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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unified Command Transylvania County Forest Fire Update, 9:30 AM

*Note: messages will be pushed out on social media and the evacuation map updated on www.transylvaniacounty.org as conditions change. **A new page has been added with information and helpful links.** Reports will be issued three times per day based on incident command briefings with a press conference at 11 am Saturday.*

Key Messages

- The fireline was maintained overnight. See the 3-28-25 evening briefing for a map of the known fireline.
- No homes have been impacted in Transylvania County by the wildfires. There is a large presence of crews from multiple agencies are stationed for structure protection in areas closest to the fire line.
- An additional road closure is in effect: East Fork Road is closed from the East Fork entrance of Connestee Falls, to Gladys Fork Rd to keep roads clear for fire crews to travel.
- Today's weather conditions are improved from yesterday. Crews will be working to enhance the protection line and maintain crews at any structures nearby. Both air and ground resources will be utilized today.

Morning Briefing Report

The Table Rock Complex Fire expanded into North Carolina with direct impacts on Connestee Fire and Cedar Mountain Service District. This is a complex wildland fire event that requires multi agency response. This includes, but is not limited to, the North Carolina Forest Service, South Carolina Forestry and federal assets working to fight the fire and provide coordinated containment efforts. Transylvania County Emergency Management, Connestee Fire Rescue and Cedar Mountain Fire Rescue established a Unified Command Structure to collaborate with these agencies and manage the event impact within Transylvania County. The sheer size of the wildland fire and firefighting needs requires mutual aid from local fire departments within the County and mutual aid assistance from other Counties in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. It also requires assistance of local law enforcement, state law enforcement and mutual aid emergency management assistance to manage and control assets.

On Friday, March 29, the Blue Team, a federal asset began operations within Transylvania County to assist the North Carolina Forest Service efforts to contain the Table Rock Fire expansion into North Carolina. The Blue Team is a specialized, interagency Incident Management Team used to manage large and complex wildfires. The efforts of the North Carolina Forest Service and the Blue Team in North Carolina are being coordinated with the South Carolina efforts and command structure fighting the Table Rock Fire. The North Carolina Forest Service and Blue Team are also imbedded with the Transylvania County unified command structure to ensure a coordinated effort to fight the wildland fire and provide structural protection to areas within Connestee and Cedar Mountain Fire Service Districts.

As of 8pm on Friday March 28, assets fighting the fire included structural protection teams, wildland fire teams, and air assets. The weather conditions on Friday made containment efforts very difficult and the wildland fire expanded further into North Carolina. The fire expansion did not require expansion of the evacuation area on Friday March 29, 2025.

On Friday, the fire expanded from the South Carolina State line into the areas south and east of East Fork road, near Happy Acres, Big Hill, East of Glady Fork near Dolly Masters and some eastern expansion towards the Stones lake area. As of 6pm Friday March 28, no structural involvement had been confirmed.

The coordinated multi-agency response will continue Saturday March 29, 2025. Expected weather conditions on Saturday are concerning for ongoing firefighting activities. Low humidity and wind conditions make wildland fire fighting efforts very difficult. Please remain diligent and monitor information. A coordinated effort to share information as it becomes available. Please keep in mind that the conditions on the ground change rapidly.