

Washington wildfire human-caused

Associated Press

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Officials say a wildfire that has burned one home and torched nearly six square miles in southeastern Washington was likely human-caused.

Fire spokeswoman Sarah Foster says the cause is under investigation, though officials determined lightning was not the cause.

About 600 firefighters on Wednesday are attacking the fire from the ground and air. Foster says they're using a lot of air resources, including eight helicopters and two air tankers, to cool the fire down so that ground crews can establish lines around the perimeter.

The fire was zero percent contained as of Wednesday morning, and fire officials are concerned about extremely hot and dry conditions.

After mapping the fire on Tuesday evening, officials say it has burned about 3,800 acres, smaller than initially estimated.

It's burning a mix of grass, shrubs and timber about nine miles east of Walla Walla near Blue Creek and Klicker Mountain.

The cost of fighting large wildfires in Washington state has hit nearly \$35 million so far this year, as 29 large wildfires have scorched brush, grass and timber.

The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center says those large blazes have burned nearly 130 square miles, or about 81,500 acres. A large fire burns at least 100 acres in timber or 300 acres in grass or brush.

KING-TV reports that there have also been more than 1,000 small wildfires through July 21.

During the same period last year, 24 large wildfires burned about 660 square miles, or about 425,000 acres. Fire officials say last year included the Carlton Complex fire, the largest in state history.



A firefighting helicopter, one of eight, dips water from Bennington Lake east of Walla Walla, Wash., Tuesday afternoon.

Earthquake-preparedness kits flying off the shelves

By ERIK LACITIS
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — We'll see how long this scary boomlet lasts. It began last week.

"Holy cow!" Steve O'Donnell remembers thinking, as he checked the online orders at the Burien headquarters of American Preparedness.

Sales were going through the roof.

If you go on the websites of Costco, Staples or Amazon, you'll see the small, eight-person company's earthquake-preparedness kits for sale. For \$179.99, you can get a 2-person, 7-day kit.

This boomlet began with an article in The New Yorker that quickly went viral.

The headline was, "The really big one." It was followed by, "An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when."

The information wasn't exactly new, but people got scared. And suddenly two-thirds of the orders were coming from this state, not California, as they usually do.

American Preparedness, which operates in rental office space at a Public Storage building, typically sells "several hundred" of the kits a month, says O'Donnell, the CEO.

With survivalist outlets and others selling similar kits, the local company isn't keen on divulging specific numbers.

Still, says O'Donnell, last Monday, "We did over a month's business." And this week, the orders keep arriving.

As far as survival supplies, sure, you can make your own earthquake kit. The Centers for Disease Control has tips; so does FEMA and the city of Seattle.

The city recommends having enough supplies to last a week to 10 days.

How hard is it to buy some canned

beans, a bunch of water bottles, some crackers? It's a bit more than that.

And are you really going to set aside all those hours to put together water bottles, canned food, meal bars, emergency blankets, ponchos, light sticks, batteries, a portable radio, whistles, multifunction knives, matches, leather gloves, rope, a pry bar, trash bags and first-aid kits? That's just the beginning.

"Hey, they never do. It's procrastination. It's why I don't like to clean the garage, either," says Jeff Guite, who founded American Preparedness back in 1981.

Only a quarter of Seattleites are putting together an earthquake kit and building a family plan, says Barb Graff, director of emergency management for the city. That's from a just-completed city survey.

Which, of course, means that three-quarters of us are not particularly responsible.

Kulongoski also used private email account

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — John Kitzhaber wasn't the first governor to use private email accounts to handle state business.

Kitzhaber's use of the private accounts attracted attention earlier this year, when a staffer asked state technology employees to delete thousands of his personal emails that had been copied onto state computer servers. However, it was his predecessor's use of a Gmail account that led archives officials to ask for a system that would retain material from all of Kitzhaber's accounts.

Former Gov. Ted Kulongoski used a Gmail account as his primary professional email and unlike in Kitzhaber's case, state employees do not know whether they have copies of all of Kulongoski's emails.

Archivists at the Oregon Secretary of State's office discovered Kulongoski's use of the Gmail account when they received correspondence between his administration staffers' government email accounts, and Kulongoski's private account after he left office. Secretary of State spokesman Tony Green said archivists do not know how much of Kulongoski's professional correspondence might be missing from the state archive.

"The (Kulongoski) account was closed so we don't know what, if any, emails were lost," Green wrote in an email.

Under Oregon law, the historical records of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer belong to the state and must be transferred to the archives.

Kulongoski did not respond to a request for comment.

Green said the Oregon Department of Administrative Services approved Kulongoski's use of a Gmail account so that he could send and receive emails when he was not in the office, something that was not possible with state email accounts when Kulongoski took office in 2003.

There was no indication Kulongoski used the private email account as a back channel to avoid public access to the correspondence. Anna Richter Taylor, who was a policy adviser and communications director for Kulongoski, said the governor used the Gmail account "primarily for personal use, not state business." Richter Taylor also said employees in the Kulongoski administration were expected to use their state email accounts and if they had to use private accounts while traveling or in other situations, they were supposed to forward that correspondence to their state accounts so it would be archived.

The Oregonian recently reported that Kitzhaber and his chief of staff used private email accounts to discuss the role the governor's fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, should have in the administration. As a result, state records did not include a memorandum in which Kitzhaber addressed the overlap between Hayes' state policy and paid contracting work.

