

Shovel Creek Fires

Evening Update - June 30, 2019

Norm McDonald, Incident Commander



Fire Information: 907-347-6801

Email: 2019.ShovelCreek@firenet.gov

Web: www.akfireinfo.com

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

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

Size: 10,639 acres Containment: 0% Personnel: 550 Start Date: June 21, 2019 Cause: Lightning

On Saturday evening, the **Shovel Creek Fire** crossed the ridge north of Murphy Creek. This rapid fire growth towards nearby subdivisions prompted fire managers to recommend that Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Operations raise the Evacuation Status for **Martin** and **Perfect Perch** subdivisions to a **Level 3 (GO)**. The Evacuation Alert for **McCloud** and **Murphy** subdivisions were raised from a Level 1 (READY) to a **Level 2 (SET)**. An Evacuation shelter has been established at **Randy Smith Middle School (1401 Bainbridge Blvd, Fairbanks, AK)**. A temporary pet shelter is located at the **Tanana Fairgrounds**.

EVACUATION ALERTS:

52 Structures in **LEVEL 3 (GO)** – **Martin** (42 structures) and **Perfect Perch** (10 structures) subdivisions;

93 Structures in **LEVEL 2 (SET)** – **Lincoln Creek** (64 structures), **McCloud** (10 structures), and **Murphy** (19 structures) subdivisions;

LEVEL 1 (READY) – **Chatanika River corridor**

Approximately 145 structures have been placed under a **Level 2 (SET)** or **Level 3 (GO)** Evacuation Alert. More hot and dry weather is forecasted to build later this week following the passage of a cold front. Smoke is hampering the ability to utilize aircraft and assess fire spread. These variables have increased the complexity of managing the Shovel Creek Fire and consequently. A Type 1 Incident Management Team has been ordered to assume command of the incident.

In coordination with Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Operations, structure inventory and assessments have been expanded to include Goldstream Road and Murphy Dome Road. Further evacuation assessments will expand to include subdivisions on Murphy Dome Road and Goldstream Road east to Ballaine Road and south to the Railroad tracks at Sheep Creek Road. An estimated 200-300 additional structures are included in these areas.

Today crews will continue testing water pumps, hoses, and sprinkler systems to protect structures along the banks of the Chatanika River. Additional firefighters and supplies will be shuttled to locations along the Chatanika. With point protection in place for the Martin Subdivision, firefighters continue assessing and preparing structures in the Lincoln Creek, Perfect Perch, Murphy and McCloud subdivisions.

Firefighters mopped up, held, and improved containment lines established from a strategic firing operation along the south and east flanks of the fire. The successful firing operation created a fuel break on the east flank from 7 Mile Trail southward to Murphy Dome, and along the south flank from Murphy Dome westward to the 2009 Hardluck Creek Fire scar.

A Level 3 Evacuation means GO! Evacuate now. Leave immediately. The danger in your area is current and you should evacuate immediately. **Do not delay leaving** to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. Drive calmly and with special attention to emergency vehicles. Do not block access to roadways for Emergency vehicles or other evacuees. This will be the last notice you will receive after evacuation. "Check in" at an emergency shelter. Whether you stay there or not, "checking in" will help others know that you are safe. Take pets to a PET Evacuation Shelter. Do not call 911 for non-emergencies. Do not attempt to re-enter the fire area until it is declared safe to do so. A call center is available for additional information at **(907) 459-1308**.

Remember the *6-P's*; *People, Pets, Pills, Photos, Personal (computer back-up info), and important Papers.*

WEATHER: A cold front is moving thru the area, bringing the possibility of wetting rain tonight to the fire area. Temperatures will be cooler for the next couple of days with highs in the upper 60's to mid 70's. Hot and dry weather will resume as a high pressure system is predicted to through the week.

SAFETY: An increase in fire activity for several area fires is contributing to increased smoke in the Fairbanks area. Residents in the area are asked to avoid the Murphy Dome area due to the firefighting activity and the potential for interfering with fire personnel. A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place in the air space over the fire. Pilots are advised to check NOTAMS at https://tfr.faa.gov/save_pages/detail_9_0263.html.

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