



# Division of Forestry

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

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

P.O. Box 2139  
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## **Shanta Creek Fire Information Update**

**Sunday, July 12, 2009, 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Fire Information Website: <http://kenai.fws.gov> or [www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/)**

**Fire E-mail Address: [r7shanta@fws.gov](mailto:r7shanta@fws.gov)**

## **Shanta Creek Fire Moving Slowly Away From Soldotna**

The cool, moist air that covered the western Kenai Peninsula this morning has dissipated in the area of the Shanta Creek Fire. As temperatures rose and relative humidity dropped, the fire began again showing signs of activity. Fire fighters are observing increased fire behavior in islands of heavy beetle-killed spruce stands, particularly on the southeast and northeast sides of the fire.

The fire is not burning large, solid blocks of forest, but rather is moving slowly to the east, through “stringers” of black spruce between open, wet muskeg meadows. The fuels situation and a light westerly wind mean that fire managers have gained a bit more time to prepare for warmer weather and south winds that could move the main fire north toward the Kenai River and the Funny River Road. Unfortunately, no rain is in the forecast for the next few days. The fire is still more than 10 miles southeast of Soldotna.

Work continued today on developing fire suppression lines along the north boundary of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and at strategic locations within the wilderness portion of the Refuge. At the same time, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (Office of Emergency Management) is continuing to work on a contingency plan to deal with possible fire movement to the north and built-up areas.

Currently there are some 441 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts, including: 10 fire engines; three bull dozers; seven helicopters; air tankers as needed; five Type 1 Hotshot crews; and 10 Type 2 Alaska Crews.

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.

A Fire Information Center will be open from 7:00 a.m. and staffed until 10:00 p.m. daily until further notice. The phone numbers are: (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 [www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/).

To comment or ask questions on the incident, please use the fire e-mail address at, [r7shanta@fws.gov](mailto:r7shanta@fws.gov).

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