



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Firefighters Return Home from Georgia *Recent rains quell wildfires in southern states*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 19, 2011) – A crew of 11 firefighters from the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) returned home from Georgia over the weekend after much needed rainfall helped quell wildfires that had started in early June. The crew was assisting with the Sweat Farm Again Fire located in southeastern Georgia near the Okefenokee Swamp when wet weather finally settled in late last week. More than 2 inches and possibly up to 4 inches of rain fell since Friday on most areas of the fire complex.

KDF firefighters from two separate crews spent nearly a month fighting the massive fire that burned more than 19,169 acres. The fire is currently 95 percent contained and the Georgia Forestry Commission reports that there has been no observed fire behavior since the *rainfall*. Fire crews from more than 47 states assisted the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in this fire suppression effort.

KDF provided the assistance to Georgia through the Southeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact. The compact includes 10 states and provides firefighting assistance to members in times of need. Member states agree to assist each other to the extent possible, dependent upon their own state's fire status. Personnel who volunteer for compact detail are generally assigned to an area for 14 days and the state providing the assistance is reimbursed for all personnel and equipment costs. For more information about wildland fire and prevention efforts, contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry at 502-564-4496 or visit forestry.ky.gov

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