



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
Friday, July 17, 2009, 4:00 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

Shanta Creek Fire Crews to Head for Other Fires

With cooler weather and expected rain in the weather forecast, fire managers are “down-sizing” at the Shanta Creek fire. The strategy of halting fire spread to the north and northwest, as outlined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Division of Forestry, has been fully successful.

Following the Alaska Fire Plan and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge direction, 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.”

Firefighters that had been staying overnight on the fireline were brought back in late last night after they had completed their assignment to cold trail, mop-up and locate hot spots along the fire perimeter using hand held infrared detectors.

Today, several crews, including both Hotshot crews and Alaska Type 2 crews, will be released from the fire for reassignment to other fires in the nation. The numbers of personnel assigned to the fire will drop by the end of the work shift today. Equipment numbers will also be reduced. However, a number of crews, equipment and helicopters, will remain and continue to monitor the fire area and begin the fireline rehabilitation work. The fire remains at just over 13,151 acres in size.

There will be an opportunity for the public to visit and tour the Fire Camp and Incident 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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