



Black Bear Fire Daily Update

Tuesday, November 21, 2023



SOUTHERN AREA BLUE TEAM INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Information Phone Lines:

Phone: (828) 820-2714

Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Email:

2023.blackbear@firenet.gov

Informational Websites:

<https://linktr.ee/blackbearfire>

INCIDENT STATISTICS:

Current Size: **1,888 Acres**

Current Containment: **42%**

Start Date: November 16, 2023

Cause: Unknown

Total personnel: 195

Air Quality: For information regarding smoke impacts and what you can do to protect yourself, visit the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Air Quality Portal at:

airquality.climate.ncsu.edu/

Fire Restrictions: Fire restrictions remain in place to help minimize the chances of human-caused wildland fires. These restrictions prohibit campfires outside of established recreation and wilderness areas.

www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nfsnc/alerts-notices

Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR): There is a flight restriction over the fire area and drones are also prohibited.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Crews completed the handline along the Groundhog Creek drainage east of the fire completing all primary containment line preparation. Despite winds last night, fire behavior was minimal and containment lines were not tested by the fire. Today will bring breezy conditions and rain, further moderating fire behavior. While flames may not be visible, fuels will continue to smolder, and smoke will be visible.

This will be the final update on the Black Bear Fire from the Southern Area Incident Management Team Blue Team. The National Forests in North Carolina will assume command of the incident on Wednesday, November 22.

WEATHER:

Heavy rain and gusty winds today with potential for winds from the south and southeast gusting 40-50 mph at times on exposed ridges. Periods of torrential rain could lead to reduced visibility with gusty winds increasing driving hazards. West to northwest winds develop this evening and overnight following the passage of a cold front. Northwest flow over the mountains and lingering moisture will lead to cloudy skies and areas of light rain on Wednesday.

FIRE BEHAVIOR:

Surface fuels will not support active fire spread with wind today. Scattered heavy fuels, such as log ends, snags, and stump holes, will retain heat and may provide a source of ignition in the event of drying in the future. Flare-ups and increased fire activity will not occur with wind. Fire behavior today will be minimal.

SMOKE:

No smoke impacts anticipated today.

EVACUATIONS: None

CLOSURES AND DELAYS:

For public and firefighter safety, a safety order is in effect over the fire area. The Appalachian Trail is closed from I-40 to Brown Gap. You can find more information at linktr.ee/blackbearfire. Road closures are in effect for Cold Springs Road and Brown Gap Road. Impacts to travel along Interstate 40 are expected. Check current road conditions at drivenc.gov.

