Pinnacle Mountain fire could be fully contained by Dec. 7

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If containment lines hold, the Pinnacle Mountain fire could be fully contained by Dec. 7, according to the latest outlook from the S.C. Forestry Commission.

The wildfire, which originated Nov. 9 inside Table Rock State Park, had grown to 9,147 acres and was 47 percent contained as of 5 p.m. Saturday. The news comes after firefighters were able to complete a small scale burnout from the White Oak Mountain area down to the Saluda River on the west side of the fire Friday while also holding lines along Slickum Falls Road to the east, according to the Forestry Commission. In a second operation Saturday, crews in the northeastern perimeter were able to burn back to previously cut lines in Greenville County, away from the North Carolina state line, a news release said.

"Today's burnout operation has been deemed a success," the release said.

The Forestry Commission said fire managers will provide an update on the Pinnacle Mountain fire during a public meeting 4 p.m. Sunday at Palmetto Cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Road, in Cleveland.

Table Rock State Park, Caesar's Head and Sassafras Mountain trail systems remain closed as the fire was projected to spread east overnight, burning an additional 300 acres. Burnout operations were expected to continue Sunday.

By Sunday night, officials estimated the fire to reach containment lines on all sides. "If containment lines hold, there should be minimal to no growth," the Forestry Commission said in its 5 p.m. update. And, "if forecasted weather event for next Tuesday/Wednesday occurs, it could result in earlier containment and significant demobilization," the update said.



KEN RUINARD/INDEPENDENT MAIL
Pickens County worker Tim Owen and his son Ethan wear bandanas at the Wesleyan Camp in Pickens.