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FIRE UPDATE: MID VALLEY WILDFIRE AT NEVADA TEST SITE

Firefighting efforts at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) are being augmented with flyovers by two Air National Guard C-130 Hercules tankers equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System to release fire retardant over the Mid Valley Fire burning at the NTS. The tankers contain a pressurized 3,000-gallon tank and can cover an area one quarter of a mile long and 60 feet wide to act as a fire barrier.

The Mid Valley fire encompasses approximately 5,200 acres on the central Nevada Test Site affecting Areas 6, 14, 29 and 25 (see attached map). Firefighting efforts are concentrated in the most active area of the fire in Areas 25 and 29.

This fire is estimated to be approximately 30 to 50% contained. 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.

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

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