

Honey Prairie Fire Update

Fire Update for Friday, September 15, 2011~ 4 p.m.



Smoke from the Honey Prairie Complex Fires are Making the Rounds



When the air is clear, and the sky is blue, it is easy to forget that the Honey Prairie Fire continues to burn. Smoke from the fire is a reminder that the fire is gnawing away at the Swamp. Fire behavior indicators such as low humidity and dead fuel moisture, exceeded the threshold for increased fire activity on Monday, September 12. These dry conditions resulted in the Honey Prairie fire spotting quarter mile over the containment line near Alligator Creek located to the west of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Firefighters at the scene were able to keep the spots contained to 1,350 acres.

The westerly winds we have experience the past few days are about to shift to easterlies as a cold front enters the area. While residents from Brunswick to Saint Augustine should have some reprieve, those living in Fargo, Valdosta, and Lake City may see an increase in smoke.

Smoke from wildfires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials including peat. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Fortunately, most persons who are exposed to thick smoke will not have health problems. How much and how long you are exposed to the smoke, as well as your age and degree of susceptibility play a role in determining whether or not someone will experience smoke-related problems.

Smoke can cause coughing, scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, stinging eyes and runny nose. If you have heart or lung disease, smoke might make your symptoms worse. People who have heart disease might experience chest pain, rapid heartbeat, shortness of breath and fatigue. Smoke may worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as respiratory allergies, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

To protect yourself and your family from the harmful effects of smoke limit your exposure to the smoke by staying indoors whenever possible, using air conditioners, using mechanical air cleaners, keeping windows closed while driving, and doing less strenuous physical activity (fast walking rather than jogging). When driving, treat smoke as you would fog, by turning on your headlights to increase your visibility.

The Honey Prairie Fire has been burning since April 28 and as of September 15, 2011 has burned 308,780 acres.

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Assigned Resources

- 13 Engines
- 3 Tractor /Plows
- 3 Graders
- 3 Excavators
- 33 Dozers
- 1 Helicopter
- 1 Skidder
- 124 Personnel

www.inciweb.org

www.fws.gov/okefenokee

www.gatrees.org