



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

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Sandy Wildfire Evacuation Plan Downgraded to Phase One

OCHOPEE, FL – With a decrease in fire behavior today and an increase in containment, fire managers have downgraded the Sandy Wildfire Evacuation Plan to Phase One. Residents are advised that there may still be potential fire impacts especially from smoke.

The Sandy Fire is currently 19,814 acres and 45 % contained. Crews continued to improve control line on the western flank of the fire, focusing on cooling areas of increased heat. Firefighters along the remainder of the perimeter continued to hold and patrol the control line.

Ground and aviation resources will continue operations tomorrow, continuing to hold and improve control lines around the fire.

Some smoke impacts continue to be expected and travelers should use caution when in the area. Additional road closures are not expected at this time but may be implemented as conditions change. Please check traffic advisories for updates.

Closures remain in effect west of 11 Mile Road, north of US41, east of Monument Trail, and south of Mud Lake, Little Deer, Oasis Trail and Lost Dog, including the Florida Trail from Oasis Visitor Center to I75 (MM63). This both ensures the safety of the public and allows firefighters to work without impediment.

Phase One of the Sandy Wildfire Evacuation Plan remains in effect.

- Phase One: Residents within evacuation zone are notified of potential fire impacts and advised to create defensible space around home if possible.

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- Phase Two: Residents within evacuation zone should be packed and ready to evacuate. Residents with preexisting health conditions will be encouraged to leave at this time.
- Phase Three: Residents will be advised to leave as fire threat is imminent.

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