

Party Rock Fire News Release

[Incident Information](#) [Announcements](#) [Closures](#) [News](#) [Photographs](#) [Maps](#)

Fire Update Meetings Saturday for Party Rock Fire Communities

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 22 hrs. ago

Communities affected by the Party Rock Fire are invited to their choice of "FIRE UPDATE" gatherings at one of the following locations on Saturday, November 26. Fire management staff from the North Carolina Forest Service and the current Incident Management Team (IMT) from the Oregon Department of Forestry look forward to visiting with you and to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lake Lure Fire Department **10:00 a.m.**
622 Memorial Highway

Chimney Rock Fire Department **12:00 noon**

Bat Cave Baptist Church **2:00 p.m.**

Related Information

[Fire Update Meetings Saturday \(pdf 390 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
1616 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
Phone: 828-513-2500
Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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[Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m.](#)
News - 23 hrs. ago

[Party Rock Fire News Release 11-23-16, 08:30 a.m.](#)
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 23 hrs. ago

Many Reasons to be Thankful

As the remaining fire crews on the Party Rock Fire head out for another day of mopping up and patrolling the containment lines, they have many reasons to be thankful. *Everyone* is thankful that no homes were lost in this fire. Sean Brogan of the North Carolina Forest Service told fire crews this morning, "We talk a lot about the urban interface (*where homes meet the forest*), but when someone comes up to you and thanks you for saving *their town*, that makes it deeply personal." Brogan, who has been on the incident for over two weeks, joined Lake Lure Mayor Bob Keith and others, in expressing appreciation for the work done on the fire since November 5th.

Though very light rain fell on some parts of the Party Rock Fire area overnight, everything is expected to dry out again by this afternoon. Crews continue to search for hot spots within 100 feet of the fire perimeter. Today, they will begin using a handheld infrared scanner which can see through the leaf litter and detect otherwise hidden heat.

At the end of the shift, fire fighters will be treated to a Thanksgiving meal provided by the North Carolina Baptist Men's Convention, helped out by volunteer servers from across the state. Fire crews are grateful to the many people who have taken time out of their lives to help out serving food in the mess tent.

Fire fighters are also thankful for the many personal items and the Gatorade, etc., that has been donated during the fire but no other donations are needed. Anyone who still wishes to support fire fighters, might consider the Western North Carolina Association of Fire Fighters wncaff.com/home/index.html, or the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, wffoundation.org/.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/). A public information center phone line is open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 828-513-2500. -END-

Related Information

- Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m. (pdf 263 kb)
- Infrared Map, Party Rock Fire, 11-24-16 (pdf 1,828 kb)

UNIT INFORMATION

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News - 2 days ago
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News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release 11-23-16, 08:30 a.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 2 days ago
New Team, Same Mission

A Type 1 Incident Management Team from the Oregon Department of Forestry assumed command of the Party Rock Fire at 7:00 a.m. this morning. During the morning briefing, team members praised the work of the North Carolina Forest Service and the many cooperating agencies that have worked the fire so far. Containment is now 54%, and due to the successful work of the past week, many resources have been released and each day more are going home or to other fires.

Incoming Incident Commander Link Smith says the Oregon team is pleased to have the opportunity help out in North Carolina. "We've had a ton of help from North Carolina come to Oregon during the fire seasons of 2013, 2014 and 2015," says Smith, "and it's an honor to be here to serve and to start to repay what so many have done for the people of Oregon."

Some lingering hot spots remain within the perimeter of the Party Rock Fire and today's challenge will be to find any that are close to containment lines and make sure they are out cold. The falling leaves that are continuing to cover up both the hot spots and containment lines complicate that challenge. Fire fighters will patrol, re-clear the lines where needed and "grid" the fire perimeter. Gridding is a methodical process of making sure every piece of ground along the perimeter is free of active fire.

Smoke in the area this morning is from other fires, not the Party Rock Fire.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/). A public information center phone line is open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. at 828-513-2500. A second number listed on older news releases, which had a 336 prefix, has been disconnected. News updates will now be issued once each morning, unless circumstances warrant additional releases.

###

Related Information

- [Party Rock Fire News Release 11-23-16, 08:30 a.m. \(pdf 218 kb\)](#)
- [Infrared Map, 11-23-16 \(pdf 1,826 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
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 Raleigh, NC 27699




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News - 2 days ago
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News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 3 days ago

Smoke From Pinnacle Mountain Fire Impacting Party Rock Fire Area

Smoke from the Pinnacle Mountain Fire in South Carolina has drifted into the Party Rock Fire area and is expected to linger overnight and into tomorrow. While there is some minimal fire activity left within the Party Rock Fire perimeter, it is **not** producing the smoke being experienced today. A temperature inversion, coupled with light wind, means the smoke may stay trapped in the valley bottoms through tomorrow morning.

An aerial infrared image of the Party Rock Fire taken last night still shows some areas of isolated heat, such as smoldering stumps or large downed trees. The strong winds during the past three days have also blown a lot of leaves into the burn area. When this new fuel lands on a heat source, there is a chance of more burning and more smoke. Some instances of this "re-burning" has been observed, especially at night, during the past few days. If any of these pose a threat to containment lines or structures fire fighters will actively extinguish them. The other hot spots, as long as they stay small and are well within the fire's interior, will be allowed to burn out on their own. Residents may see what appear to be small campfires in the nights ahead, but do not need to call authorities unless they believe what they are seeing poses an immediate threat to life or property.

