

PHOTOS BY PAUL BROW

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PINNACLE MOUNTAIN FIRE CLOSES TRAILS

Crews fight fire near state park; blaze not immediate threat

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High winds recharged a forest fire on Pinnacle Mountain overnight, closing trails in nearby Table Rock State Park.

About 50 state and local firefighters worked hand lines atop the mountain midday Thursday, according to Doug Wood, director of communications for the South Carolina Forestry Commission. A state National Guard helicopter used a dangling bucket to drop water on the fire from Lake Oolenoy in the nearby state park.

The smoke from the fire was noticeable in Greenville. National Weather Service meteorologist Lauren Visin said plumes blew into the city Thursday afternoon.

Wood said the 50-acre blaze is in an area where controlled fires are common to thin out the tree canopy and detritus. Persistent drought conditions this year have triggered a ban on outdoor fires across much of the Upstate, but this fire doesn't appear to be an immediate public danger.



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