

Shovel Creek Fire

Update – Saturday, July 20, 2019 @ 7:00 a.m.

Bob Fry, Incident Commander



Fire Information: 907-347-6801

Web: www.akfireinfo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry/>

Email: 2019.ShovelCreek@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6400/>

Size: 21,309 acres Containment: 50% Personnel: 506 Start Date: June 21, 2019 Cause: Lightning

Crews made significant progress on containment lines yesterday. The western, southern and eastern fire lines have been contained and fire hose continues to be removed from these lines. Infrared drones flew the southern and eastern perimeters today to identify hot spots confirming that hot spots were interior from the fire perimeter. Firefighters continued to mop-up the northeastern corner of the fire along the Chatanika River.

Today, crews and helicopters will continue to back haul fire hose and other equipment from the containment lines for use on other incidents. Repair work along fire lines will continue along the southern perimeter and east of the fire near the McCloud neighborhood. Crews remain in place and are prepared for initial attack response to new fires in vicinity of the Shovel Creek Fire area.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has maintained the same evacuation levels established on Friday, July 12. The neighborhoods of the Chatanika River corridor, Drouin, Hardluck, Moose Mountain, Coyote Jones, Hattie Creek, Lincoln Creek, Murphy, and Vancouver neighborhoods are no longer in an evacuation zone.

Evacuation levels as of 1:00pm on July 12, 2019:

- LEVEL 1 (READY) – McCloud, Martin and Perfect Perch neighborhoods

Smoke in the Fairbanks areas has improved over the past few days. The respite room at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital has closed, but will be ready to re-open if air quality worsens. Stay up-to-date on current air quality information by visiting: <https://fires.airfire.org/outlooks/Alaska>

RESOURCES: 2 hotshot crews, 8 Type 2 hand crews, 10 engines, 3 dozers, 6 helicopters, and 5 water tenders

WEATHER: Gusty westerly winds are expected today around the perimeter of the fire beginning early afternoon. West winds should range from 8 to 12 mph with gusts from 20 to 25 mph, especially along the ridge tops. Temperatures will be near normal with highs up to near 70 and RH's in the low 50% range. Light showers are possible but thunderstorms are not expected. For more information on smoke and air quality, visit: <https://fires.airfire.org/outlooks/Alaska>

CLOSURES: A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place for the air space over the fire. Pilots are advised to check NOTAMS at: https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_9_5441.html

###