Businesses or residents in the Lake Lure area who have questions about smoke damage and insurance claims can contact the Lake Lure Chamber of Commerce at (828) 625-2725. Anyone with fire or smoke damage should consult with their insurance carrier before signing contracts for cleaning or repair services.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/). A public information center phone line is still staffed from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. at 828-513-2500, but a second number that is listed on older news releases, which had a 336 prefix, has been disconnected.

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Related Information

[Party Rock Fire News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m. \(pdf 81 kb\)](#)

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News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release, 11-22-16, 08:30 a.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 3 days ago

Fire Lines Hold Through Three Days of Wind

Fire fighters will continue to "mop-up" the fire perimeter today, thankful that fire lines have held after three straight days of strong winds. Mop-up is the process of making sure all hot spots near the perimeter are out cold. Crews will remain vigilant since the fuels that drove the growth of the Party Rock Fire are still critically dry and more fuel, in the form of falling leaves, were being spread by the wind. Hot spots remain and have been visible, especially at night, and those are being dealt with if they pose a threat to structures or the containment lines. Winds are expected to be light today.

Some fire crews were released last night and more will go home, or to other fires, today. No further donations are needed to support the personnel that remain. All remaining road closures and evacuation notices were lifted as of noon yesterday and the one remaining evacuation center is closing today.

After managing the fire for two weeks, The Brandon North Carolina Incident Management team is also heading home tomorrow. An Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team is now on site and will take command of the fire Wednesday.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/). A public information center phone line is still staffed from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. at 828-513-2500 but a second number that is listed on older news releases, which begins with a 336 prefix, is being disconnected.

###

Related Information

- Party Rock Fire News Release, 11-22-16, 08:30 a.m. (pdf 105 kb) [↗](#)
- NC Burn Ban Expanded (pdf 324 kb) [↗](#)

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire Evening News Release, 11-21-16, 7:30 p.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 4 days ago

All Roads Open, All Evacuations Cancelled

Fire Danger Remains

All roads that had been closed due to the Party Rock Fire at Lake Lure are now open and all evacuation orders and pre-evacuation notices were cancelled as of noon today. However, fire managers would like to remind citizens that the fire danger remains very high because of the ongoing drought and that they should continue vigilance in watching for fire information and hazards. Today, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler extended the open burning ban to an additional 22 counties. For more information on that ban please visit ncforestservice.gov/.

"The fuels cannot get any drier," said John Cook, a Fire Behavior Analyst on the Party Rock Fire. "They are at historically dry levels right now, and humidity levels have been very low as well." No rain is in the forecast for Tuesday with only a chance of showers on Wednesday, therefore everyone is asked to use extreme caution with anything that could cause another fire. Two new wildfires were reported in McDowell County over the weekend.

Because of the continued progress on the Party Rock Fire, resources are now being released to other fires or to return home. No further donations of any kind are needed to support the remaining fire fighters. The Brandon Incident Management Team would like to extend a special thank you to the citizens of the Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village communities and surrounding areas for their outpouring of generosity to those involved with fighting the Party Rock Fire.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/).

###

Related Information

Party Rock Fire News Release, 11-21-16, 7:30 p.m. (pdf 114 kb)

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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All Roads Open, All Evacuations Lifted

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 4 days ago

All evacuations have been lifted and all roads previously closed due to the Party Rock Fire have been opened. This includes Highway 9 North from Bat Cave to Black Mountain and Highway 64/74a through Chimney Rock to Lake Lure.

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Party Rock Fire News Release - Lake Lure Evac & Pre-Evac Notices Update

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 4 days ago

Release 11/21/2016; 7:30 a.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Rumbling Bald Resort Area to Open at Noon Lake Lure State of Emergency Still in Effect

Because the threat from the Party Rock Fire has diminished, all evacuation and pre-evacuation notices for the Town of Lake Lure and surrounding neighborhoods are cancelled as of noon today. This includes those parts of the Rumbling Bald Resort that have been under a mandatory evacuation notice: Deerfield; Fairfield; Youngs Mountain; and Quail Ridge. The pre-evacuation notice for Three Creeks, Cedar Creek Road, Buffalo Creek Road, Riverbend Highlands, Tatanka, Apple Valley, Shumont Estates and Buffalo Shoals, is also cancelled as of noon today.

A state of emergency remains in effect for the town of Lake Lure. Fire and town officials caution everyone that the recently burned areas contain many hazards, including damaged and standing dead trees called snags, that can fall without warning at any time. There are also stump holes, some of which may still contain enough heat to cause serious burns to people and pets.

The Lake Town Hall is now open for normal business hours, but only through the front entrance, and using the front parking lot. The rest of the area around the municipal building is still being used as an incident command post and is closed to the public. The park also remains closed as it serves as fire base camp, with access restricted to incident personnel. Visitors to town hall should use caution because of the high volume of fire and emergency traffic.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/).

