

Shovel Creek Fire

Update – Sunday, July 21, 2019 @ 7:00 a.m.

Bob Fry, Incident Commander



Fire Information: 907-347-6801

Web: www.akfireinfo.com

Email: 2019.ShovelCreek@firenet.gov

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

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

Size: 21,309 acres Containment: 51% Personnel: 477 Start Date: June 21, 2019 Cause: Lightning

Helicopter crews teamed up with firefighters and removed 9,000 pounds of equipment, such as hoses, pumps, and sprinklers, which are no longer needed on containment lines. Fire crews working in the northwestern corner began breaking down structure protection equipment north of the Chatanika river yesterday. This multi-day effort to back haul gear continues today.

Today, crews in the northeastern corner, near the Chatanika River, will mop up hot spots. Excavators and bulldozers will be knock down berms and repair drainage in areas along the western, southern and eastern line.

While wind gusts hit 18 to 25 miles per hour yesterday, temperatures were in the mid 60's, and humidity levels remained above 50%. Today, temperatures are expected to increase, as high pressure brings the start of a warming trend. Light afternoon showers are possible.

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, 7 Type 2 hand crews, 10 engines, 2 dozers, 6 helicopters, and 6 water tenders

WEATHER: Temperatures will be slightly warmer today, with a chance for a light afternoon rain, but overall shower and thunderstorm activity will diminish beginning today and last through the early part of next week.

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

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