

For Immediate Release

EOC Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Ron Bowen, (252) 912-4932

## **FIRE MOBILIZATION UPDATE August 22, 2009 @ 4:00**

### **Grant County Complex Fire (Douglas and Grant Counties)**

The Grant County Complex fire is now 100% contained as of 9:45 a.m.

About 200 firefighters from across Washington have been on the scene since Friday morning and will continue to mop up all fire areas today. It is anticipated the mop up operations will be complete this evening.

The Grant County Complex fires burned nearly 2,000 total acres of sagebrush and grass. No injuries occurred and there was no valued property loss.

The fires started Thursday night during a lightning storm which moved through our region.

The remaining 4 strike teams will be released by 1700 tonight. All 4 strike teams and several other personnel will be transferred to Oden Rd Fire in Okanogan County.

### **Dead Canyon Fire (Klickitat County)**

The fire crossed Alderdale Road Friday night as flames burned up into draws of unburned fuel. Several power poles also caught fire and power was lost for a few hours but has since been restored. The fire is still currently estimated to be at 6000 acres

Crews conducted burn out operations last night and will continue this morning. Day shift personnel will also work on reinforcing control lines and perform mop-up operations 100 feet into the perimeter and 300 feet in where the line is hot. Air resources will be used to support crews to suppress difficult access areas within the perimeter.

### **Texas Lake Fire (Whitman County)**

At 1900 Friday August 21 Deputy Chief Karnitz authorized a mobilization for the Texas Lake Fire in Whitman County

Fire Chief Randy Schmidt of Whitman County Fire District #6 requested a fire mobilization for a 2500 acre wild land fire in the Ewan area near the town of Endicott. Lightning is the suspected cause of the fire which has been burning since Thursday night. All local resources and mutual aid have been expended. At the time of the request, Chief Schmidt reported that property lines, out structures and some homes were threatened. The fire was initially reported to be on private land.

The initial request was for five brush strike teams.

### **Texas Lake Fire (Whitman County) continued**

Last night the Incident Commander requested 2 hand crews and helicopter. The weather was favorable overnight and they have made good progress. The helicopter and hand crews were cancelled. Estimated demobilization time tonight or tomorrow.

### **Oden Fire (Okanogan County)**

At 0730 this morning, August 22, 2009 Deputy Chief Karnitz authorized a mobilization for the Oden Fire in Okanogan County.

Fire Chief Scott Duncan of Okanogan Fire District #3 requested a fire mobilization for a 10,000 acre wild land fire burning on state forest land and has moved onto private/fire district land. Lightning is the suspected cause of the fire which has been burning since early yesterday. All local resources and mutual aid have been expended.

Chief Duncan reported that two homes have been lost. They have ordered a level 3 evacuation with the potential of evacuating 50-100 people. The Red Cross opened a shelter at the Okanogan High School but according to Chief Duncan, no one stayed there last night.

The initial request is a strike team of engines, tenders, and brush trucks. A Type 2 IMT will transition at 1800 tonight

The Command post is at the Okanogan Fair Grounds.

### **Dry Creek Complex (Yakima and Benton Counties)**

Deputy Chief Karnitz authorized a mobilization at 0001 Saturday morning, August 22, 2009 for the Dry Creek Complex Fire in Yakima and Benton Counties.

Fire Chief Mike Harris of Benton County Fire District #1 requested a fire mobilization for a 30,000+acre wild land fire burning on the Hanford Reservation; the Yakima #5 fire service district; and toward Prosser and Benton City. Lightning is the suspected cause of the fire which has been burning since last night. All local resources and mutual aid have been expended.

The EOC in Benton County reported that some structures have already been lost and some homes were threatened in both Yakima and Benton Counties. The fire was initially reported to be on private land but moved quickly to the Hanford Reservation; state and unprotected lands. The initial request was for engines, tenders, and fixed wing tankers.

The command center is located at the Pacific Northwest Laboratory Campus in Richland. A Type 2 IMT will transition tonight.

### **Dry Creek Complex (Yakima and Benton Counties)**

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