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Phased Reopening of Chimney Rock Village, 11-20-16 07:45 p.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 5 days ago

Phased Opening of Chimney Rock Village to Public Begins Monday

Nov. 20, 2016 Chimney Rock Village will be opened to the public at noon on Monday, November 21. This area has been closed due to the Party Rock Fire, and only recently opened to Village business owners and residents.

Trucks delivering food and other commerce supplies, and school buses will have access to the Village and highway 74A/64 starting immediately after Sunday midnight. Henderson County school buses will also resume their normal travel routes on November 21.

While access to Chimney Rock Village is being opened to the public, it is essential that those traveling through or visiting the area remain vigilant to the dangers that still exist due to the wildfire. The public is strongly encouraged to stay out of the burned woodlands. Many dangers still exist, such as trees that are weakened from the fire and smoldering stump holes. Standing dead and cured trees, otherwise known as snags, may fall without warning and cause serious injury or death. Because of the fire, there are more snags than normal posing a danger to those entering the fire's footprint.

The Rumbling Bald Resort area remains closed at this time. "The situation is still serious and we need to see what the fire does with this evening's gusty winds before our re-entry decision is made," said Lake Lure Mayor Bob Keith on the status on the Rumbling Bald Resort.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

Related Information

[Phased Reopening of Chimney Rock Village, 11-20-16 \(pdf 108 kb\)](#)

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release - 11-20-2016 6 PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 5 days ago

For Immediate Release 11/20/2016; 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Evening Update: Fire Lines Holding

Fire managers report the fire has not crossed containment lines, despite winds gusting up to 45 mph throughout the weekend. While areas within the Party Rock Fire footprint are still smoldering and occasionally flaring up briefly, no fire has escaped the perimeter. Air quality has improved dramatically, as the winds have cleared the air of smoke. No new evacuations have been issued, and there are no changes in existing evacuations in the area of the Party Rock Fire as of 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Containment on the 7,171-acre Party Rock Fire has increased to 45 percent. There are 925 firefighters working to protect homes and property.

Residents and business owners were allowed back into Chimney Rock Village and Bat Cave on Saturday. Permits are required to re-enter Chimney Rock Village. Contact the Party Rock Fire Information Office for details.

An incident management team from Oregon is arriving this week to take command of the Party Rock Fire. The Oregon team will spend a couple days working with the North Carolina team to ensure a smooth hand-off of fire management responsibilities takes place. The transfer of command from the North Carolina team to the new team will take place on Wednesday morning, November 23.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Current road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release 11-20-16 08:30 a.m

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 5 days ago

Party Rock Fire Containment Lines Hold Overnight

Strong winds tested containment lines on the Party Rock Fire Saturday and through the night into Sunday morning, but fire managers report there was no fire growth outside those lines. Continued windy conditions and low humidity will keep fire fighters on their toes again today. "If we can hold it one more day, we should be in great shape" Incident Commander Dan Brandon told fire fighters during Sunday's morning briefing. No new evacuation warnings have been issued but residents near the fire are asked to remain vigilant. Residents and business owners are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts through their county or local government websites.

The size of the fire remains at 7,171 acres, with containment holding at 36 percent. More than 900 structural and wildland firefighters are working day and night to protect homes and businesses.

Residents and business owners have been allowed back into the Chimney Rock Village and Bat Cave communities but passes are required. Contact the Party Rock Fire Information Office for details.

A stretch of Highway 64/74-A through Chimney Rock Village from Bat Cave to Lake Lure remains closed. Current road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/).

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Related Information

- [Party Rock Fire News Release 11-20-19 08:30 a.m. \(pdf 101 kb\)](#)
- [Air Quality Report 11-20-16 \(pdf 302 kb\)](#)
- [Evacuation Map, Party Rock Fire, 11-20-16 \(pdf 3,092 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

RECENT ARTICLES

- [Fire Update Meetings Saturday for Party Rock Fire Communities](#)
News - 22 hrs. ago
- [Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m.](#)
News - 23 hrs. ago
- [Party Rock Fire News Release 11-23-16, 08:30 a.m.](#)
News - 2 days ago
- [Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m.](#)
News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-19-16 8:10 p.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 6 days ago

Party Rock Fire Lines Have Held Thus Far

Despite strong winds since mid-morning today, the containment lines on the Party Rock Fire have held firm across the fire footprint, according to fire managers. However, the threat has not passed as strong northwest winds are expected until early morning and a Red Flag Warning remains in effect until midnight. Fire fighters will be monitoring and patrolling the fire lines all night. As of 8:10 p.m., there is no change in any current evacuation notices.

The wind has fanned some lingering areas of smoldering fuel inside the fire perimeter and small flames may be visible through the night in places. Those hot spots are being monitored by fire personnel and will be addressed if the flames pose any threat to public safety or the containment lines.

Because of increased public concern, the fire information center will remain open through the night. The center phone numbers are 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641. Emails to partyrockfire@gmail.com are also being monitored.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5092/) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (www.townoflakelure.com/).

