



## **For Immediate Release 11/15/2016; 9:00 a.m.**

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### **Weekend Weather Conditions Expected to Increase Fire Behavior**

The Party Rock Fire is now 3,744 acres in size and remains at 15 percent containment. The weather has not been conducive for large fire growth the past couple days, but those conditions will change later this week. The passage of a strong cold front this Saturday will bring little to no moisture to the fire. The approaching front will bring strong gusty winds from the southwest starting on Thursday. This wind event has the potential to push the fire to the north and northeast toward Weed Patch Mountain and the Gray Rock community. Windy conditions could also move flames towards the evacuated communities of Rumbling Bald Resort. In addition to the wind component, temperatures are expected to warm into the low 70s and relative humidity levels will again drop below 30 percent. These weather conditions will support rapid fire growth. Fire managers are now planning for this fire growth potential by establishing contingency lines should primary containment lines not hold. In addition, they are working with the structure protection group to ensure fire department engines are strategically placed within communities in the fire's projected path to protect homes.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Party Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).

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