



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Craig Fire Rescue

Moffat County Sheriff's Department

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Contact: Lynn Barclay
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Cedar fire is about 75 acres

Craig, CO – The Cedar Fire was reported about 11:30 a.m. today. The fire is at the base of Cedar Mountain off Moffat County Road 7, five miles northwest of Craig, Colorado. It is primarily on Bureau of Land Management public land with point of origin is still being determined. Winds pushed the fire eastward initially, but then followed the drainages and ran up hill towards the communication towers at the top of Cedar Mountain.

Two single engine air tankers or SEATs were ordered to drop retardant around the communication site. This aided firefighters on the ground by slowing the advance of the fire and giving them time to remove trees and dig line in an effort to keep fire from reaching the site.

Yampa Valley Electric Company shut off power for a short time to allow replacement of a damaged power pole.

Responding initially with engines was Moffat County Sheriff's Department, Craig Fire Rescue and BLM. Two 20-person hot shot crews are on order and expected to arrive tomorrow from Wyoming and South Dakota. A nine person squad has arrived and will begin work this evening. About 27 people are assigned to the Cedar Fire including seven US Forest Service firefighters.

“The main objective was to keep this wildfire from reaching any homes or the communication towers,” said Incident Commander Dale Beckerman. “Fire behavior has calmed down considerably and crews have worked diligently to get a handle on this incident.”

The BLM Cedar Mountain recreation area is closed to the public until it is deemed safe to open. Please avoid Moffat County Road 7 if possible due to heavy fire traffic in the area. Estimated containment is Wednesday, August 10, 6:00 p.m.

One out building was burned and there are no injuries. The cause is undetermined at this time.

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