



**Grant County
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

SERIES OF NEWS RELEASES SENT VIA EMAIL

MCCONIHE WILDLAND FIRE, JULY 04 2010

#1 Sent: Sun 7/4/2010 17:43

EMERGENCY MESSAGE - PLEASE BROADCAST

MAJOR WILDLAND FIRE NORTHWEST OF MOSES LAKE - EVACUATIONS ORDERED

MOSES LAKE -- Firefighters in the Moses Lake area are battling a wind-driven wildfire three miles northwest of Moses Lake in the McConihe Flats area off of Neppel Road.

There will be more information forthcoming. For now, please ask all citizens to evacuate if they are asked. Areas affected by the evacuation include all areas north and west of Road D.5 NW and Road 7.8 NW.

Citizens are urged to cooperate with firefighters and law enforcement officers. Citizens are also urged to NOT CALL 911 unless they are reporting an emergency.

More information will be distributed when available.

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via remote access

Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

Grant County Emergency Management

1525 E Wheeler Rd.

Moses Lake WA 98837

509-762-1462 [Office]

509-760-3713 [Mobile 24/7]

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#2 Sent: Sun 7/4/2010 18:55

UPDATE ON GRANT COUNTY WILDFIRE INCIDENTS - Preliminary and subject to change

The Grant County Emergency Operations Center at Moses Lake has been activated and is staffed to support these incidents.

1) WILDLAND FIRE AT MCCONIHE FLATS NORTHWEST OF MOSES LAKE *Kyle Foreman, Public Information Officer for Grant County Emergency Management 509-771-0875 will continue to be the PIO for this incident. If you are sending news crews to this incident, please notify me ASAP to coordinate your visit.*

At 6:23 p.m., firefighters report the fire is in mop-up, which means they are patrolling the area and extinguishing hot spots. The evacuation request has been lifted and residents are being allowed to return to their homes. Three structures (one home, one shop, one outbuilding) and multiple vehicles have been destroyed. Estimated 1200-1400 acres in size. Incident management team is conducting damage assessment, so damage figures may change. Investigators are on scene looking into the cause.

2) WILDLAND FIRE NEAR CRESCENT BAR *Information on this fire: Rick Isaacson, Public Information Officer for Douglas County Sheriff's Office, 509-393-9860*

This fire originated in southern Douglas County near the Grant County line. The fire is causing extremely smoky conditions. Residents of Crescent Bar are being asked to shelter in place, that is: stay indoors, turn off air conditioning/outside ventilation, and monitor their news sources for updated information.

More information will be distributed when available.

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Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

#3 Sent: Sunday, July 04, 2010 7:13 PM

I had originally reported the wildfire near Moses Lake was near Road D.5 NW and Road 7.8 NW. This location was incorrect.

The correct location is Road D.5 **NE** and Road 7.8 **NE**.

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Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

#4 Sent Sunday, July 04, 2010 7:25 PM

NEWS AGENCIES: If you are sending news crews to this incident, **please notify me ASAP** to coordinate your visit. We ask that you first come to the Grant County Emergency Operations Center, 1525 E Wheeler Rd, Moses Lake. From there we will send you to the incident scene where PIO Barbie Maier will escort you.

Thanks for your help!

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Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

#5 Sent Sun 7/4/2010 21:20

UPDATES ON McCONIHE FIRE NORTHWEST OF MOSES LAKE

- Grant County Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Bruce Gribble has determined the fire today in the McConihe Flats area northwest of Moses Lake was caused by fireworks. Gribble will be forwarding his report to the Grant County Prosecutor's Office.
- One family (husband and wife) have lost their home and belongings and will be receiving assistance from the Apple Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.
- Fire size estimated at 1200-1400 acres.
- The damage assessment is not yet complete and more damaged or lost structures are likely to be discovered. The damage assessment will be conducted for several more hours so we may not have complete information until tomorrow. Loss totals thus far:
 - Destroyed --- multiple vehicles, one home, one shop, one outbuilding.
 - Damaged --- Structures have been damaged, but no totals available until assessment complete.
- No one was injured.

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Kyle Foreman | Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer

Kyle Foreman

From: Kyle Foreman
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 12:10 PM
To: ALLGRANTCOUNTY
Subject: Final Update on McConihe wildland fire northwest of Moses Lake
Attachments: SERIES OF NEWS RELEASES SENT VIA EMAIL.pdf

Final Update on McConihe wildland fire northwest of Moses Lake

MOSES LAKE – The wildfire in the McConihe Flats area northwest of Moses Lake is extinguished. The damage assessment is continuing. It is likely the damage assessment will continue for several days since the area affected (1200-1400 acres) is so large. Once the damage assessment is complete, the total amount of damage will be fully known.

About 50 homes were directly threatened by this fire, which ignited Sunday, July 4, due to fireworks. Fanned by 30 mile per hour winds, the fire destroyed one home, one outbuilding, one shop and multiple vehicles.

Most homes and buildings which were directly threatened by the wildfire but were not damaged all had a defensible space: a thirty foot buffer zone of maintained irrigated grass or mineral soil. Fire officials encourage persons living in rural areas to maintain a defensible space around their homes and buildings in order to prevent wildfire damage or destruction.

Attached: series of GCEM news releases on this incident.

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Wishful thinking is no substitute for a good plan...
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