


<p align="center">Florida Interagency Incident Management Blue Team</p> 	<p align="center">Evans Road Fire UPDATE July 23, 2008 5 p.m.</p> <p>For fire information call: Cell 252-943-4283 Contacts: Nigel Baker Public Information Officer ERF.Information@ncmail.net. http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes http://www.inciweb.org/state/34</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Current Status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A trough of low pressure is forecast to move into our area today and stall. This will bring slightly cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Temperatures will be warm, reaching 92 degrees. Over the last two days safety alerts have sounded when temperatures reached over 95 degrees on the fireline. Heat stress and heat exhaustion are very dangerous to firefighters as they drag hose lines and work with heavy equipment on the fireline. Yesterday's afternoon showers were a relief to firefighters; high temperatures and 30 pounds of fire gear can create a dangerous safety situation. ➤ The Florida Interagency Incident Management Blue Team has three safety officers assigned to the fire. Because firefighter safety is the main objective, a safety officer is an essential position to this incident. Their main responsibilities include: (1) educating and reminding firefighters of safety hazards, (2) investigate potential hazards to prevent future accidents, and (3) documenting incidents. ➤ The Evans Road Fire is 75% contained at 40,704 acres. 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. A map of forecast smoke impact areas may be found at www.ncair.org/news/pr/2008/smoke_warning.shtml. <p>For additional information on the impacts to the refuge, visit the Pocosin Lakes Wildlife Refuge web site at: http://www.fws.gov/pocosinlakes</p>
<p>Resources on the Fire</p>	<p>275 personnel, 12 tractor/plow units, 5 water tenders; 36 engines, 2 camp crews & 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 & 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.</p>
<p>Plans for Tomorrow</p>	<p>Drafting & sprinkler operations will continue in order to assist in providing fire extinguishment in peat soils and reinforcement of containment lines.</p>