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News Release

HANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT TO FIGHT REGIONAL FIRES

RICHLAND, Wash. – August 11, 2005 – During this wildland fire season, the Hanford Fire Department is supporting firefighting efforts locally and throughout Washington and Oregon.

Through local mutual aid agreements, the Hanford Fire Department provides personnel and equipment to assist area fire departments and districts when requested and supports firefighting efforts on “out of area” fires. In the 2005 wildland fire season, the Hanford Fire Department has responded to six wildland mutual aid fires and provided support to ten large fires throughout Washington and Oregon.

“Protection of the Hanford Site is our priority, and we ensure there are always enough personnel on site to do so,” said Hanford Fire Department Chief Bob Kirk. “At the same time, providing personnel to help manage and fight these fires is an opportunity for us to share lessons learned from major Hanford fires. It is also an opportunity for our personnel to gain new experience they can use to fight future fires at Hanford.”

A list of current assignments for Hanford Fire Department personnel follows. Information on acreage burned, percentage of fire contained, and personnel on scene were current as of this morning.

School Fire

A two-person crew and a grass engine were assigned to this fire on August 6. The fire is currently the largest in the continental United States. There are reportedly more than 1,400 personnel on scene. The fire has reportedly consumed approximately 42,000 acres and reports indicate it is about 40 percent contained. The fire is located 16 miles south of Pomeroy, Wash.

(more)

McLane Fire

More than 25 Hanford firefighters were dispatched via mutual aid to this wild land fire in Franklin County on U.S. Fish & Wildlife land. Hanford Fire Department units still on scene include a grass engine, two brush trucks, an incident command vehicle and a mobile incident command post, as well as seven members of the Hanford Fire Department Incident Management Team. In addition, the Hanford Fire Department has supplied three bulldozers and a disc unit to support the fire containment efforts. The fire is reportedly 90 percent contained. Reports indicate a total of 170 personnel have been fighting this fire.

Mule Peak Fire

A Hanford Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic is assigned as part of the incident medical team on the Mule Peak Fire, located about 20 miles southeast of La Grande, Oregon. The fire reportedly burned 1,364 acres and is reportedly 100 percent contained.

Dirty Face Fire

A Hanford Fire Department Lieutenant is assigned to the Dirty Face Fire 25 miles northwest of Leavenworth, Washington. This fire has reportedly burned approximately 1,150 acres and reports indicate it is about 70 percent contained. There are reportedly approximately 400 personnel on scene.

Blossom Complex Fire

A Hanford Fire Department Battalion Chief has been dispatched to the Blossom Complex Fire, located in the Siskiyou National Forest. This complex fire is comprised of three fires reportedly covering approximately 3,200 acres in southwest Oregon, 25 miles northeast of Gold Beach. Wildlife habitat and private structures along the Rogue River are threatened. The fire is reportedly 40 percent contained.

(more)

Tryon Complex Fire

A Hanford Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic has been assigned to the Tryon Complex Fire, located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 20 miles north of Imnaha, Ore. This fire complex consists of three fires that have reportedly burned approximately 8,500 acres. Residences, historic resources, grazing allotments, and wildlife habitat are reportedly threatened.

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A prime contractor to the Department of Energy since 1996, Fluor Hanford has approximately 3,900 employees and manages several major activities at the Hanford Site, including dismantling former nuclear processing facilities, cleaning up the site's contaminated groundwater, retrieving and processing transuranic waste for off-site shipment, maintaining the site's infrastructure, and operating the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center.