###

Related Information

 [Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-19-16 \(pdf 96 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

RECENT ARTICLES

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News - 22 hrs. ago
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News - 23 hrs. ago
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News - 2 days ago
- [Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m.](#)
News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire - Pre-Evacuation News Release 11-19-2016

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 6 days ago

For Immediate Release 11/19/2016; 8:00 a.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Pre-Evacuation Notices Issued for Areas East of Party Rock Fire

County officials and fire managers have issued a pre-evacuation notice for residents living in areas and communities east of the Party Rock Fire. This precautionary action is being taken because of the potential for further fire growth to the northeast, east, and southeast due to predicted high winds. Residents of Riverbend Highlands, Buffalo Creek Road, Three Creeks, Tatanka, Apple Valley, Shumont Estates, and Buffalo Shoals Road north of Moffitt Road are included in this pre-evacuation notice. Residents that received the notice need to be prepared accordingly and be situationally aware. For information on how to prepare for an evacuation, visit <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>.

Due to the expected critical fire weather conditions, the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning over the fire and the surrounding region.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

###

Related Information

[Pre-evacuation Notice Map 11-19-16 \(pdf 6,584 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699

INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

RECENT ARTICLES

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News - 23 hrs. ago
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News - 2 days ago
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release - Re-entry Announcement 11-18-16 3:00 PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 7 days ago

For Immediate Release 11/18/2016; 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

RE-ENTRY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BUNCOMBE AND HENDERSON COUNTIES PLANNED FOR SATURDAY NOON

Buncombe and Henderson County officials and fire managers have determined that re-entry by evacuated residents can occur this weekend.

- Re-entry for evacuated communities in Henderson County, Bat Cave and along Highway 9, will occur Saturday (November 19th) at **noon**. Windshield passes are required to enter these areas. Only affected residents and businesses can obtain a re-entry permit. Permits can be obtained directly from the Bat Cave Fire Department. The evacuation area affected by this notice will remain closed to visitors and through-traffic on Highway 74-A/64 until further notice.
- All evacuated Buncombe County residents will be allowed back into their homes effective noon on Saturday. No re-entry permit will be required.
- The evacuation center has relocated from the Grace Lutheran Church to the 7th Day Adventist Church at 2301 Asheville Highway, Henderson, N.C. 28739.

If re-entry questions arise, contact the Party Rock Fire Information Center at 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641; or by email at partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

###

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
1616 Mail Service Center
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INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
Phone: 828-513-2500
Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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News - 23 hrs. ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release for 11-18-2016, 10:30 AM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 7 days ago

Party Rock Fire Containment Now 32 Percent

Containment on the 6,712-acre Party Rock Fire grew to 32 percent on Thursday. There are 920 firefighters assigned to this fire who are working to protect homes and to monitor completed containment lines. Several helicopters and a large air tanker supported firefighters as containment was completed overnight down to Rumbling Bald Resort communities.

A significant wind event is forecast for this weekend. Conditions on the ground remain dry - there has been no rain in the area for 46 days. Fire managers will have a large contingency of firefighting equipment including structure protection to patrol containment lines and the communities.

Residents and business owners will be allowed back into Chimney Rock Village beginning at noon on Saturday, November 19. Permits are required to re-enter Chimney Rock Village and are being issued only to residents and business owners. Contact the Party Rock Fire Information Office for details.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Highway 9 remains closed from the intersection at Highway 74-A in Bat Cave north to Shumont Road. Current road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

###

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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News - 22 hrs. ago
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News - 23 hrs. ago
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release for 11-17-2016, 10:30 AM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 11/17/2016

For Immediate Release 11/17/2016; 10:30 a.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Firefighters Continue Burnout Operations Overnight

The Party Rock Fire grew to 5,714 acres, but remained at 19 percent containment. Firefighters continue to secure containment lines and conduct burnout operations on the Party Rock Fire in advance of a strong cold weather front that will move through the area this weekend. Burnout operations were completed on the northern containment line along Rolling Ridge Road in Gray Rock. A helicopter capable of delivering large water drops supported the operation to ensure the burnout did not cross containment lines. The dozer containment line installed on the easternmost side was used to support burnout operations that occurred overnight. The northern half of the eastern containment line was successfully burned out, and today's operations will continue. Farther to the south, hand lines are being established and improved between the active fire perimeter and the communities of Rumbling Bald Resort. Farther to the north of the Gray Rock containment line, residents in the neighborhoods of Camp Elliot, Ditney Knob, Sally Gap, Three Creeks and Earth Haven will see more smoke as burnout operations continue. The established containment is in place to protect these communities; however, residents located to the north of the fire should monitor information about the fire during the forecasted wind event.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Highway 9 was closed yesterday from the intersection at Highway 74-A in Bat Cave north to Shumont Road. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
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INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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News - 23 hrs. ago
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News - 2 days ago
- [Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m.](#)
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release for 11-16-16

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/16/2016

Containment of the Party Rock Fire has increased to 19 percent and is 4,480 acres in size. Firefighters are continuing to protect structures and construct containment lines around the fire. Fire managers are preparing for strong winds later this week that could increase the size of the fire.

Henderson County emergency management and law enforcement officials will implement an evacuation of Highway 9 between the intersections of Highway 74-A and Shumont Road beginning at noon today (November 16). The evacuation notice will include all roads that connect to Highway 9. Evacuations should be completed by 5:00 p.m. Evacuated residents can shelter at Grace Lutheran Church, 1245 6th Avenue West in Hendersonville.