Amy Williams, a spokeswoman for the Department of Administrative Services, said the state acquired the capability in 2010 to copy emails from private email accounts such as Kulongoski's.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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COMMERCIAL PRINTING

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY

Partly sunny and nice

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny and pleasant

SATURDAY

Partly sunny and pleasant

SUNDAY

An afternoon t-storm possible

MONDAY

Sunshine

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
85°	60°	87°	61°	83°
57°	78°	56°	80°	55°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
89°	60°	90°	62°	85°
57°	81°	54°	84°	54°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	57°
Normals	90°	60°
Records	111° (1905)	41° (1897)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date Trace

Normal month to date 0.22"

Year to date 5.00"

Last year to date 7.65"

Normal year to date 7.80"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	81°	59°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	108° (1938)	43° (1982)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.09"

Normal month to date 0.16"

Year to date 3.25"

Last year to date 4.22"

Normal year to date 5.86"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:28 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:35 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:08 p.m.
Moonset today	none

First	Full	Last	New
July 23	July 31	Aug 6	Aug 14

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Sunshine in central parts today; mostly cloudy across the north. Low clouds breaking in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Partly sunny today; a thunderstorm in central parts and the upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. A brief shower or two tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Intervals of clouds and sunshine today. Clear tonight. Sunshine tomorrow.

Cascades: Nice today; partly sunny, but more clouds across the north.

Northern California: Low clouds breaking at the coast today; sunny in central parts. Partly sunny in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	70	57	c	68	59	sh
Baker City	80	44	t	83	47	s
Bend	76	46	pc	79	48	s
Brookings	69	54	pc	70	55	c
Burns	82	44	t	83	46	s
Enterprise	78	48	t	81	52	s
Eugene	83	51	pc	84	58	s
Hepburn	83	53	pc	84	55	s
Hermiston	89	60	s	90	62	s
John Day	83	49	t	85	50	s
Klamath Falls	80	44	s	82	47	s
La Grande	82	48	t	85	51	s
Meacham	76	41	pc	77	43	s
Medford	88	58	s	91	60	s
Newport	65	54	pc	65	57	c
North Bend	67	54	s	68	58	s
Ontario	88	58	t	91	59	s
Pasco	90	59	s	91	62	s
Pendleton	85	60	pc	87	61	s
Portland	81	58	pc	82	62	s
Redmond	82	44	pc	84	47	s
Salem	83	54	pc	84	61	s
Spokane	81	58	pc	82	61	s
Ukiah	79	48	pc	80	50	s
Vancouver	80	56	pc	80	62	s
Walla Walla	87	65	pc	89	67	s
Yakima	88	55	pc	89	58	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	88	71	t	88	71	t
Hong Kong	88	81	r	89	81	t
Jerusalem	92	71	s	95	72	s
London	70	54	pc	67	54	r
Mexico City	73	56	t	72	54	sh
Moscow	69	57	pc	72	54	sh
Paris	77	59	pc	77	58	c
Rome	92	74	s	90	73	s
Seoul	85	76	t	80	75	r
Sydney	62	48	sh	66	49	pc
Tokyo	85	78	t	86	79	t

WINDS

	Today	Friday
(in mph)	WSW 8-16	WSW 8-16
Boardman	W 8-16	WSW 8-16
Pendleton		

UV INDEX TODAY

2	4	7	7	4	2
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8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Showers and thunderstorms will drench areas from the southern Atlantic Seaboard to the lower Mississippi Valley today. Showers and storms are also in store from northern California to western North Dakota.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 105° in Needles, Calif. **Low 37°** in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	90	65	pc	92	66	pc	Louisville	83	66	r	88	67	s
Atlanta	84	72	t	87	73	t	Memphis	87	75	t	91	77	t
Atlantic City	81	67	s	82	67	s	Miami	91	68	t	90	78	t
Baltimore	84	63	s	86	63	s	Minneapolis	81	64	s	83	68	s
Billings	82	59	t	87	60	t	Nashville	84	70	s	88	69	t
Birmingham	87	74	t	91	73	t	New Orleans	94	78	pc	94	79	pc
Boise	87	60	pc	89	61	s	New York City	84	69	s	84	70	s
Boston	80	64	s	77	63	pc	Oklahoma City	97	74	pc	97	73	s
Charleston, SC	97	74	t	87	72	t	Omaha	87	72	pc	95	74	pc
Charleston, WV	83	61	pc	85	63	s	Philadelphia	84	68	s	87	68	sh
Chicago	80	62	s	83	65	s	Phoenix	103	83	pc	102	84	pc
Cleveland	99	80	s	99	81	s	Portland, ME	77	58	pc	73	58	sh
Dallas	94	61	s	91	61	pc	Providence	82	63	s	81	63	pc
Denver	84	64	pc	86	67	s	Raleigh	81	68	t	84	66	pc
Detroit	95	73	t	98	75	s	Rapid City	93	66	pc	87	60	t
El Paso	76	51	pc	74	57	c	Reno	84	56	pc	87	58	s
Fairbanks	89	70	s	84	62	t	Sacramento	85	57	s	89	59	s
Fargo	90	76	pc	88	77	pc	St. Louis	85	68	pc	84	74	pc
Honolulu	97	78	s	88	77	s	Salt Lake City	88	67	pc	88	66	s
Houston	81	62	pc	84	64	s	San Diego	78	67	pc	77	68	pc
Indianapolis	94	75	t	87	72	t	San Francisco	70	59	pc	72	59	pc
Jacksonville	84	71	pc	93	76	pc	Seattle	77	57	pc	69	58	sh
Kansas City	84	74	s	100	75	s	Tucson	96	75	t	95	75	pc
Las Vegas	98	74	s	100	75	s	Washington, DC	87	70	s	89	71	s
Little Rock	95	76	pc	96	77	pc	Wichita	94	76	t	100	77	s
Los Angeles	80	65	pc	82	66	pc							

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.