

**Florida  
Interagency Incident  
Management  
Blue Team**



**Evans Road Fire UPDATE July 21, 2008 5 p.m.**

**For fire information call:**

Cell 252 – 943 – 4283  
252- 943-3815 office line

**Contacts: Nigel Baker**  
Public Information Officer

[ERF.Information@ncmail.net](mailto:ERF.Information@ncmail.net).  
<http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes>  
<http://www.inciweb.org/state/34>

**For other information:**

On impacts to Pocosin Lakes  
National Wildlife Refuge

**Contact:** Bonnie Strawser at  
252-423-0815 or  
252-473-1131 Ext. 230

[Bonnie\\_Strawser@fws.gov](mailto:Bonnie_Strawser@fws.gov)

**Current Status**

- Thanks to Tropical Storm Cristobal, the Evans Road Fire received an average of .6 inches of rain. Fourteen rain 24-hour rain gauges were strategically placed throughout the fire area to capture and track rainfall progress. Some areas of the fire received more rain than others. However, significant rain is needed to penetrate the surface and saturate deep into the peat that is burning.
- Hotter and drier days are forecasted. Today’s fire weather is winds are 5 mph out of the SW. Relative humidity is going to reach upper 30’s. Temperatures are forecasted to reach 98 degrees. Heat index will be above 100 degrees. Warmer temperatures and breezy conditions are allowing the hot spots in the fire to become more active despite the rain received yesterday.
- Safety is being stressed to all firefighters. Concerns about: (1) dead trees with exposed root systems and moist soil can create a toppling effect, (2) heat exhaustion, (3) re-burn from dead pine needles and leaf litter can ignite, starting a new surface fire.
- The Evans Road Fire is 75% contained at 40,704. The reduction in acreage is due to more accurate mapping of the uncontrolled fireline on the NE side. This reduction also changes the percentage of the fire area on State, private and Federal lands. To date, Sixty (60%) percent of the fire has burned on US Fish and Wildlife Lands. Forty (40%) percent of the fire has burned on state and private lands.
- Caution is advised while driving as smoke can reduce visibility on highways. Smoke advisories may be found at: [www.weather.gov/mhx](http://www.weather.gov/mhx). A map of forecast smoke impact areas may be found at [www.ncair.org/news/pr/2008/smoke\\_warning.shtml](http://www.ncair.org/news/pr/2008/smoke_warning.shtml).

For additional information on the impacts to the refuge, visit the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes>

**Resources on the Fire**

277 personnel, 12 tractor/plow units, 5 water tenders; 41 engines, 2 camp crews & 1 helicopter.

**Cooperators**

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 & Wildlife Service; Hyde, Tyrrell & 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; Bureau of Land Management; local volunteer fire departments.

**Plans for Tomorrow**

Drafting & sprinkler operations will continue in order to assist in providing fire extinguishment in peat soils and reinforcement of containment lines.