

For Immediate Release

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

Local Contact:

August 25, 2009 @ 12:00

Oden Fire (Okanogan County)

Fire is currently 70% contained. 10,285 acres

Night operations went well. Crews are working today to complete mop up actions. The Chelan strike team will be demobilized later today. Winds are expected to pickup later today. If the lines hold additional crews will be demobilized later this evening. It is anticipated the all remaining resources will be demobilized tomorrow morning.

As a result of favorable conditions on the fire line the level 2 evacuation has been dropped to a level 1 evacuation notice. Weather is expected to cooperate with cooler temperatures and lower winds over the next day or so before another ridge of high pressure arrives on Wednesday.

Hwy 20 is completely open with restricted speeds 35 mph. All roads on Department of Natural Resources land remain closed

A community meeting was held in Malott with a turnout of about 50 residents. The team made itself available to those residents who had questions or concerns. No major issues were brought forward.

Public Information Officer Koshare Lomnicki can be reached at 509-946-3445 or 509-496-3539

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray has been activated to Phase II, to coordinate state assistance for **the Oden Fire**. 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>