Yesterday the residents of the evacuated neighborhoods in the Boys Camp Road area were allowed to begin returning to their homes. To enter, residents must show proof of residence at the checkpoint by Boys Camp Road. Travel to this re-entry checkpoint must occur from the Lake Lure (south) side of Highway 74-A/64, and not from the Bat Cave (north) side of these roads; the Village of Chimney Rock remains closed.

There is no change in the status of other previous evacuations.

A Community Meeting will be held at noon Wednesday, November 16 at the Rumbling Bald Resort's Legends Restaurant. A public information officer from the Party Rock Fire will provide an overview of the current fire status, planned fire suppression operations, and anticipated fire behavior with the predicted strong winds later this week. The meeting is for all interested area residents.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure Facebook page. Air Quality alerts can be obtained from the NWS at <http://www.weather.gov/gsp/>. ###

Related Information

[Party Rock News Release 11-16-16 \(pdf 105 kb\)](#)

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
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 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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News - 3 days ago

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire - Community Meeting and Donation Drop Points - 11/15/16 PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/15/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 11/15/2016; 10:00 PM

Party Rock Fire Community Meeting and Donation Drop Points

A community meeting over lunch will be held at noon on Wednesday at the Legends Restaurant at Rumbling Bald Resort. The meeting is for all interested area residents. A public information officer will provide an overview of current fire status, planned fire suppression operations, and anticipated fire behavior with the predicted late week wind event. There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

There has been an outpouring of community support in the form of drink, food and other donations for firefighters and residents impacted by the incident. The local fire departments of Henderson and Rutherford Counties are now serving as drop points for these donations. Once received at these drop points, fire department staff will connect donated supplies to those needing the supplies.

For more information on the community meeting and donations of supplies, please contact the Party Rock Fire Information Center at 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com.

#####

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
1616 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
Phone: 828-513-2500
Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

RECENT ARTICLES

- Fire Update Meetings Saturday for Party Rock Fire Communities**
News - 22 hrs. ago
- Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m.**
News - 23 hrs. ago
- Party Rock Fire News Release 11-23-16, 08:30 a.m.**
News - 2 days ago
- Party Rock Fire Evening News Release 11-22-16, 5:00 p.m.**
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release for 11-15-16 9:00 a.m.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/15/2016

Weekend Weather Conditions Expected to Increase Fire Behavior

The Party Rock Fire is now 3,744 acres in size and remains at 15 percent containment. The weather has not been conducive for large fire growth the past couple days, but those conditions will change later this week. The passage of a strong cold front this Saturday will bring little to no moisture to the fire. The approaching front will bring strong gusty winds from the southwest starting on Thursday. This wind event has the potential to push the fire to the north and northeast toward Weed Patch Mountain and the Gray Rock community. Windy conditions could also move flames towards the evacuated communities of Rumbling Bald Resort. In addition to the wind component, temperatures are expected to warm into the low 70s and relative humidity levels will again drop below 30 percent. These weather conditions will support rapid fire growth. Fire managers are now planning for this fire growth potential by establishing contingency lines should primary containment lines not hold. In addition, they are working with the structure protection group to ensure fire department engines are strategically placed within communities in the fire's projected path to protect homes.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>). ###

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




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Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

RECENT ARTICLES

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News - 22 hrs. ago
- [Party Rock Fire News Release 11-24-16, 8:30 a.m.](#)
News - 23 hrs. ago
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release for 11-14-2016; 1:45 PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 11/14/2016

For Immediate Release 11/14/2016; 1:45 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Continues to Advance

The Party Rock Fire is now 3,457 acres in size and containment is 15 percent. Recent calm weather has helped reduce the fire's spread somewhat, though smoke continued to impact the area. The weather over the next few days will be mostly warmer and drier with light winds. These conditions, along with the ongoing drought and leaf fall, are likely to support more active fire behavior and spread. The Party Rock Fire continues to advance west of Round Top Mountain, adjacent to and west of Chimney Rock Village and to areas on the north side of the fire. These unusual weather conditions are resulting in the fire burning throughout the day and night. This differs from seasonal fires that burn mostly during warmer afternoon periods, and just smolder at night. This makes the fire more resistant to control.

Firefighters are successfully defending homes and structures as the fire creeps downhill into areas with properties at risk. Engines are staged at each home and hose lays are deployed and used to put out the fire as it nears property. This suppression strategy is used to completely combust all available fuel so reburn potential is minimized. These structure protection tactics will continue as long as necessary. No structures have been lost to date.

About 1,000 people continue to be affected by evacuations. Fire officials meet regularly with local emergency management services to review when people may be allowed back in and to assess if additional evacuation notices may be needed. There were no changes in the status of evacuations over the past 24 hours. A new evacuation shelter opened today at Grace Lutheran Church, 1245 6th Avenue West in Hendersonville; the shelter contact number is 828-693-4890. The Bat Cave shelter closed due to poor air quality. The Greenhill Baptist Church shelter has also closed.

For public and firefighter safety, travelers are encouraged to adjust speed for reduced visibility and firefighting equipment on the roads. Area residents with respiratory ailments or sensitivities should keep their doors and windows closed and operate their HVAC system to avoid breathing smoke-filled air. Air Quality alerts can be obtained from the NWS at <http://www.weather.gov/gsp/>.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
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INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
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 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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News - 22 hrs. ago
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News - 23 hrs. ago
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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PRF News Release - 11-13-2016; 2:30 PM; Acreage Updated 6:00 PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 11/13/2016

For Immediate Release 11/13/2016; 2:30 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or 336-455-9641

Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Continues to Advance Downhill to Evacuated Communities

As of the 4:00 PM this afternoon, the Party Rock Fire increased in size to 3,457 acres; containment remains at 15 percent. The fire was again active on all perimeters except the east side. The western edge of the fire moved further downhill overnight off Round Top Mountain and was at the woods line in some areas of Chimney Rock Village. Structure protection firefighters had hose lays deployed and were waiting for the fire to reach the wood's edge before extinguishing it with water. This suppression strategy is used to completely combust all available fuel so reburn potential is minimized. The same firefighting strategy was also in play for homes located on the northern side of Boys Camp Road. Engines were staged at each home and hose lays were deployed. To the northeast, Rumbling Bald Resort has seen a similar slow advance of the fire and structure protection was in place. No structures have been lost to date.

Area residents did wake up to ground level smoke this morning. With the cloud cover forecast to be in place all day, the ground-level smoke may not fully ventilate until later this afternoon; some residual smoke could last into the evening hours. Should moderate to dense ground smoke occur, travelers are encouraged to adjust speed for reduced visibility on the roads. Area residents with respiratory ailments or sensitivities should keep their doors and windows closed and operate their HVAC system to avoid breathing smoke-filled air. Air Quality alerts can be obtained from the NWS at <http://www.weather.gov/gsp/>.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. More information on roads can be accessed via the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

###

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire - 11/12 Evening News Release

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/12/2016

For Immediate Release 11/12/2016; 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Continues to Grow

The Party Rock Fire is now 2,883 acres in size; containment remains at 15 percent. The fire was most active on the northern perimeter. The southern edge of the fire continues to move downhill off Round Top Mountain and Rumbling Bald Mountain towards Boys Camp Road. Firefighters have employed structure protection on homes located on the north side of the road and are prepared to engage the fire with both water from engines and burnout operations. Structure protection is also located in Chimney Rock Village and along the closed portions of the Highway 64/74-A corridor. No structures have been lost to date.

An atmospheric inversion is forecast to occur overnight, which will prevent smoke from ventilating. Should dense ground smoke occur, travelers are encouraged to adjust speed for reduced visibility on the roads. Area residents with respiratory ailments or sensitivities should keep their doors and windows closed and operate their HVAC system to avoid breathing the smoke. Air Quality alerts can be obtained from the NWS at <http://www.weather.gov/gsp/>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire - Evacuation Notice for Henderson Co Residents Near Fire

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/12/2016

For Immediate Release 11/12/2016; 12:30 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire - Evacuation for Henderson County Residents Near Fire

Due to the fire's potential growth to the west-northwest, Henderson County is issuing an immediate mandatory evacuation for the communities located along Highway 64/74-A from Henderson County Line to Highway 9, Highway 9 to Shumont Road and all Henderson County homes located on Shumont Road. An evacuee shelter has been established at Bat Cave Baptist Church located at 5095 Chimney Rock Road, Hendersonville, NC; the shelter phone number is 828-625-9061. This shelter is also open to Buncombe County evacuees responding to a voluntary evacuation issued earlier this morning.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release - 11/12/2016 AM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/12/2016

For Immediate Release 11/12/2016; 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Continues to Spread - Voluntary Evacuation Announced

Due to the fire's continued growth to the northwest, Buncombe County is issuing an immediate voluntary evacuation for the communities located on Shumont Road, Bald Mountain Road, Old Apple Wagon Road, Little Mountain Road, Frog Pond Way, Bucks Walk, Deer Run, Fawns Rest, and Gates Drive. Buncombe County emergency managers are working on shelter arrangements at this time.

The Party Rock Fire continues to grow in size even though overnight temperatures cooled and the relative humidity increased to 80%. The fire remains active on the northern, western and southern perimeters. The fire was visible last night, burning around and down Round Top Mountain. The fire footprint is still 1,914 acres and containment remains at 15 percent.

There are many individuals and organizations wanting to make donations of food, bottled water and other supplies; however, fire managers are requesting those wanting to make donations withhold at this time until drop points can be identified and communicated to area residents impacted by the fire.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed earlier this afternoon. More information on roads can be accessed via the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire 11-11-2016; 6:00 News Release

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/11/2016

For Immediate Release 11/11/2016; 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire Doubles in Size - Forces Evacuations and Road Closure

The Party Rock Fire nearly doubled in size since Thursday evening. The fire footprint is now 1,914 acres and containment remains at 15 percent. The rapid fire growth caused a mandatory evacuation for all of Chimney Rock Village including the Highway 74-A corridor west of Chimney Rock to the Henderson County line, and some communities in the Town of Lake Lure and Rumbling Bald Resort. Residents and business owners in the evacuated areas have been directed to shelters opening in Lake Lure and Rutherfordton. The evacuation could last anywhere between three and seven days.

Air resources including a heavy air tanker, single engine air tankers and both heavy and light helicopters dropped retardant and water to slow the approach of the fire towards Chimney Rock Village. A shift in winds blowing from the northeast will likely push smoke into the Town of Lake Lure that could turn into dense ground smoke if a nighttime atmospheric inversion occurs. For more information on possible air quality alerts, area residents can visit the National Weather Service website at <http://www.weather.gov/gsp/>.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village was closed earlier this afternoon. More information on road closures can be accessed via the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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UNIT INFORMATION

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release - 11-10-16; 8:30PM

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/10/2016

For Immediate Release 11/10/2016; 8:30 p.m.

Contact: Fire Information Center, 828-513-2500 or partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com

Party Rock Fire grows to 977 acres

Lake Lure - The Party Rock Fire is now 977 acres in size; it remains at 15 percent containment. The fire continues to burn actively at night due to poor recovery of relative humidity and the extremely dry fuel conditions in the path of the fire. Night time fire growth is also enhanced upslope as fuels are preheated by the approaching flame front. Firefighters were able to finish constructing a containment line across the ridge of Shumont Mountain; the dozer line runs from Shumont Road to Bald Mountain Road. Burnout operations will occur along this line if the fire approaches Shumont Mountain.

Homeowners located to the north and west of the fire can prepare their homes to be more wildfire defensible by removing leaves and needles from rooftops and gutters, removing flammable vegetation near home, and clearing the yard of leaf litter and other flammable debris. Additional home protection actions can be found by visiting <http://firewise.org>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>)

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Governor McCrory Declares State of Emergency for Wildfires in WNC

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
 Released: 11/10/2016

Governor McCrory Declares State of Emergency for Wildfires in Western North Carolina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (919) 814-2100

Thursday, November 10, 2016 govpress@nc.gov

Raleigh, N.C. - Governor Pat McCrory has declared a state of emergency to help the state combat more than 20 active wildfires in western North Carolina prompted by the lingering drought that has impacted the region since late spring.

"As eastern North Carolina was underwater due to flooding from Hurricane Matthew, the western part of the state has been suffering from a severe drought and now hundreds of acres are burning," said Governor McCrory. "This declaration will help facilitate evacuations as needed and provide further state assets to help combat the wildfires and support North Carolinians displaced by the fires. This is extremely dangerous work and I especially want to thank the firefighters, first responders, sheriffs and other emergency personnel that have risked their own lives to protect our citizens and property."

Forest wildfires are burning in several western North Carolina counties that are experiencing extreme drought. The State of Emergency is in effect for 25 counties including Alexander, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties.

The N.C. Forest Service has issued a burning ban on all open burning and cancelled burning permits in 25 counties in the western part of the state. To date, there have been evacuations ordered in Clay, Graham, Macon, Swain and Rutherford counties.

In support of the U.S. Forest Service, N.C. Emergency Management's Helo-Aquatic Rescue Team has deployed a N.C. National Guard Blackhawk helicopter and local rescue technicians to perform any rescues necessary from wildfire fighting operations.

Last week in Clay County, the governor highlighted that the top priority for the state is to avoid any harm to structures, people and livestock in the area. He also noted that these wildfires are some of the most serious fires to occur in North Carolina in nearly two decades.

With more crews and equipment arriving to fight fires in the area, emergency management officials are encouraging motorists to exercise caution when driving. Homeowners can also prevent property damage from fires by keeping flammable materials such as woodpiles or dead leaves away from their homes or propane tanks.

###

UNIT INFORMATION
N.C. Forest Service
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Fire Info Center Line 1
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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire News Release - 11-8-2016 P.M.

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/10/2016

For Immediate Release 11/10/2016; 1:30 p.m.

Party Rock Fire grows to 885 acres

Lake Lure - The Party Rock Fire has grown to an estimated 885 acres. Steep terrain, gusty winds, and extreme drought conditions have made firefighting efforts difficult. The North Carolina Forest Service has assigned over 100 personnel to the wildfire from all across the state. The fire is estimated at being 15% contained with continued containment efforts ongoing. The residents of fifty homes were previously notified by the Town of Lake Lure Fire Department of a potential need for evacuation in the Quail Ridge and Huntington Road areas of Rumbling Bald Resort, however only 15 of the 50 homes had to be evacuated. Three homes on Boulder Run Road were also evacuated yesterday. Temporary housing for evacuees has been arranged through Rumbling Bald Resort; evacuee housing can be found by calling 828-694-3046.

Communities north and west of the fire can prepare their homes to be more defensible to an approaching wildfire by removing leaves and needles from rooftops and gutters, removing flammable vegetation near home, and clearing the yard of leaf litter and other flammable debris. Additional home protection actions can be found by visiting <http://firewise.org>.

For further information on the Party Rock Fire, citizens can contact the Fire Information Center at partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com or by calling 828-513-2500. You can also find up to date fire information on INCIWEB at inciweb.nwcg.gov.

