



Swan Lake Fire

Wildfire Fact Sheet



Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 9:00AM

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

Email: 2019.swanlake@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kpbalerts/>

Alaska Fire Info: <https://akfireinfo.com>

Public Information Phone: (208) 391-3488

Kenai Peninsula Borough: <http://kpboem.com/>

Location: 5 miles northeast of Sterling, AK

Incident Command: Type 2 Northern Rockies Incident Management Team 4, Rick Connell, I.C.

Size: 163,714 acres

Containment: 37%

Personnel: 430

Current Status: At 9:00 p.m. last night the Northern Rockies Team 4 assumed command of the Swan Lake Fire. Yesterday, fire behavior continued to be low with cloudy skies, cooler temperatures, and higher humidity. The fire continues to smolder in the duff ground layer. Fire Crews patrolled and mopped up along the fire lines near the southwestern side of the fire near Sterling and Skilak Lake, and along fire lines near the southeast side of the fire by Fuller Lake and Resurrection Trail. Some areas of heat were found along the fire line near Trout Lake and firefighters worked to cool those areas.

The Caribou Lake Fire located 25 miles northeast of Homer has been 100% contained at 870 acres. All of the equipment, supplies, and firefighters have been removed from the fire and management has been returned to the State of Alaska Division of Forestry.

Planned Actions: Firefighters will continue to patrol and mop up along the eastern side of the fire and improve existing lines around the southeastern and southwestern sides of the fire. Extra equipment and supplies that are not in use will be backhauled. Fire behavior is expected to be similar to yesterday with higher humidity and cooler temperatures under cloudy skies. Aerial resources remain on standby and available to drop water on hot spots. The weather forecast includes a chance of rain on Thursday through Friday.

Key Message: Effective 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 some portions of the Kenai River, Chugach National Forest, and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge have reopened. That portion of the Upper Kenai River between the Cooper Landing Bridge and Jim's Landing has reopened and the previous daytime limitation on river use has been removed. The Russian River Campground, Russian Lake Trail, Russian River Falls, Barber Cabin, and the K'Beq Day Use Area has been reopened for public use. Jim's Landing for day use of the boat launch, the overflow parking lot north of the Sterling Highway at the Visitor Contact Station, and Lower Skilak Boat Launch for boat launch access only has reopened. Please see <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6387/> for additional details on the closure changes. Hazardous conditions exist in the burned areas that can be difficult to see. Standing trees can be weakened as the fire burns the organic duff layer surrounding their roots. The fire has burned very deep in some places, leaving ash pits behind.

Restrictions: An area closure remains in effect for a channel on the south side of the Kenai River from approximately River Mile 69.5 to River Mile 71.5. The Kenai River remains closed beyond Jim's Landing to Skilak Lake. The Lower Skilak campground and day use facility remains closed. All the lands off the Lower Skilak boat access road, including Marsh Lake and Day Use facilities including Bottenintnin Lake remain closed. Additionally all refuge lands that have been burned are closed to public access. Information on these closures is available at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6387/>.

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR): The current TFR in place for air space over the Swan Lake Fire (9/2925 NOTAM) will lesson impacts to local aviation operators. Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. **If you fly, we can't!**

Cooperating Agencies: US Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Alaska Division of Forestry, US Forest Service, Alaska State Parks, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Central Emergency Services, Cooper Landing Volunteer Fire Department, Alaska State Troopers, National Guard, Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.