

For Immediate Release

EOC Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Bob Jones, (252) 912-4932

Local Contact:

August 21, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

Fire Mobilizations Ordered for Douglas and Klickitat Counties

State fire assistance has been mobilized to support local firefighters working to contain the King Fire in Douglas County and the Dead Canyon Fire in Klickitat County. This is in addition to the fire mobilization currently authorized for several wildfires currently burning near Ephrata in Grant County.

Washington State Patrol Deputy Chief Dave Karnitz authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources to the King Fire on August 21, 2009, at 2 p.m. at the request of Chief Tyler Caille of Douglas County Fire District #5. The mobilization for the Dead Canyon Fire was authorized on August 21, 2009, 3:30 p.m. at the request of Chief Peter Mercer of Klickitat County Fire District #10.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered a helicopter and one Wildland Strike Team (5 wildland engines, 1 water tender and a Strike Team Leader) for the King Fire. Resources for the Dead Canyon Fire include three Strike Teams and one helicopter.

Local officials provide the following information about the fires:

The King Fire is approximately 250 acres with unknown containment. One home and high voltage power lines are threatened. No evacuations have been ordered. The fire was initially reported to be on private, state, and unprotected lands.

The Dead Canyon Fire is approximately 750 acres with unknown containment. Six homes are threatened. A level 2 evacuation order is in effect.

For media inquiries about the Grant and Douglas County fires call Kyle Foreman at 509-771-0875. No media contact has been identified for the Klickitat Fire.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray has been activated to Phase II, to coordinate state assistance for the Grant County Complex. Personnel from the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be enroute to the scene of the fire to coordinate dispatch of resources, while other personnel are staffing the State EOC at Camp Murray.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau will be coordinating the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, water tenders, and helicopters. The Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions. More information about the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is available at:

<http://wsp.wa.gov/fire/wildfire.htm>.

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