



PRESS RELEASE

AUGUST 21, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
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WILDFIRES: GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX

EPHRATA, WASH. (AUGUST 21, 2009, 9:30 a.m.) – State Wildland Fire Mobilization has been ordered to support Grant County Fire agencies battle four separate wildfires in the Ephrata Soap Lake area.

The GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire involves four separate fires totaling about 2,000 acres.

- **ROAD B.5 NE [2 miles southeast of Soap Lake]: Active, contained, 1200 acres.** Voluntary evacuations were requested last night for approximately 50 homes threatened in a subdivision southeast of the city of Soap Lake. Firefighters now have those homes fully protected.
- **HIGH HILL, RD A NE [1 mile northeast of Soap Lake]: 450 acres, active, contained.** Burning in sage and grass. Difficult terrain.
- **STATE ROUTE 17 and TROUT LODGE ROAD [2 miles south of Soap Lake]: 350 acres, active, contained.** Burning in sage and grass. Difficult terrain. Threatening infrastructure, including railroad and power transmission lines.
- **LAKE LENORE [5 miles north of Soap Lake]: 40 acres, active, contained.**

Local resources at the GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX are now being augmented or replaced by firefighters from across Washington State. A regional Incident Management Team is also enroute to take charge of the incident.

Resources from across central Grant County battled the blazes beginning Thursday night as a cloud-to-ground lightning storm moved through the area. As many as 15 lightning-caused fires occurred across Grant County as the storm moved through.

The Grant County Board of County Commissioners signed an emergency declaration early this morning. The declaration may help secure funding support to battle the fires.

An Incident Command Post has been established at the Ephrata Middle School.

There have been no injuries and no valued property loss at the GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

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Notes to media:

1. Once the State Incident Management Team arrives, a joint information will be established to maintain a good flow of complete information to all of you.



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PR#2
WILDFIRES: GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX

UPDATES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED

EPHRATA, WASH. (AUGUST 21, 2009, 12:30 a.m.) – State Wildland Fire Mobilization has been ordered to support Grant County Fire agencies battle four separate wildfires in the Ephrata/Soap Lake area. **Firefighters from across Washington are now on the scene, and the State Incident Management Team is arriving and establishing continued operations.**

The GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire involves four separate fires totaling about 2,000 acres.

- **ROAD B.5 NE [2 miles southeast of Soap Lake]: Active, contained, 1200 acres.** Voluntary evacuations were requested last night for approximately 50 homes threatened in a subdivision southeast of the city of Soap Lake. Firefighters now have those homes fully protected. **All residents are allowed to access their homes.**
- **HIGH HILL, RD A NE [1 mile northeast of Soap Lake]: 450 acres, active, contained.** Burning in sage and grass. Difficult terrain.
- **STATE ROUTE 17 and TROUT LODGE ROAD [2 miles south of Soap Lake]: 350 acres, active, contained.** Burning in sage and grass. Difficult terrain. Threatening infrastructure, including railroad and power transmission lines.
- **LAKE LENORE [5 miles north of Soap Lake]: UPDATE---15 acres, active, contained. No resources assigned to this fire as it is in very difficult terrain and poses no immediate threat to valued property.**

Resources from across central Grant County battled the blazes beginning Thursday night as a cloud-to-ground lightning storm moved through the area. **According to the National Weather Service-Spokane, 250-300 lightning strikes occurred in Grant County last night, sparking about 15 wildfires across the county as the storm moved through.**

The Grant County Board of County Commissioners signed an emergency declaration early this morning. The declaration may help secure funding support to battle the fires.

An Incident Command Post has been established at the Ephrata Middle School.

There have been no injuries and no valued property loss at the GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

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PR#3 *** UPDATE *******

WILDFIRES: GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX

EPHRATA, WASH. (AUGUST 21, 2009, 4:30 p.m.) – The GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire is approximately 70% contained at all fire fronts. Resources from across Washington State are on the scene and fighting the fires at three separate locations.

One additional fire location has been added to the Grant County Complex. The Pixlee fire is burning northwest of Soap Lake. It is currently 25+ acres and burning in inaccessible terrain. It is likely this fire will continue to grow, with its overall growth determined by weather conditions this evening and tonight. It threatens no valued property.

A State Incident Management Teams (IMT) is now on scene and in charge of the incident.

The Incident Command Post and Fire Camp are established at the Ephrata Middle School, 384 A Street SE, Ephrata.

There have been no injuries and no valued property loss at the GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX fire.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

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Note to media: Unless there is a significant bad change in fire conditions, this will be the final press release for August 21. We will continue to send information beginning tomorrow morning.



PRESS RELEASE

**AUGUST 22, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PR#4 ***FINAL*******

WILDFIRES: GRANT COUNTY COMPLEX

EPHRATA, WASH. (AUGUST 22, 2009, 9:45 a.m.) – The Grant County Complex fire is now 100% contained.

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. Firefighters will then be released to return to their home jurisdictions or to fight other fires within the state.

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.

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Notes to media:

1. Unless there is a significant change, this will be the last press release regarding the Grant County Complex fire. You are welcome to call me for any further information.