


<p><b>North Carolina Incident Management Team</b></p> 	<p><b>Evans Road Fire UPDATE July 15, 2008 5 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>For fire information call:</b>  919-472-4101 or 252-943-3732  Cell 252-943-4283  <b>Contacts: Nigel Baker</b>  Public Information Officer  <a href="mailto:ERF.Information@ncmail.net">ERF.Information@ncmail.net</a>  <a href="http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes">http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes</a>  <a href="http://www.inciweb.org/state/34">http://www.inciweb.org/state/34</a></p> <p><b>For other information:</b>  On impacts to Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge  <b>Contact:</b> Bonnie Strawser at 252-423-0815 or 252-473-1131 Ext. 230  <a href="mailto:Bonnie.Strawser@fws.gov">Bonnie.Strawser@fws.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Current Status</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Pumping has ceased on Lake Phelps. Water is coming from New Lake &amp; the Southwest &amp; Northwest Forks of the Alligator River.</li> <li>◆ Today, the Florida Blue Interagency Incident Management Team (IMT) was placed over the management of the 41,543-acre Evans Road wildfire. The fire has been burning on lands under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Florida's Blue Team is one of four (Blue, Red, Green, Gold) available through the Florida Division of Forestry to assist nationally with manmade and/or natural disasters.</li> <li>◆ On Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, impacts of the fire have been on refuge visitors and management activities. Major portions of the refuge have been closed to the public since the fire began. In addition, the 6.5 million dollar Federal Highway Administration Project to rehabilitate over 30 miles of refuge roads has been delayed.</li> <li>◆ The cold front is expected to gradually exit the coast today. However, with lingering moisture and an upper-level disturbance passing through, a few showers and thunderstorms are possible. Rainfall, if any, will be highly variable. High pressure will begin to build into the area tonight and will remain in control of the forecast for the rest of the week, bringing warmer and drier weather.</li> <li>◆ Forty-five wildland fire engines are assigned to the fire today. These four-wheel-drive trucks are used by firefighters to patrol within the fire to detect and suppress hot spots and flare-ups that threaten to escape detection or undermine roads.</li> <li>◆ Caution is advised while driving as smoke can reduce visibility on highways. Smoke advisories may be found at: <a href="http://www.weather.gov/mhx">www.weather.gov/mhx</a>. A map of forecast smoke impact areas may be found at <a href="http://www.ncair.org/news/pr/2008/smoke_warning.shtml">www.ncair.org/news/pr/2008/smoke_warning.shtml</a>.</li> <li>◆ A burning ban remains in effect for Hyde, Washington, Tyrrell and Beaufort counties and other counties in southeastern North Carolina.</li> </ul> <p>For additional information on the fire, visit the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge web site at: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes">http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes</a></p>
<p>Resources on the Fire</p>	<p>289 personnel, 13 tractor/plow units, 6 water tenders; 53 engines &amp; 1 helicopter.</p>
<p>Cooperators</p>	<p>Florida Division of Forestry, Georgia Forestry Commission, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Mississippi Forestry Commission, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Tennessee Division of Forestry, Virginia Department of Forestry, US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service; Hyde, Tyrrell &amp; Washington County Emergency Management; NC Division of Emergency Management; National Weather Service; Department of Transportation; Department of Defense; Hyde County; Hyde County Sheriff's Office; National Park Service; NC Division of Parks and Recreation; NC Division of Water Quality; NCWRC, Division of Wildlife Management; NC Division of Air Quality, NC Highway Patrol; NC Office of State Fire Marshal; USDA-Forest Service; Cisco Systems; Bureau of Land Management; local volunteer fire departments.</p>
<p>Plans for Tomorrow</p>	<p>Drafting &amp; sprinkler operations will continue in order to assist in providing fire extinguishment in peat soils and reinforcement of containment lines. Rehabilitation work is ongoing in accordance with the plan developed by NCDFR and USFWS.</p>

