



# Division of Forestry

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

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

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### **Shanta Creek Fire Information Update**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 9:00 a.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)**

## **Crews to Begin Work Directly on Edge of Shanta Creek Fire**

The Shanta Creek Fire's activity was directly related to a drying pattern over the fire Monday afternoon, with the fog layer burning off from east to west. By early evening there were partly cloudy skies over the fire, but flame lengths only grew to about 3 feet and the fire moved slowly with a light westerly wind. The fire grew in size by only about 300 acres.

The reduction in fire intensity will allow fire officials to insert firefighters by helicopters on the fire's western flank east of Coal Creek Lake today. In this area, fire crews will be working along the edge of the fire, using hand tools to prevent fire spread to the west and northwest. This "boots on the ground" work on the fireline is a significant change in strategy. All "direct attack" actions taken to date have been from aircraft (bucket work and aerial delivery of water).

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.

**A Community Meeting will be held at the Funny River Community Center tonight, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. Fire managers and local officials will be available to explain the fire situation, discuss community structure protection, and answer questions.**

Currently there are 496 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts, including: 10 fire engines; 4 bull dozers; 9 helicopters; air tankers and scoopers as needed; five Type 1 Hotshot crews; and 11 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 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/](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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