



# 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**  
**Thursday, July 16, 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/](http://www.inciweb.org/incident/1724/)

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

## **Hard Work Results in Construction of More Fire Line**

Firefighters on the Shanta Creek fire had an extremely productive day Wednesday. All of the defensive line planned for between the fire and built-up areas toward Soldotna and along Funny River Road was completed. In addition, suppression work on the actual perimeter of the fire took place with Hot Shot crews and their gear being moved by helicopter to the firelines. The crews walked miles of fireline yesterday looking for hot spots along the fire edge and have proclaimed that much of this perimeter appears to need minimal work to complete an effective barrier to fire movement to the north or west.

Due to the clear weather, technicians were able to fly the exact boundary of the fire, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) to accurately map the fire's perimeter. This resulted in a reduction of the acreage noted for the fire. The area covered by the fire is now considered to be 12,578 acres.

Crews also worked on clearing and brushing the Funny River Horse Trail to facilitate alternate insertion and extraction of ground forces should weather or smoke make air travel impractical or unsafe.

The fire made no advance to the north or west. The bulk of active burning took place far from the road system, near Horse Trail Lake along the headwaters of the Funny River. The wind here was out of the northwest, away from town. This area is more than 12 miles southeast of the closest homes along Funny River Road. The public may again see smoke and smoke columns that will be the result of islands of fuels burning in the fires interior and continuing burnout

operations similar to what occurred yesterday should that action be needed to keep the fire from spreading.

Currently there are 452 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire suppression efforts, including: 10 fire engines; 4 bull dozers; 4 helicopters; air tankers and scoopers as needed; five Type 1 Hotshot crews; and 7 Type 2 Alaska Crews.

**There will be an Open House with fire and land managers as well local officials, on Friday evening, July 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Funny River Community Center.**

**There will also be an opportunity for members of the community to visit and tour the Fire Camp and Command Post at Skyview High School on Saturday, July 18 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

There currently are no evacuation orders. 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 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/](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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