



***Cherokee National Forest***  
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Cleveland, TN 37312  
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# News Release



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## Starlight Fire Update

**GREENEVILLE, TENN – April 1, 2016 ...**

The Starlight Fire started on March 30 at approximately 8:00 p.m. in the Paint Creek area of Greene County, along Highway 70 near the North Carolina state line. This fire is on the Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest. Due to more accurate mapping, the fire is now estimated at 90 acres with 40 percent containment. The fire is being managed by the US Forest Service, Tennessee Dept. of Forestry, Greene Co Emergency Management and Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

The fire area received approximately three quarters of an inch of rain last night. Fire intensity has been reduced significantly due to the rain. Crews will continue fire line containment construction today. Fire crews will continue using roads in the Asheville Highway area (TN Hwy 70) so residents should watch for heavy equipment and higher than normal traffic volume. TN Hwy 70 opened yesterday at 5:00 p.m.

As of today, approximately 60 people are fighting the fire and are assisted by a helicopter and 1 bulldozer. Additional crews from out of state are supporting fire suppression efforts.

The weather forecast is calling for a drying trend to be in place for the next several days as crews continue to establish containment lines on the fire. With turkey season coming up, hunters and campers are reminded to be careful with their campfires. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving and never leave a campfire unattended.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry requires a burn permit before burning brush piles. Residents are required to contact their local Tennessee Division of Forestry office before burning, and to follow permit procedures.

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