

News Release



Oregon Department of Forestry

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August 7, 2008

Lightning Wildfire Update

This morning's lightning activity, a result of thunderstorms that have moved through NE Oregon and into SE Washington, started approximately 50 fires on lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry and the Umatilla National Forest. Most of these fires are less than one acre in size.

Initial attack fire fighting resources have been successful with several larger fires. The Coyote Canyon Fire, located east of Pilot Rock, OR near Sumac Grade, burned over 100 acres and is now fully lined and contained. Pilot Rock Rural Fire Department assisted the Oregon Department of Forestry with this fire.

A 35-acre fire burning near Thorn Hollow south of Athena, OR has also been contained. Private landowners, engines from East Umatilla County Fire Protection District and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Fire Department responded to this fire on CTUIR land.

Another fire has burned over 80 acres on the Umatilla National Forest about two miles east of Dale OR. Fire crews have built a line around this fire and continue with mop-up activities.

Fire managers are using a multitude of resources to respond to the other incidents. The goal is to keep the fires small. Two reconnaissance observation flights were scheduled to scout for undetected fires or fires that were reported but not located.

Other resources ordered to assist with today's fire activity include two 20-person crews, two hotshot crews, smokejumpers, a helicopter with bucket, two single engine air tankers, and dozers. Resources will continue to be ordered throughout the day as needed. Crews from the Umatilla National Forest and the Oregon Department of Forestry are working together to contain these fires.

Additional lightning activity is forecasted through Friday.

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