



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JUNE 30 2009**

**CONTACT KYLE FOREMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

**509-771-0875 / kforeman@co.grant.wa.us**

**#1**

**WILDFIRE BURNING NEAR EPHRATA**

**EPHRATA** – A wildfire is burning near Ephrata and is currently zero percent contained.

The fire is currently 100 acres and growing. Fire resources from all over Grant County are responding to the fire, which is threatening two homes. The fire is burning in heavy sagebrush and grass.

More information will be distributed when it becomes available.

**###**



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**#2**

### **WILDFIRE BURNING NEAR EPHRATA**

**EPHRATA 30 JUNE 2009, 4:45 p.m.** – The major wildland fire continues to burn 1.5 miles northwest of Ephrata. The fire is larger than 100 acres and growing. The fire is burning in difficult terrain and shrub steppe, creating challenges for firefighters on foot and in vehicles.

All available fire resources from within Grant County have been requested and are currently being deployed. Helicopter support has been requested from the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

No injuries have been reported. Two homes have been threatened, but are fully protected by firefighters. Agricultural crops are also threatened.

More information will be distributed when it becomes available.

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**#3**

**WILDFIRE BURNING NEAR EPHRATA**

**EPHRATA 30 JUNE 2009, UPDATE 5:30 p.m.** – The major wildland fire continues to burn 1.5 miles northwest of Ephrata in Norton Canyon. The fire is estimated at 120 acres and is not under control. The fire is burning in difficult terrain and shrub steppe, creating challenges for firefighters on foot and in vehicles.

All available fire resources from within Grant County have been requested and are currently being deployed. Two water-dropping helicopters from the Washington Department of Natural Resources are now operating on the scene.

No injuries have been reported. Two homes on the periphery of the city have been threatened, but are fully protected by firefighters. Agricultural crops are also threatened on the west edge of the fire, however bulldozers and farm implements are creating a fireline to protect the threatened crops. No homes are threatened in the residential areas of Ephrata. No evacuations are requested.

More information will be distributed when it becomes available.

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**#4**

**WILDFIRE BURNING NEAR EPHRATA**

**EPHRATA 30 JUNE 2009, UPDATE 6:30 p.m.** – The wildland fire 1.5 miles northwest of Ephrata in Norton Canyon is now 70% contained according to incident commanders. The fire is estimated at 120 acres. The fire is burning in difficult terrain and shrub steppe, creating challenges for firefighters on foot and in vehicles.

All available fire resources from within Grant County are currently being deployed. Two water-dropping helicopters from the Washington Department of Natural Resources are operating on the scene, as well as resources from the US Bureau of Land Management.

No injuries have been reported. Two homes on the periphery of the city were threatened, but are fully protected by firefighters. Agricultural crops on the west edge of the fire are protected. No homes are threatened in the residential areas of Ephrata. No evacuations are requested.

More information will be distributed when it becomes available.

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**#5 (FINAL)**

**EPHRATA (NORTON CANYON) WILDFIRE MORE THAN 95% CONTAINED**

**EPHRATA 30 JUNE 2009, UPDATE 8:30 p.m.** – The wildland fire 1.5 miles northwest of Ephrata in Norton Canyon is now 95% contained according to incident commanders. The fire burned an estimated 120 acres. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Grant County Fire Marshal's Office.

Over 50 firefighters from twelve of Grant County's fourteen fire departments fought the blaze. They were joined by crews from the US Bureau of Land Management and two water-dropping helicopters from Washington Department of Natural Resources. Some of the local fire units are now being released to return to their primary jurisdictions. Grant County Emergency Management provided assistance with planning, resource coordination and incident information.

Firefighters will remain on the scene throughout the night to watch for any flare-ups.

No injuries were reported. No homes or other valued property were damaged. No evacuations were requested.

**###**

**\*\*\*NOTE TO MEDIA: Unless the status of this fire changes for the worse, no future press releases will be issued by Grant County Emergency Management. Additional information will be available WEDNESDAY JULY 1 from Grant County Fire District 13 Chief Shane Heston, 509-750-9017.**

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