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire - 11-8-2016 P.M. News Release

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire

Released: 11/8/2016

For Immediate Release 11/8/2016; 7:30 p.m.

Party Rock Fire Update

The Party Rock Fire has grown to an estimated 344 acres, and is currently still at 30% containment. The containment is on the south side of the fire, protecting homes along the Boys Camp and Carsons Way roads.

Area residents will notice more aircraft flying overhead, as we now have seven aviation resources devoted to this fire. We currently have three heavy air-tankers working on the fire. These aircraft are dropping fire retardant when they fly over the fire. Each air-tanker drop provides 1,500 gallons of fire retardant, for a combined drop of 4,500 gallons.

In addition to the heavy air-tankers, we have one helicopter, which continues making water drops, one scout plane, our eyes in the skies, one lead plane, to lead the heavy air-tankers to the drop sites, and one air attack plane, which coordinates all of the aviation activity from above.

The NC Forest Service continues to provide 24 hour operational shifts to monitor and work on this fire.

For more information, contact PIO Victoria Tillotson, NC Forest Service 919-500-8757

Victoria.Tillotson@ncagr.gov

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UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699

INCIDENT CONTACT

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Party Rock Fire Estimated at 300 Acres

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/8/2016

North Carolina Forest Service fire-fighters worked all night to reinforce containment lines and conduct burnout operations on the Party Rock Fire in Lake Lure, NC. This overnight work has increased the footprint of the fire to 300 acres with 30% containment. There is dense ground smoke in the area due to an atmospheric inversion this morning. As the inversion lifts today, fire aviation personnel will have a better chance to view the fire from above. It is anticipated that fire behavior will abruptly increase when the inversion lifts; therefore, it is important for all are residents to maintain situational awareness of the fire as the day progresses. Due to the increased complexity of the fire, a N.C. Forest Service Incident Management Team has been ordered. The IMT will transition on Wednesday and take over the incident on Thursday.

Presently, there are no evacuations in effect. A pre-evacuation notification was provided yesterday to some homeowners in the path of the fire, and a State of Emergency Declaration has been signed by the Mayor of Lake Lure. Area residents, business owners and visitors can stay updated on possible evacuation orders by visiting the town of Town of Lake Lure's website and Facebook page.

The 80 firefighting personnel assigned to the fire represent multiple cooperating agencies including: NC State Parks, NC Forest Service, Lake Lure Fire Department, Rutherford County Emergency Management, Lake Lure Police Department, Chimney Rock Fire Department, Bills Creek Fire Department, Fairfield Fire Department, Broad River Fire Department, and Green Hill Fire Department.

For more information, contact PIO Victoria Tillotson, NC Forest Service 919-500-8757
Victoria.Tillotson@ncagr.gov

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Party Rock Fire News Release

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Town of Lake Lure Declares State of Emergency as Forest Fire Spreads

Incident: Party Rock Fire Wildfire
Released: 11/8/2016

Nov. 7, 2016. Lake Lure, NC: The Party Rock Fire that began Nov. 5th at Rumbling Bald Mountain in Lake Lure has crossed over some of the established fire lines. As a result, it has now spread beyond the initial 60 acres and is moving north toward some areas of Rumbling Bald Resort. Residents in the areas of Quail Ridge including Huntington Road may be asked to evacuate in the next 24-48 hours. A map of the area is attached. All residents in those areas have already been alerted. If evacuations take place, residents will be notified door-to door and will need to leave immediately. Please begin preparations now by getting together personal possessions, including medications, important documents and pets. Temporary housing for evacuees will be arranged through Rumbling Bald Resort by calling 828.694.3046.

Due to changing weather conditions, very challenging topography, and despite best efforts by local and regional firefighters to contain the blaze, sections of the wildfire continue to spread. As a result of these rapidly changing developments, Lake Lure Mayor Bob Keith has declared a State of Emergency for the Town of Lake Lure, effectively immediately. The declaration of a State of Emergency allows for evacuations, restriction of access to the area of the emergency and it initiates the Town's emergency action plan.

The fire is being managed by the NC Forest Service with round-the-clock support from multiple cooperating agencies including: NC Forest Service Aviation Resources, NC State Parks, Lake Lure Fire Department, Rutherford County Emergency Management, Lake Lure Police Department, Chimney Rock Fire Department, Bill's Creek Fire Department and Fairfield Mountains Fire Department. Helicopters from the Forestry Service have been dropping water on the fire each day from nearby Lake Lure since the fire broke out.

The fire is specifically located in Lake Lure, NC on public and private property. The Rumbling Bald Climbing Access and all backcountry accesses to Rumbling Bald Mountain remain closed until further notice. A burning ban is in effect for all of Western North Carolina until further notice. Individuals are asked to avoid this area if at all possible.

Please follow the Town's Website, Town's Facebook Page and the Fire Department's Facebook Page for further updates. For more information, contact the Lake Lure Fire Department, 828.625.9333. townmgr@townoflakelure.com

UNIT INFORMATION

N.C. Forest Service
 1616 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699




INCIDENT CONTACT

Fire Info Center Line 1
 Email: partyrockfireinfo@gmail.com
 Phone: 828-513-2500
 Hours: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm daily

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