



MEDIA RELEASE

April 9, 2017

Hernando County Fire Rescue and Various State Agencies Battling Wildland Fire in The Weeki Wachee Preserve.

(Hernando Beach, FL) On April 8th, 2017 at 1923 hours Hernando County Fire Rescue (HCFR) was dispatched for a brush fire East of Shoal Line Blvd at Calienta St. Initial assessment revealed a small brush fire estimated at 3 acres in an area inaccessible by vehicles in the Weeki Wachee Preserve. Florida Division of Forestry was immediately requested and has been on scene since approximately 2000 hours. HCFR and the Florida Forest Service are continuing efforts to contain and control the fire.

Throughout the night the fire continued to grow and at 0900 hours this morning the fire is estimated at 300 acres with 20% containment at this time. The area abuts the Hernando Beach Community There are no structures in immediate area in danger. HCFR has crews throughout the Hernando Beach community providing surveillance and standing by for structure protection if needed. Florida Forest Service is conducting back burning operations to create fire breaks to contain the fire.

Road Closures to all but local traffic is Shoal Line Blvd between Jew Fish Dr. and Cortez Blvd. The Hernando Beach boat ramp is CLOSED at this time as well.

The Florida Fire Service as well as the Hernando County Sheriffs, Hernando County Emergency Management, The Hernando County Fire Corps and The Red Cross are currently providing mutual Aid.

Media staging area will be at Linda Peterson Park on Shoal Line Blvd.

HCFR has 4 Engines, 4 Brush Trucks, 1 Water Tanker, 2 Battalion Chiefs and 3 Chief Officers on scene for a total of 22 personnel.

Real time updates are available on Twitter from Hernando County Fire Rescue @HernandoCoFire of the Florida Forest Service Withlacoochee @FFS_Withlacooch.

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