



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Cove Complex Wildfire Update:

**Glen Echo Cir., Sams Gap Ln., Big Hungry, Lady Slipper, Wilderness Cove and Fox Paw
Areas Downgraded to Evacuation Level 2 – Yellow**

Lake Adger and White Oak Mountain Areas Downgraded from Level 1 – Green to Clear

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 – 3,500 acres | 35% Containment | There are currently no mandatory evacuations in place.

Deep Woods Fire – 3,970 acres | 32% Containment | There are currently no mandatory evacuations in place.

Fish Hook Fire – 199 acres | 100% Containment | There are currently no mandatory evacuations in place.

We are pleased to announce there are currently zero mandatory evacuations in place!

Holbert Cove Road and Green River Cove Road are now open to residents only.

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 will be closing at 7:00 pm tomorrow, Sunday, March 30th, due to all mandatory evacuation orders lifted.

The Shelter at "The Meeting Place" Senior Center will be closing at 7:00 am tomorrow, March 30th due to no mandatory evacuation orders in place.

Black Cove Complex Fire: Evacuation Preparedness & Safety Guidelines

As the Black Cove Complex Fire continues to evolve, residents within the Evacuation Preparedness Areas should remain prepared.

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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