

Wildfire still closes Alligator Alley

by UPI

NAPLES, Fla. -- Alligator Alley, the interstate that slices across the Florida Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp, remained closed Monday because of a wildfire.

The fire has burned more than 22,000 acres on the western edge of the Big Cypress National Preserve, The Miami Herald reported. Larry Perez, a National Parks Service spokesman, said that Alligator Alley, I-75, is likely to be closed part of Tuesday as well.

The blaze was only 20 percent contained Monday.

Alligator Alley has been closed intermittently since Wednesday. The current shutdown began Sunday night.

More than 100 firefighters were on the ground and involved in an airborne effort to contain the fire, Perez said. Additional crews were called in Monday.

"This is a regional effort now," Perez said.

Firefighters were trying to set backfires to keep the fire confined to an area in between Turner River Road and State Route 29, which runs north from Everglades City, the Lehigh Acres Citizen reported.

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