



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Media Release: Update

To: All Media Outlets
From: Det. Jennifer McFarland
Date: 5 September 2006
RE: Fire on Chaney Road

At 15:19 the Latah County Sheriff's Office received a report of a wildfire on Chaney Road off Highway 95 at milepost 356.4. Potlatch Fire, Bennett Lumber Fire, Moscow Fire, Palouse Washington Fire, and the Idaho Department of Lands Fire units are all responding and are currently battling the blaze which is threatening occupied structures. As of the time of this dispatch, no structures have been taken by the fire but residences in the area are being evacuated. Highway 95 has not been closed.

Update: According to our latest reports, the fire on Chaney Road has been contained and Idaho Department of Lands has taken over the scene. Despite early reports that the fire was 500 or more acres, new estimates place it between 130 to 300 acres. Until all areas of the fire are extinguished it will be difficult to assess the total damage. Crews will remain on-scene for containment watch throughout the night.

According to initial investigations, it is thought that the fire was caused by a spark from a rotary mower deck being pulled by a tractor across farmland in the area.