



JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

South Georgia/North Florida Fire Information

Ph: 866-380-9966

Fax: 912-285-6370

Email: gafire@gmail.com

Web: www.gatrees.org

315-P Plant Avenue

Waycross, GA 31503

11:00 a.m. May 23 2007

FIRE	COUNTY	PERS.	ACRES	% CONT.	COST
Georgia Bay Wildfires *		1,526	366,001	NA	\$34.1 million
Sweat Farm Road	Ware/Charlton	866	61,112	85	\$16.4 million
Big Turnaround Complex	Ware	572	297,695	45	\$14.9 million
Kneeknocker	Brantley	41	1,367	95	\$1.4 million
Roundabout	Atkinson	47	5,827	95	\$1.4 million
Florida Bugaboo Wildfire	Baker	499	122,643	90	\$6.3 million
Total		2,025	488,644	NA	\$40.4 million
Total active fires in Georgia: 52 fires on 368,274 acres.					

Further information on these of these fires, including pictures and maps, may be found on the Internet at www.inciweb.org.

Georgia:

Fingers of fire burning from within the Refuge are threatening the boundary and containment lines on the fire's west side. The communities of Fargo, Moniac, Council and Edith continue to be at risk from the fires burning within the Okefenokee NWR.

Yesterday, firefighters conducted a successful burnout operation that burned about 8,000 acres, helping them secure about a mile of containment line on the east side, south of Chesser Island. In addition, fire crews dealt with many reburns due to needles that fell with the prevailing easterly winds.

Today, crews will assess the effects of the burnout operation and continue to secure the containment lines on the east side of the fire. Interior burning will continue, so expect to see heavy smoke within the Refuge.

About 60 people attended the community meeting in Folkston last evening. The incident management teams appreciate all the support the surrounding communities have provided.

Fact – The Georgia Bay Wildfires have burned more than 571 square miles, an area more than four times the size of Atlanta.

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

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

The Osceola National Forest is closed north of I-10 (reference Closure Order no. 2007-0401). However, the Osceola National Forest is open SOUTH of Interstate-10.

There is a ban on open fires in the Apalachicola, Osceola and Ocala National Forests. Fires that are placed directly on the ground for cooking purposes are considered to be the same as campfires, and are specifically prohibited for the entire duration of the ban (May 9 – August 9, 2007).

Fact – The Florida Bugaboo Wildfire has burn more than 191 square miles, an area almost twice the size of Tallahassee.

Today's Fire Weather

A **Red Flag** warning is in effect from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. today for area of the fires due to low relative humidities and winds gusting to 20 mph. It is days like this that has caused high wildfire activity in the past.

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**

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.srh.noaa.gov/jax/firewx.shtml
Ware County Schools, www.ware.k12.georgia.us
Charlton County Schools, www.charlton.k12.ga.us
Firewise Communities, www.firewise.org
Okefenokee NWR www.fws.gov/okefenokee

Sweat Farm Information 912-285-6017
Columbia County (FL) Fire information 386-719-7530

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 (GA) Fire Hotline 912-496-3687

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