



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
Saturday, July 18, 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

Shanta Creek Fire Steered Toward Tustemena Bench

The Shanta Creek fire did not gain any acreage on Friday. Small pockets of fuel within the fire perimeter did burn as the day wore on. Smoke from this interior burning could be seen from Funny River Road, but there was no increase in the size of the fire. The fire remains at 13,151 acres.

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 successful. Today crews will work on “mopping up” the area that was burned out last Wednesday, July 15. That burnout operation was conducted to “tie in” the main burned area to the moist area of hardwood vegetation along the upper Funny River. This should steer any remaining fire movement up onto the Tustemena Bench, while preventing any further spread toward Soldotna and Funny River Road.

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.”

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management has lifted the Level 1 Evacuation Notice yesterday, eliminating all evacuation notices for the Funny River Road Area.

In addition, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has opened a slash disposal site which residents within the Funny River Road area may utilize to drop off wood slash and woody debris only. No

tires, trash or chemical disposal is allowed. Residents must first check into the Funny River Road Central Emergency Services Station 5 on Mile 17 Funny River Road. Please obey all signs and dispose of slash in designated areas only.

The public is invited to visit and tour the Fire Camp and Incident Command Post at Skyview High School today between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Fire fighters will be on hand to explain how they live and work from a fire camp.

There are a total of 347 personnel currently assigned to the fire. This includes: 5 Type 1 (Hot Shot) crews and 4 Alaska Type 2 crews. There are 5 helicopters. All engines and bull dozers have been released.

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.** 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.

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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