

Wrangler Fire Update

US Forest Service
Kisatchie National Forest



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Good progress was made on the Wrangler Fire, the incident name for the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness wildfire. Firefighters completed work to protect private property and structures that border the wilderness as they continued burnout operations. As the incident continues, smoke will continue to be visible for the next several days.

Extremely dry fuels are setting new historic low fuel moisture readings and creating extreme fire behavior. Safety of firefighting crews and the public are a top priority. Residents are urged to be careful with outdoor activities that could inadvertently spark a fire.

A **community meeting** to update the public on the Wrangler Fire has been set for tonight at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Natchitoches on I-49 exit LA Hwy 6. Representatives from the Kisatchie National Forest, Southern Area Blue Team and National Wildfire Prevention Education Team members will be on hand to answer questions.

Be vigilant! Report wildfires or any suspicious fire activity immediately by calling 911.

Today

Fire Size: 2917 acres

Containment: 50%

Personnel: 246

North: Burnout operations are to be completed. Crews will remove snags, patrol and mop-up any hotspots.

South: Continue work on Turpentine Hill Trail to use as a control line with plans to start burnout operations when conditions allow.

East: Burnout unburned islands of fuel and begin mop up and patrol.

West: Continue burnout operations along Forest Service 339 south along Longleaf Trail to Red Dirt Lookout Road.

Weather

An approaching cold front presents a “watch out” situation for firefighters. A 15% chance for showers or thunderstorms during the afternoon could produce lightning and force operations to be suspended for a while to insure firefighter safety. Wind shifts also accompany cold fronts and would shift winds from south to southwest to west. Temperatures will be in the mid 80s and a minimum humidity of 47% will be higher than the past several days.

Area or Road Closures

The Kisatchie Hills Wilderness area is closed. The remainder of the Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserve (WMP) and the Kisatchie National Forest remains open to public access.

Extreme caution should be used on roads around the area due to smoke from the fire and additional firefighter traffic. Temporary road closures may occur along Forest Service 339 (Montrose Road) to Bayou Derbonne and the Longleaf Trails to LA119.

A statewide burn ban is in effect.