

# SCHOOL FIRE



Umatilla National  
Forest

## FIRE UPDATE

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Incident Commander

Pomeroy Type 3 Team



Washington  
Department of  
Natural  
Resources

August 19, 2005  
9:00 a.m.

**Fire Information Center**  
**(509) 843-5143**

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/fire)

### For Immediate Release

#### Fire Status

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the School Fire was 100% contained. There is still a lot of work and the potential for active fire remains.

#### Fire Behavior

Today is day two of a warming and drying trend which will bring a slight increase in fire activity. Sun and wind exposed slopes will begin to exhibit surface fire spread in areas with sufficient fine fuels such as dense grass and wheat. In areas of heavy timber occasional torching is expected.

#### Operations

Mopping up, removing hazard trees, and extinguishing hot spots is the priority. Firefighters will extinguish interior spots to protect remaining resources such as tree plantations. Hand-held infrared equipment is being used to discover remaining hot spots around structures. Fallers are removing hazard trees along access roads to prepare areas for re-entry of residents. Rehabilitation efforts continue to mitigate adverse effects with a focus on water and erosion control and site productivity.

#### Weather

A ridge of high pressure will remain in place through early next week causing a warming and drying trend. Today will be mostly sunny and warmer with temperatures at 86-91° F in the valleys and 78-83° F on the ridgetops.

#### Property Status

Homeowners can contact Garfield County for information on the status of their properties at (509) 843-1391.

#### Website

The final posting by PNW Team 3 to [www.activefires.net](http://www.activefires.net) was Wednesday evening. This website will remain with archived information. New updates will be posted on the Pomeroy Ranger District website at [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/fire).

#### Reduction of Evacuation Levels

The fire area remains closed to the public until further notice. Entry to landowners has been granted in certain areas; contact the Garfield County Sheriff's office for more information (509) 843-3494. Limited entry into additional closed areas for property owners will be provided once the following criteria are met: 1) 300' mop-up around structures is complete and confirmed with infrared, 2) hazard trees along roads have been removed, and 3) re-burn potential is low.

#### Restrictions and Closures

The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness is closed. The following roads are closed: Mountain Road at Linville Road, Pataha Creek Road at the Columbia junction, 41 Road east of the 4206 Road, Misery Springs Road, Wooten Game Range head quarters, the junction of 46 and 4610 Roads, Maloney Mountain Road at Skyline Road, North Pattit Road at Hartsock Road, and the 42 Road at Forest Boundary.

#### Quick Facts

Location:	16 miles south of Pomeroy, WA.
Start Date:	08/05/2005
Cause:	Under Investigation
Approx. Size:	49, 515 acres
Containment:	100%
Assigned Resources:	49 engines 3 helicopters 4 crews
Total Personnel:	220 by end of shift
Agencies Represented:	BLM, DNR, USFS, NPS, FWS, Private
Restrictions:	There is limited entry into Umatilla National Forest. The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness is Closed.

For Additional Information

[National Situation Report](#)

[National Interagency Fire Center](#)

[National Fire News](#)