



PRESS RELEASE

#1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 30, 2009 9:00 p.m.

CONTACT KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

509-771-0875

UPDATE: INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FIRE IN MOSES LAKE

MOSES LAKE – About 60 firefighters from across Grant County are fighting a commercial structure fire at Courtright Enterprises, 3385 Rd M.2 NE, east of downtown Moses Lake.

Firefighters were dispatched at 3:36 p.m. to the 250,000 square foot facility, which processes hay for livestock consumption. Firefighters attempted access into the building but were forced out by extreme heat conditions. The fire is now being fought “defensively”, which means it is being fought from outside the building only.

The structure is 4-5 stories tall. The roof has collapsed. It is built of tilt-up concrete construction, and explosions of unknown origin earlier during the fire caused the building to become structurally unstable. Some portions have collapsed.

Resources from Moses Lake Fire Department, Ephrata Fire Department and Grant County fire districts 3, 5 and 13, and the Grant County Department of Emergency Management are on the scene. It is anticipated that based on the large quantity of hay inside the building that this will be a long term incident, and will likely be burning for several days.

There have been no injuries. The cause is under investigation.

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#2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 31, 2009 10:15 a.m.

CONTACT KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

509-771-0875

UPDATE: INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FIRE IN MOSES LAKE – FINAL PRESS RELEASE

MOSES LAKE – The commercial structure fire at Courtright Manufacturing east of Moses Lake continues to burn, and will likely remain burning for several days.

The fire is currently confined to the 250,000 square foot concrete building, which houses the hay cube manufacturing business. The building is believed to have been storing 70,000 ton of hay when the fire started. The roof collapsed early during the fire, and some portions of the building collapsed. The remainder of the tilt-up concrete building is structurally unstable and may collapse at any time. Due to these conditions, firefighters are allowing the contents of the building to burn.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. There have been no injuries. We are awaiting assessment by insurance adjusters to determine a loss estimate.

The fire started yesterday around 3:30 p.m., and at the height of the firefight required 60 firefighters from across Grant County.

There is no information on the economic impact due to the loss of this business, which produces hay cubes as livestock feed for export to Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

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Note to media: Unless there is a significant occurrence at this fire, this will be the last press release from Grant County Dept. of Emergency Management.

8/31/2009

CONTACT KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

509-771-0875

CORRECTIONS TO PRESS RELEASES

REGARDING HAY WAREHOUSE FIRE IN MOSES LAKE

1. The name of the business is **Courtright Enterprises**, not Courtland Mfg. as I reported in error yesterday.
2. Courtright produces **compressed hay bales** for feeding livestock. I incorrectly reported that they produced hay cubes, which are different.

These were honest mistakes and believed to be accurate at the time they were sent out in the press releases.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 9:45 a.m.

CONTACT: KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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UPDATE: MOSES LAKE HAY PROCESSING WAREHOUSE FIRE

MOSES LAKE – The fire at the COURTRIGHT ENTERPRISES warehouse east of Moses Lake continues to burn today. Much of the burning product is compressed hay, which takes longer to burn compared to baled hay. The building is structurally unstable, and experienced additional roof failures yesterday. The plan is still in place to allow the contents to burn. Smoke coming from the building will be seen for several days.

Moses Lake firefighters continue to be on the scene monitoring the fire.

Based on discussion with COURTRIGHT management, some new information is available which updates/corrects previously released information.

1. **Size of building** – the building was originally built in the early 1980s with four floors of business space. With the change of types of businesses occupying the building, many of the floors of business space had been removed, leaving mostly the ground floor as business space of **50,000 – 52,000 square feet**. This is a change from the original estimate of about 250,000 square feet, which would be accurate if all floors were still in place.
2. **Quantity of hay product inside building** – based on the amount of hay bales in storage outside of the building, it is now estimated that **1,700 ton** of hay is burning inside the building. This is a change from the original estimate of 70,000 ton.
3. **Loss estimate** – insurance adjusters will be coming to the fire scene over the course of the coming days to assess damages. We anticipate a loss estimate will be available in three week.

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Contact update: Future contacts regarding this incident may be directed to Chief Tom Taylor or Assistant Chief Brett Bastian at the Moses Lake Fire Department, 509-765-2204.

Thank you to all media outlets for your cooperation.

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