



Swan Lake Fire

Friday, July 19, 2019

INCIDENT STATISTICS

Fire Size: Approx. 101,178 acres

Objectives Completed: 50%

Personnel Assigned: 326

Fire Start: June 5, 2019

Fire Cause: Lightning

Location: 5.5 miles northeast of Sterling Alaska

CLOSURES AND FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai
907-262-7021

Chugach National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/chugach
907-288-3178

Alaska Division of Forestry
www.akfireinfo.com
www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry/
907-356-5511

Alaska Division of State Parks
www.dnr.alaska.gov
907-262-5581

Kenai Peninsula Borough
www.kpboem.com
907-262-4636

Kenai Fjords National Park
<http://www.nps.gov/kefj/>
907-422-0500



YESTERDAY: Fire activity increased due to the warmer temperatures and minimal cloud cover. Activity was most evident on the eastern side of the fire. Firefighters completed work on Resurrection Pass Trail as a secondary containment line to protect the community of Cooper Landing. The wet marshy area to the northwest of the fire continues to limit movement in that direction. Firefighters extinguished hot spots and removed brush to strengthen containment lines on the southern portion of fire along Sterling Highway. Recently, multiple aircraft have violated the Swan Lake Fire Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR), which creates the potential for a serious accident. The hazard may impact air operations on the fire if pilots, including drones, continue to violate the TFR.

TODAY: Increased fire activity is expected again today. Fire is anticipated to spread north towards Trapper Joe cabin. Protection measures are in place. Firefighters' main focus will be improving the completed line above Upper Jean Lake. Helicopters will be available to cool hot spots and assist ground crews in slowing the fire's progression. Crews will begin suppression repair in areas where the fire is no longer a threat. Firefighters will pick-up trash, remove used equipment, cover up mineral soil, and build waterbars as part of suppression repair.

WEATHER: Southwesterly winds will bring warm dry air to the fire today ahead of a brief cooler period on Saturday. Warm dry air is expected to return on Sunday.

AIR QUALITY: Cooper Landing could see smoke in the area this morning and sections of Sterling Highway may be impacted with smoke. Later in the day winds are expected to shift southwest and may clear the air along the highway and Cooper's Landing. Anchorage will likely see smoke from the fire following the wind shift. For smoke forecasts from Alaska wildfires, visit UAFSMOKE at <http://smoke.alaska.edu>.

SUMMARY: The Kenai Peninsula experiences fire annually, however the area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge where the fire is burning has not seen fire since 1947. Historically, there is no record of fire in the higher elevations. Natural fire on the landscape will remove areas of black spruce to reduce future large-scale fire impacts.

SAFETY: Watch for construction zones and smoke along the Sterling Highway. Helicopters will be very active in the southeast corner of the fire along Sterling highway near Upper Jean Lake. **Please obey the speed limit and do not stop along the highway shoulder in order to protect firefighters, construction crews, and other drivers.** Alaska State Troopers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers are monitoring for visibility impacts due to smoke and fog on Sterling and Seward Highways. Please use headlights. For current road conditions visit <http://511.alaska.gov>. The Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) includes the western portion of the Chugach National Forest and the Sterling Highway corridor. Violators of the TFR will be reported to the FAA. The use of drones in the TFR and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge are not permitted. Current TFR details and NOTAM 9/0573 is available at: https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_9_0573.html.

Fire Information

Web: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6387/>

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