



The Valley View fire runs to the southwest from where it ignited on Valley View Drive, located to the right of the photograph. Below, a home on Highway 197 is surrounded by smoke and burnt ground on the east side of the fire, just south of The Dalles. Mark B. Gibson photos

FIRE Wildland fires burn in the Gorge

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doing is working. We were able to better protect properties with their assistance and support."

The fire, which was burning in mostly brush and wheat, was first reported around 3:45 p.m. on the 3100 block of Valley View Drive near The Dalles. Strong winds pushed the fire in a southeast direction, forcing evacuations and road closures.

Firefighters were able to protect the homes in the area and no injuries were reported.

Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue was the lead agency for the response. The Oregon State Fire Marshal temporarily reassigned task forces from the Wrentham Market Fire while coordinating air attack from Oregon Department of Forestry resources.

This decision, along with mutual aid from neighboring fire districts, was critical in stopping the rapidly advancing fire, according to the Oregon Fire Marshall's office.

Parts of Highway 197 south of The Dalles were temporarily closed Thursday evening.

In all, more than 100 firefighters were part of the initial attack. Responding agencies included Mid-Columbia Fire, Dallesport Fire, Dufur Fire, Mosier Fire, taskforces from Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, and Hood River, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Dalles Police, Wasco County Sheriff, Oregon State Police, and Oregon Department of Oregon Transport also assisted on scene.

On Saturday, July 3, the state fully returned management of the fire to local control.

Taskforces from Marion, Yamhill, Multnomah and Linn Counties assisted in the initial attack and in mopping up hot spots, monitoring the perimeter of the fire, and expanding the defensible space around homes.

The Wasco County Sheriff's Office issued several evacuations due to the fast-moving flames. County residents can sign up to receive future emergency notifications through the county.

The fire was originally mislabeled as the Sunnyside Valley Fire.

Rattlesnake Fire

According to a June 30 post on the Wasco County Sheriff's Facebook page, a new fire near South Junction area, called Rattlesnake Fire, is burning towards Highway 197 and Jefferson County. The fire is burning near the intersection of highways 197 and 97, south of Maupin. A Level 2 Get Ready evacuation



order is in place for residences near the Highway 197/97 intersection. The Rattlesnake Fire is not part of the S-503 reservation fire. Crews working the S-503 fire were diverted to the Rattlesnake Fire, and performed the initial attack.

As of July 4, the fire had consumed 5,479 acres and was 90% contained.

Wrentham Market Fire

Even as the Wasco County Board of Commissioners declared a "local state of emergency" June 30 in response to extreme heat — and banned fireworks in the county through July 14 — a brush and grass fire ignited the day before in the Dufur area, south of The Dalles, was reported to have grown to 10,000 acres in its first day.

The fire was declared a "conflagration" Wednesday morning, prior to the emergency meeting, which transferred management of the fire to the state via the Oregon Fire Marshall's office.

Stefan Myers with the Oregon Fire Marshall's office said the 3 task forces were coming from Yamhill, Multnomah and Washington counties and would provide ground and air attack as well as structure protection. He said 20 homes were threatened by the fire, which was being driven toward the Deschutes River.

"It's not contained but they have some good fire lines dug in," he said of the overnight work by local fire crews. He added that a barn had been lost overnight, but local crews had saved a home that was in "immediate threat."

Three aircraft have been assigned to the fire, Myers added.

Sheriff Magill said the fire was held at Center Ridge Road overnight by local fire crews, but deep canyon fires and spot fires ahead of the fire were making containment a challenge.

"This is like the Substation Fire, with dry conditions and high winds anticipated," he said. The 2018 Substation Fire was ignited in The Dalles and rapidly burned south clear into to Sherman County, burning four homes and four



A Fire Boss aircraft drops a load of water on the Valley View Fire above Benson Road, southwest of The Dalles. Below, a farmer plows a firebreak along Highway 197. The fire jumped the freeway near Five Mile Creek, but did not travel far beyond the freeway.



secondary structures, killing one resident and blackening 79,121 acres, many of them planted in wheat and ready for harvest.

Magill told the board three task forces en route that include overhead and incident command teams, and they will be fully operational very soon. He noted the teams responding including some of those who worked the Substation Fire.

"That's an additional 100, 150 resources," Magill said, which should allow a significant ground attack on the fire.

On July 2, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) joined the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in Unified Command of the fire.

"We're really happy to have our partners at BLM joining us in supporting this community and taking care of business to contain this fire," said Ian Yocum, OSFM incident commander. "The Unified Command structure allows agencies to better utilize expertise and position resources, and ultimately follow through on our

mission of protecting life and property."

BLM has activated two 20-person hand crews. They will arrive Thursday and will focus on areas with high concentrations of fuel and mopping up hot spots.

As of July 4, the fire had burned 7,222 acres and was 100% contained.

S-503 Fire

A Type-3 fire management organization lead by Incident Commander (IC) Travis Moyer was in command of the S-503 Fire. The S-503 Fire is located in timber and grasses on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and privately owned in-holdings protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry. This fire is being managed as a full suppression fire.

As of July 4, the fire had burned 6,822 acres and was 98% contained.

Child drowns in Columbia River

HOOD RIVER — On Wednesday, June 30, just after 2 p.m. the Hood River County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a child missing in the water on the Columbia River at Nichols Boat Basin in Hood River. A 10-year-old girl from Portland fell out of an inflatable raft that she was riding in with another family acquaintance. She was not wearing a personal flotation device at the time.

A search was conducted by the sheriff's office with assistance from the Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Enforcement, Oregon State

Police, Hood River Police Department, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Local Fire and EMS crews and the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The child's body was recovered at approximately 5:15 p.m. in about 10 feet of water by the Skamania County Dive Team.

The Sheriff's Office reminds people recreating in waterways to please be vigilant about safety this summer and use personal flotation devices. Incidents of this nature happen extremely fast and from seemingly safe waterways, said a press release.

Campfire ban goes into effect

Mt. Hood National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest and forest service lands in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area are impacted by a campfire ban now in effect.

All campfires, charcoal or briquette fires, pellet fires or any other open fires are now prohibited in all U.S. National Forest lands, including in developed campgrounds. Portable cooking stoves, lanterns and heating devices using liquefied or bottled fuel, such as propane, are still allowed as they can be instantly switched off. Additionally, target shooting is temporarily prohibited because of the risk of wildfire.

Restrictions were set in place July 1 on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and July 2 on both the Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood National Forests.

Early drought conditions have been impacted by extreme heat. Even after temperatures drop a bit, forecasted dry summer conditions will continue to increase the risk of wildfire.

With the current dry, hot conditions any wildfire start poses a greater threat to firefighter safety, public safety and personal property.

"We are seeing conditions that are more common to August," said Dirk Shupe, fire management staff officer for the Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood National Forests.



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Lost or stolen dog

Great Pyranese Dog was taken from us by a neighbor. Peter is a 6 mo old herd dog who was given away or sold to a Lady in The Dalles area. This person is unknown to us and the neighbor will not give us any info. We heard her mention that her address was on Skyline Rd. Which turned out to be a phoney address.

Please call J.J. at home # 541-323-1773 or my cell 541-279-9538
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