



# 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

Friday, July 17, 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)

## Growth Slows on Shanta Creek Fire

Fire behavior specialists reported very slow rates of spread for the Shanta Creek Fire on Thursday afternoon. The only places that exhibited particularly active fire behavior were in the upland areas with considerable white spruce.

Following the Alaska Fire Plan and agency direction (Kenai National Wildlife Refuge), the fire is being managed to keep it within the “Limited” suppression zone. Since the northern and eastern portions of the fire’s perimeter are within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of the adjacent “Full” suppression zone, fire crews have been patrolling these areas to be sure that the fire does not spread into “Full Protection.” To supplement and assist the crews in this area, hand-held Infra-Red detection devices have been deployed to help identify spots where any heat remains.

Conversely, the southern and western portions of the fire perimeter have not been subjected to suppression actions. The fire in this area will be allowed to spread naturally toward the Killey River and the fire scar left by the King County Creek fire from 2005 in order to allow burning to continue to play its natural “fuels reduction” role.

In addition to the direct suppression work on the northern and western sides of the fire, defensive line has been constructed between the fire and built-up areas around Soldotna and along Funny River Road. This defensive line has been completed.

The fire made no advance to the north or west on Thursday. A bit of growth occurred at the very southern end of the fire far from residences and communities. Here the fire increased by 573 acres, to a total of 13,151 acres burned since its start by lightning on June 30th.

Currently there are 406 firefighters and support personnel assisting with the fire management efforts, including: 3 fire engines; 5 helicopters; air tankers and scoopers as needed; five Type 1 Hotshot crews; and seven Type 2 Alaska crews.

**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 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/](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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