



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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(907) 262-7021

Shanta Creek Fire Information Update
Thursday, July 16, 2009, 5:00 p.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

Firefighters Continue to Make Progress on Shanta Creek Fire

Partly cloudy skies and light winds allowed fire fighters to continue successful efforts to steer the Shanta Creek Fire away from Soldotna and Funny River Road. Crews were putting considerable effort into “cold trailing” the northern reaches of the fire, south of Funny River Road. Cold trailing is a technique that firefighters use to ensure that sections of fireline are no longer hot. This is done by physically testing the temperature of the outer edge of the burned area. When hot spots are found, they are mopped up and extinguished.

Defensive line constructed between the fire and built-up areas around Soldotna and along Funny River Road has been completed. The area covered by the fire is now mapped at 13,151 acres.

Crews also worked to widen and improve the Funny River Horse Trail by brushing it out. This will 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 on Thursday. Little growth occurred in the very southern end of the fire far from residences and communities.

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. The fire is mapped at 13,151 acres.

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

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

There currently are no evacuation orders in place. 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/.

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

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