



Nevada Site Office News

News Media Contact:

Kevin J. Rohrer
702-295-3521
rohrer@nv.doe.gov

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FIRE UPDATE: MID VALLEY WILDFIRE AT NEVADA TEST SITE

Firefighting efforts continue today at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) where approximately 60 NTS Fire and Rescue and U.S. Bureau of Land Management personnel have contained 70% of the Mid Valley fire. Higher humidity and cooler temperatures overnight caused the fire to lie down and gave firefighters an upper hand in their containment efforts this morning. In addition, crews are being assisted today by a Llama 315B helicopter with the capability of making pinpoint air drops of 120 gallons of water on hot spots identified in thermal images generated by airborne assets.

New mapping data indicates that the Mid Valley Fire encompasses approximately 8,500 acres on the central Nevada Test Site affecting Areas 6, 14, 29 and 25. Firefighting efforts are concentrated in the most active area of the fire in Areas 25, 6 and 29 (see attached map).

Wednesday afternoon, two National Guard C-130 Hercules tankers, equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems and 3,000 gallon tanks, released fire retardant over the southern portion of the fire.

There has been no reported damage to any facilities or infrastructure on the Nevada Test Site.

The fire, which started on July 4, 2006 at approximately 10:30 am, is believed to be caused by lightning. The Nevada Test Site Fire and Rescue (NTS F&R) is the primary response organization. Approximately 20 NTS F&R personnel are responding with support from four brush trucks and eight all-terrain vehicles. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is providing assistance with two 20-person 'hot shot' crews, a helicopter and two single-engine aircraft.

As more information is available it will be provided to the media.

