



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
(907) 262-7021



Shanta Creek Fire Information Update

Monday, July 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Fire E-mail Address: r7shanta@fws.gov

Shanta Creek Fire Active but Showing Little Movement

As morning fog dissipated and temperatures rose on Monday afternoon, the Shanta Creek Fire was observed to be “backing” into stands of black spruce on its northeastern side. A backing fire moves slowly into unburned fuels against the prevailing wind. Temperatures were not high enough and relative humidity low enough for any expansive fire movement. The fire is currently mapped at 13,118 acres. The fire is still completely within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Drifting smoke today has been carried east toward the mountains and away from built up areas near Soldotna or the Sterling Highway.

Work continued on defensive contingency lines within the “Full Suppression” areas within the Refuge as well as on some private property along Funny River Road. These lines are a combination of clearing with hand tools and bulldozer work. They are designed to be used if the fire changes direction and moves north toward private land and developed areas. Some of this protection could involve “burnout” operations under controlled conditions.

Another community meeting will be held at the Funny River Community Center on Tuesday, July 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Currently there are 476 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts, including: 10 fire engines; 4 bull dozers; 7 helicopters; air tankers as needed; five Type-1 Hotshot crews; and 11 Type-2 Alaska Crews.

There currently are no evacuation orders issued. Closure orders for trails or roads have not been issued as a result of the Shanta Creek Fire. 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 five 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 is 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/.

To comment or ask questions on the incident, please use the fire e-mail address at r7shanta@fws.gov.

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