



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kellie Cannon

Public Information Officer

Polk County Emergency Management

KCannon@PolkNC.gov

828-817-4854

Black Cove Complex Wildfire Update:

4727 – 6441 Big Hungry Rd., Spurgeon Cove, Scarlets Mtn. Rd.] Downgraded Level 2

Polk County, NC – Efforts to contain the Black Cove Complex Fire are making strong progress, thanks to the tireless dedication of emergency responders. Authorities remain vigilant, ensuring the safety of residents by providing timely updates, evacuation guidance, and health advisories. While challenges remain, the community's resilience and cooperation continue to make a difference in protecting lives and homes.

Current Wildfire Conditions

Black Cove Fire – 3,410 acres | 23% Containment | Approx. 12 Homes Currently Evacuated

- **Mandatory Evacuations:**

1091 - 1528 Green River Cove Rd
2362 - 4726 Big Hungry Rd
Deer Trl

English Heifer Cove Rd
Lady Slipper Trl

Deep Woods Fire – 3,797 acres | 32% Containment | Approx. 127 Homes Currently Evacuated

- **Mandatory Evacuations:**

2456-7265 Holbert Cove Rd
3509-4523 Green River Cove Rd
Coyote Ridge Ln
Cozy Cove Ln
Echo Ln
Fox Paw Ln

Glen Echo Cir
Sam's Gap Ln
Scout Camp Rd
Wilderness Cove Trl
Who Dr

Fish Hook Fire – 199 acres | 95% Containment | 0 Homes Currently Evacuated

- **Mandatory Evacuations:**

- None

4727–6441 Big Hungry Rd., Spurgeon Cove, Scarlet's Mountain Rd. Downgraded to Level 2

Residents of 4727–6441 Big Hungry Rd., Spurgeon Cove, and Scarlet's Mountain Rd. can now return home as the evacuation status has been lowered from Level 3 (Go Now) to Level 2 (Be Set). This marks a positive step forward, but conditions remain fluid; therefore, residents should remain prepared for any potential changes.

Polk County Emergency Management acknowledges the challenges this situation has presented to the community and encourages residents to return cautiously. Please document any property damage with photographs for the purpose of filing insurance claims. Reach out to your insurance provider promptly and continue to follow fire safety guidelines.

We appreciate the community's patience and resilience and encourage everyone to remain vigilant and support one another during this recovery process.

Community Donations

Thank you for your generous donations. However, due to logistical constraints, we are no longer able to accept in-kind donations. If you would still like to contribute, we encourage you to make a monetary donation to the Polk County local fire departments. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Laundry & Shower Facilities Available for Those Affected by the Black Cove Complex Fire

Polk County Emergency Management understands the immense challenges and disruption this wildfire has caused for our community. To support those who have been displaced or need essential facilities, laundry and shower trailers will be available at:

The Meeting Place / Senior Center
75 Carmel Lane, Columbus, NC
Saturday, March 29th & Sunday, March 30th | 7 AM - 7 PM

If you have sensitivity to certain detergents or soaps, please bring your own. Standard products are provided, but we want to ensure your comfort. We recognize the challenges this time has presented and remain committed to providing support as recovery efforts continue. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of these resources, and we appreciate the strength and resilience of our community during this challenging time.

Road Closure and Safety Advisory for Piney Mountain Community Residents

To ensure public safety and allow emergency crews to work effectively, Holbert Cove Road is closed from Who Rd to Piney Gate Rd is currently closed to traffic. Residents of the Piney Gate Community are advised to enter the area via Silver Creek Road to help keep emergency routes clear. Authorities appreciate the community's patience and cooperation during this challenging time.

Black Cove Complex Fire: Evacuation Preparedness & Safety Guidelines

As the Black Cove Complex Fire continues to pose a threat, residents in evacuation zones should be prepared to leave quickly and safely. If ordered to evacuate, take essential items such as medications, important documents, clothing, pet supplies, and any necessary electronics or chargers. Secure your home by locking doors and windows, and leave a note on the door stating that you have evacuated to assist emergency personnel.

Do not attempt to remove or transport flammable household items, such as small gas cans, oxygen bottles (unless necessary for medical purposes), or other typical accelerants. Firefighters are trained to

manage these hazards, and moving them can create a greater safety risk. *However, if your area is under a Level 2 evacuation notice, moving accelerants away from the immediate area around your home is encouraged.* Your priority should always be getting yourself and your loved ones to safety.

The community is encouraged to remain proactive and attentive to official updates to ensure their safety and well-being. For the latest evacuation maps, safety guidelines, and emergency alerts, visit www.polknc.gov/fireupdates.

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