

Introduced by: Mayor  
Date: 10/08/19  
Action:  
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND  
VOLUNTEERS FOR MITIGATING AND SUPPRESSING THE WILDFIRES ON THE  
KENAI PENINSULA DURING THE 2019 FIRE SEASON**

- WHEREAS,** the Swan Lake Fire began on June 5, 2019 and grew to a size of over 163,000 acres due to unprecedented hot and dry weather conditions throughout the summer resulting in the communities of Sterling and Cooper Landing being placed on notice for possible evacuations; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Fork Fire was reported on August 18, 2019 near the communities of Homer and Anchor Point, and the Caribou Lake Fire started August 19, 2019, both fires resulted in potential threats to structures; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is responsible for wildfire suppression on the Kenai Peninsula in collaboration with the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) and cooperating agencies, and they coordinated resources and deployed incident management teams from Alaska and across the country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough represented the interests of the residents of the borough by working with all agencies and incident management teams, conducting planning and preparation for evacuations, and staffing an extensive public information system including traditional media, social media, and a call center for the public, mobilizing borough employees and community volunteers; and
- WHEREAS,** hundreds of firefighters, law enforcement and support crews responded to these three major fires as well as 68 other fires that occurred within the Kenai Peninsula during the 2019 wildfire season, including local firefighters from Anchor Point Fire & Emergency Services, Bear Creek Fire Department, Central Emergency Services, Cooper Landing Emergency Services, Kachemak Emergency Services, Kenai Fire Department, Moose Pass Fire Department, Nikiski Fire Department, Ninilchik Emergency Services, Alaska State Troopers, and the Division of Forestry Kenai/Kodiak Area Unit, and resources from throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS,** the wildfires caused disruptions in transportation through the Sterling Highway corridor and threatened public and private structures, utility infrastructure, and the Sterling Highway but resulted in no loss of life or residential structures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly commends the work of fire managers, incident management teams, support personnel, and all of the volunteers that contributed towards the successful suppression and containment of fires throughout the Kenai Peninsula.

**SECTION 2.** The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly makes special recognition of all of the firefighters, both locally and from other regions, that were on the front line working in extreme conditions to keep the residents of the Kenai Peninsula safe.

**SECTION 3.** That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all responding agencies that served the Kenai Peninsula during this season.

**SECTION 4.** That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 8TH DAY OCTOBER, 2019.**

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Wayne H. Ogle, Assembly President

ATTEST:

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Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: