



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
Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
Fire Information: (907) 260-2338 or (907) 260-2342

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

Fire E-mail Address: r7shanta@fws.gov

Direct Attack Work Proving Effective on Shanta Creek Fire

Hotshot crews airlifted in to work directly on the northern and western perimeter of the Shanta Creek fire on Wednesday observed no further fire spread to the north or west. They reported that most of the smokes and “hot spots” seen were actually out in interior portions of the burned area. This interior burning is not as likely to cause fire movement as it would if it were on the edge of the fire perimeter near unburned fuels. The firefighters completed over 2 miles of the 14 miles of direct fireline that are proposed. This direct line will not constitute “full containment” of the fire. The fire will be allowed to move eastward, well within the Refuge, toward the Killey River and the mountains. This will serve to remove a heavy accumulation of built up fuels in this area.

Fire officials will move two additional hotshot crews directly onto the fire’s northern perimeter. At the same time, work will continue on the indirect defensive lines constructed between the fire and the private lands to the north near Soldotna and along Funny River Road. Enhancement of this line could involve “burnout” operations under controlled conditions should the current situation change which is not expected. There are currently no evacuations issued at this time. The weather today will again be warm and dry and there may be an increase in fire behavior burning fuels within the perimeter of the fire area.

Currently there are 496 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts, including: 10 fire engines; 4 bull dozers; 10 helicopters; air tankers and

scoopers as needed; five Type 1 Hotshot crews; and 11 Type 2 Alaska Crews. The current fire size is 13,761 acres.

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 non-fire associated 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/.

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

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