



# JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

## Georgia/Northern Florida Fire Information

Ph: 866-380-9966

Fax: New number coming soon

Email: [gafire@gmail.com](mailto:gafire@gmail.com)

Web: [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org)

315-P Plant Avenue

Waycross, GA 31503

4:00 p.m. May 18, 2007

FIRE	COUNTY	PERS.	ACRES	% CONT.	COST
<b>Sweat Farm/Big Turnaround</b>	Ware/Charlton	739	151,682	50	\$23,961,005
Big Turnaround	Ware/Charlton	541	105,418	45	\$11,590,340
Sweat Farm Road	Ware	198	46,264	82	\$13,517,288
<b>Totals for Bugaboo</b>		643	276,970		\$3,095,551
Bugaboo Scrub Fire (GA)	Ware	109	156,455	40	NA
Florida Bugaboo Wildfire	Baker	534	120,515	70	\$3,095,551

**NOTICE – As of 10:00 a.m. today, mandatory evacuations have been lifted for the area from Lassie Black Road south on the west side of US-441 and Burlap Road (forest road 263) south on the east side of US-441. Residents may return home, but should stay packed and ready to leave if conditions change. People should drive with their headlights on and remain alert for emergency traffic.**

### Sweat Farm/ Big Turnaround

Lower relative humidity and increased wind speeds have caused the fire to become more active in the central and eastern portion of the fire within the refuge boundary. The southern head of the largest leg of the central portion of the fire is also active and beginning to head S/SW, toward the area northern end of the Bugaboo Scrub Fire.

The far western portion of the fire, on the Ware-Charlton county line southeast of Swamp Road, is still very active. Crews continue to strengthen and improve line in this area.

### Bugaboo Scrub Fire

Activity in the Bugaboo Scrub Fire has increased today. The far northern portion of the fire, east of “The Pocket” near Billy’s Island, is active, as is the fire in the southeast section near Coward Lake. The fire is also active in the north near the Suwannee River in Georgia. Water drops are under way in this area. A burnout operation is currently being conducted in the far western portion of the fire, near the Clinch-Ware county line.

### Florida Bugaboo Wildfire

Yesterday, fire crews dug into a four-foot deep peat bog and found an active fire burning. There are many areas like this within the fire interior, so the fire will be here for sometime to come. Firefighters are widening the fire lines by dropping fire retardant (or “slurry”) from air tankers. These bombers can spread retardant over an area 50 foot wide by 500 foot long.

Motorists are urged to use extreme caution when traveling north on US-441 because of the staging area and fire equipment on the highway just south of I-10. While US-441 remains open, smoke could cause sudden visibility problems.

Mandatory evacuations still impact between 400 and 500 homes from the Lassie Black Road north to the Florida-Georgia line.

The Osceola National Forest is closed north of I-10 (reference Closure Order no. 2007-0401).

### **Afternoon Fire Weather**

A red flag alert will be in effect Friday afternoon, May 18<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. due to extremely low relative humidity. Winds from the N-NE may gust to 20 mph.

### **Evacuations**

*We are attempting to keep the evacuation information as current and accurate as possible. However, conditions changes frequently and residents near wildfire area should stay tuned to local radio and television stations.*

### **Georgia**

- Areas west of Hwy. 121 from Folkston to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, including Hamp Chesser and Doc Ryder Road, and south to Chesser Island Road (Charlton County, Georgia) – **Precautionary**
- Davis Community (Charlton County, west of Folkston) – **Fire Advisory**
- Moniac (Charlton County, Georgia) – **Precautionary**
- Reeves Landing (Clinch County, Georgia) – **Precautionary**

### **Florida**

- Deep Creek Community (Columbia County, Florida) – **MANDATORY**
- Columbia County (Florida)
  - Eastside of US HWY 441 from Burlap Road (forest road 263) north to the FL/GA state line – **MANDATORY**

### **Roads Information**

#### Georgia

- US 441 is closed from Fargo to Florida line.
- SR 177 between Stephen C. Foster State Park and Fargo is closed.
- SR 94 West from Moniac to Florida Line (0.10 mile) is open for local traffic only.
- SR 94 from St. George to Moniac is open for local traffic only.
- SR 185 in Georgia is open for local traffic only.
- I-75 Traffic is allowed as visibility permits. Expect frequent closures. Use alternate routes if possible.

#### Florida

- US 441 from CR 246 to the Florida Line is closed.
- I-10 interchange at US 441 is closed.
- I-10 Traffic is allowed as visibility permits. Expect frequent closures. Use alternate routes if possible.
- I-75 Traffic is allowed as visibility permits. Expect frequent closures. Use alternate routes if possible.
- I-95 and I-295 Traffic is allowed as visibility permits. Expect frequent closures. Use alternate routes if possible.
- SR-2 is open to local traffic only.
- US-1 limited visibility due to smoke from FL-GA state line south to Hilliard area

## **Additional Information Source**

### On the web:

Georgia Forestry Commission, [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org)  
Georgia Emergency Mgmt. [www.gema.state.ga.us/](http://www.gema.state.ga.us/)  
Satilla Regional Medical Center [www.satilla.org/](http://www.satilla.org/)  
Georgia Road Information [www.georgianavigator.com](http://www.georgianavigator.com)  
Florida Road Information, [www.fhp.state.fl.us](http://www.fhp.state.fl.us)  
Incident Information System, [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)  
Fire Weather Watch, [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)  
Ware County Schools, [www.ware.k12.georgia.us](http://www.ware.k12.georgia.us)  
Charlton County Schools, [www.charlton.k12.ga.us](http://www.charlton.k12.ga.us)  
Firewise Communities, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)  
Okefenokee NWR [www.fws.gov/okefenokee](http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee)

### By Phone:

Big Turnaround Information	912-496-3687
Charlton County Fire Hotline	912-496-3687
Sweat Farm Information	912-285-6017
Columbia County Fire information	386-719-7530

To donate firefighter supplies or for volunteers, contact:

[www.brighterdaysministries.net](http://www.brighterdaysministries.net), 912-286-5093 or  
912-286-2842

To support Georgia Fire Fighters, go to: [www.gsffa.org/contact](http://www.gsffa.org/contact)

### Cash donations for fire victims are being collected by:

Department of Family and Children Services  
1200 Plant Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501  
For more information, call 912-285-6040

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