



JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

Georgia/Northern Florida Fire Information

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315-P Plant Avenue

Waycross, GA 31503

10:30 a.m. May 22 2007

FIRE	COUNTY	PERS.	ACRES	% CONT.	COST
Georgia Bay Wildfire *	Ware/Charlton/ Brantley/Atkinson	1,091	350,556		\$33.0 million
Florida Bugaboo Wildfire	Baker	515	122,643	90	\$6.0 million
Total active fires in Georgia: 56 fires on 353,709 acres.					

Note: Up until now the Georgia wildfires known as Sweat Farm Road-Big Turnaround and the Bugaboo Scrub have been reported as separate fires. These fires have now burned together to become one large fire burning in Georgia and Florida. To make it easier for citizens to understand what is happening, we will now be listing the fire statistics as the Georgia Bay Wildfire and the Florida Bugaboo Wildfire. The narrative will discuss that is going on with various sections of the fire, such as east and west sides of the Georgia Bay Wildfire, and likewise with the Florida Bugaboo Wildfire.

Pictures and maps of these fires may be found on the Internet at www.inciweb.org.

Georgia:

Ground fires (burning organic soil) continue to smolder both in the interior of the burned area and are creeping into the soil on the fire's perimeter. These ground fires can burn intensely, generating a lot of very acrid smoke.

The fire has moved to within two miles of control lines along the eastern flank of the wildfire. When weather conditions are favorable, fire officials plan on burning out the area between the control lines and the wildfire, thereby robbing the wildfire of fuel. This burn-out operation may occur over a period of several days and taking place in either late mornings or mid to late afternoons.

Dan Oltrogge, Incident Commander for the Southwest Incident Management Team that is overseeing the eastern side of the wildfire, will host a Fire Update Public Meeting today at 7:00 p.m. at the Okefenokee Recreation Education Center (OREC) in Folkston.

Florida:

Fire crews will continue to patrol and improve firelines, as well as do a significant amount of mop up in the interior of the fire. Structure protection crews remain in place

* Summary statistics also include data from the Kneeknocker Swamp Fire in Brantley County and the Roundabout Swamp Fire in Atkinson County, which are being handled by the same Incident Management Team that is handling the Sweat Road Fire.

Surface fires and ground fires will continue to burn in the south Georgia and north Florida areas until a fire season ending weather events occurs, such as several tropical storms.

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

Today's Fire Weather

Red Flag Warning for low humidity continues in effect for today. Temperatures in the fire area will be between 85 and 90 degrees, with winds from the southeast increasing to 7 to 10 mph in late morning and gusting to 16 mph during the afternoon. Relative humidity is forecast to be about 25 percent.

Evacuations

Georgia

- Swamp Parkway (east entrance of swamp) to GA-121 south to Chesser Island Road – **Fire Advisory**
- Davis Community (Charlton County, west of Folkston) – **Fire Advisory**
- Moniac (Charlton County, Georgia) – **Fire Advisory**
- Reeves Landing (Clinch County, Georgia) – **Precautionary**

Florida

All evacuations for Florida portion of the Bugaboo Fire were lifted May 19.

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 (Lassie Black Road) to Florida-Georgia Line open to local traffic only.
- SR-2 is open to local traffic only.
- I-10, I-75, I-95 and I-295 are open, but smoke from the fires may reduce visibility at times.

Additional Information Source On the web:

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

To donate firefighter supplies or for volunteers, contact:
www.brighterdaysministries.net, 912-286-5093 or
912-286-2842

To support Georgia Fire Fighters, go to:
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

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

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