



# JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

## South Georgia/North Florida Fire Information

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315-P Plant Avenue  
 Waycross, GA 31503  
 10:30 a.m. May 26, 2007

FIRE	COUNTY	PERS.	ACRES	% CONT.	COST
<b>Georgia Wildfires</b>		1,244	428,086	NA	\$38.3 million
Sweat Farm Road	Ware & Charlton	646	76,139	65	\$18.4 million
Big Turnaround Complex	Ware, Charlton & Clinch	536	344,213	50	\$16.7 million
Kneeknocker	Brantley	33	1,778	100	\$1.5 million
Roundabout	Atkinson	29	5,956	100	\$1.7 million
<b>Florida Wildfire</b>					
Bugaboo	Baker & Columbia	462	123,183	90	\$7.6 million
<b>Totals</b>		1,706	551,269	NA	\$45.9 million

Total active fires in Georgia: 19 fires on 430,355 acres.

(These fires are being managed by three incident management teams: a Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team, a North Carolina Type 2 Incident Management Team and a Florida Type 2 Incident Management Team.)

### Georgia Fire Situation:

For the third day in a row, the Sweat Farm Road Fire was pushed by strong winds. Fire spread to the west was slowed, however, by cloudy conditions, which helped to moderate temperatures. Hand crews, air tankers, helicopters, dozers, and engines continue to protect residences from the flames along Suwannee Chapel and Swamp Roads. No structures have been lost, but many remain threatened and portions of this area have been evacuated. Many acres of valuable timber resources have been destroyed.

The Roundabout Fire near Pearson and the Kneeknocker Fire near Nahunta are now considered 100% contained because the fires continue to be held within the fire lines. They are not controlled, however, because flare-ups and reburns are occurring frequently. Control of these deep-burning swamp fires is not expected until they receive significant rainfall. Mop-up is continuing.

Light rain fell early on Friday on the Big Turnaround Complex on the east side of the Okefenokee Swamp helping firefighters in some areas, but smoke was still visible. Northeast of Moniac, Roasting Ear Island experienced strong activity and produced a large smoke column. Firefighters monitored and extinguished reburns near Swamp Park in order to keep the fire away from pine plantations inside the Refuge. Aerial burnout operations continued south of the Chesser Island area to keep the fire from making strong runs out of the swamp. Firefighters also built dozer lines from the swamp edge to slow fire's spread north toward Chesser Island.

A task force of heavy equipment from the Complex, assisted firefighters southwest of Waycross again Friday.

Fire will continue within the Refuge until a season-ending weather event (roughly 15-20 inches of rain) occurs. The team on the Big Turnaround Complex is managing 110 miles of fireline. The edges of all local uncontained fires are more than 600 miles long. Residents are reminded that fire danger remains extreme, to heed existing burn bans, and to refrain from use of any open flame while celebrating this holiday weekend.

### North Florida Fire Situation:

The Florida portion of the Bugaboo Fire is mostly contained so crews are continuing with mop-up, line improvement and structure protection. Weather conditions continue to favor extreme and erratic fire behavior which can lead to large fire development. The fires in Georgia and reburn of falling pine needles in Florida are causing significant smoke in the Lake City area.

The Osceola National Forest north of I-10 is closed to recreational use through at least Memorial Day. However, the Osceola National Forest **south** of Interstate-10 is open including Ocean Pond Campground.

### Mop-up Command:

Currently, Mop-up Command, a firefighting group organized strictly to focus on mopping up the remaining hot and smoky areas after active wildland fires, has six task forces working to completely contain and control fires in three Georgia Forestry Commission Districts. Task force members are working on fires in Tifton, Adele, St. George and Jesup, as well as Charlton, Brooks, Long, Ware, and Echols counties. Total costs for Mop-up Command: \$4,269,577.

*Fact: The Big Turnaround, Sweat Farm Road, Bugaboo Scrub and FL Bugaboo fires have all burned together making the combined fire, at about 537,950 acres, one of the largest in modern history in the lower 48 states.*

### Today's Fire Weather

Easterly winds at 5 to 10 mph with occasional gusts to 15 are better for firefighters than past days. Also of concern is the low humidity. There has been a red flag warning issued for this afternoon from 1 to 5 due to humidity dipping to between 33 and 38, critical thresholds for fire. Temperatures in the mid to upper 80's and no rain in the forecast are expected to continue through Sunday.

### Evacuations

- Swamp Road from Suwannee Chapel Road to Jim Cox Road – **Mandatory Evacuation**
- Suwannee Chapel Road from 8 Mile Post Road to Swamp Road – **Mandatory Evacuation**
- Reeves Landing (Clinch County, Georgia) – **Precautionary Evacuation**

### Roads Information

- Swamp Road from Lottie Tatum Road south to Suwannee Chapel Road is closed.
- SR 177 between Stephen C. Foster State Park and Fargo is closed.

### 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.srh.noaa.gov/jax/firewx.shtml](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/firewx.shtml)  
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)

[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

#### By Phone:

Big Turnaround Information	912-496-4176
Charlton County (GA) Fire Hotline	912-496-3687
Sweat Farm Information	912-285-6017
Columbia County (FL) Fire information	386-719-7530
Florida Bugaboo Information	386-719-2739

To donate firefighter supplies or for volunteers, contact:

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