



NEWS RELEASE

US Department of Agriculture Forest Service: Mark Twain National Forest Service

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Release No. 814	Contact: Bill Paxton, public information officer	(Contact phone #s) 573-729-6656
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Mark Twain National Forest Battles Wildfire near Black, MO

SALEM, Mo. – Firefighters are working to put out a wildfire that was discovered on Mark Twain National Forest in Reynolds County, Mo. on Sunday, May 3, 2015. The wildfire is about 2 miles southwest of Black, Mo.

People travelling through the area are cautioned to be alert for fire traffic, firefighters on area roads, and smoke that might decrease visibility. Reynolds County Roads 822 and 824 are currently closed to through traffic.

The current size of the “Carty” fire is about 900 acres and it is expected to grow in size before the fire is fully contained. The wildfire is burning in large, dense fuel created by the 2009 Derecho wind event. These heavy fuels make it difficult to construct a fire line and the lack of rain makes the fuels dry and easy to ignite.

“We are working hard to make sure that the public and our neighbors are safe and that property in the path of this fire is protected. We don’t want anyone to get hurt or have property damaged,” said Carty Fire Incident Commander Chris Woods.

The cause of the wildfire is still under investigation.

Firefighters from Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Gateway Arch & Jefferson Expansion National Memorial, Shawnee National Forest, Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge and Reynolds County are fighting this wildfire along with helicopters and air tankers.

Fire managers hope that today’s strategy of dropping aerial retardant and water will be effective in getting fire lines to contain the fire.

“We still have a lot of work to do to get this fire contained and under control. We need some help from the weather to wet down the fuel and really put this fire out,” according to Carty Fire Operations Chief Tim Bray,

There will be firefighters working on this wildfire until it is controlled, which will be at least several more days.

Visit Mark Twain National Forest’s website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>. A map of the fire area and news release is available on the MOCC website at http://gacc.nifc.gov/eacc/dispatch_centers/MOCC/information/fire_information.htm

Mark Twain National Forest is the largest public land manager in Missouri with 1.5 million acres in 29 counties in southern and central Missouri. Mark Twain National Forest is managed to restore Missouri’s natural communities and maintain a healthy, working forest.

--USDA Forest Service Mark Twain National Forest--

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