not been issued as a result of the Shanta Creek Fire. There currently are no evacuation orders. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in place and is being monitored by the local Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This restriction bans private aircraft from flying over or near the fire perimeter below 5,000 foot altitude within a 5 mile radius of the fire. Pilots may contact the FAA for further explanation of this restriction. The TFR will remain in place until further notice.

Currently there are 441 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts. **A Fire Information Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. and will be staffed until 10:00 p.m. daily until further notice. The phone numbers are 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 on the link for the Shanta Creek Fire or visit the Shanta Creek fire information on "InciWeb" at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/>. To comment or ask questions on the incident, please use the fire email address at, r7shanta@fws.gov.

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