



# 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**

**Sunday, July 19, 2009, 9:00 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)**

## **No Spreading Predicted for Shanta Creek Fire**

*Note: Starting today, the Fire Information Center will publish just one update per day about the Shanta Creek Fire activities unless conditions change.*

The Shanta Creek Fire remains at 13,151 acres and fire officials now say that little or no additional spread is predicted. The crews that remain assigned are completing rehabilitation work on the defensive lines constructed to prevent fire movement to the north. These lines will continue to provide protection from future fires that might start close to the Full Protection zone south of Funny River Road.

When weather conditions turn warmer and drier, pockets of fuel within the fire perimeter may continue to burn and residents may notice smoke from that area. Allowing this interior burning will help to reduce heavy fuel loads of beetle-killed spruce and enhance wildlife habitat values.

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 disposal site is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There are a total of 341 personnel currently assigned to the fire. This includes 5 Type 1 (Hotshot) crews and 4 Alaska Type 2 crews. There are 4 helicopters. All bull dozers have been released; one engine remains. Resources continue to be released for return to their home unit or reassigned to other fires in Alaska and throughout the Nation. The five Hotshot crews are being transported by bus to Anchorage for a flight back to Missoula, MT this afternoon. Two crews, helicopters and additional equipment will ultimately remain to monitor the fire area for the next several days and continue fireline rehabilitation work.

With the recent spots of rain and the cooler temperatures, it would be easy to consider “Fire Season” finished. This is not the case. Fuels on the ground are still dry and fires can still start and get out of control. Outdoor burning is still prohibited. Please use precaution whenever working with or around fire.

Closure orders for trails or roads have not been issued as a result of the Shanta Creek Fire. **The 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.

The Fire Information Center remains 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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**Fire Prevention Message: Create defensible space around your home. Cut grass, remove brush, thin and prune trees, and remove dead vegetation.**