

Mission Support Alliance News Release



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HANFORD FIREFIGHTERS SUCCESSFULLY BRING ANOTHER FIRE SEASON TO A CLOSE

RICHLAND, Wash. – This year, Hanford firefighters fought 31 fires that burned a total of 1,589 acres. All but two of the fires occurred between the months of May and August.

The 2010 fire season was active in terms of isolated incidents with the majority of fires occurring because of lightning strikes. In comparison, years 2007-2008 only presented the site with 12 fires each and 2009 gave way to 13 fires overall.

Historically, the data below shows that while there were fewer fires on the Hanford Site in previous years, the total acres burned were substantially higher than in 2010:

2007 – 12 fires/85,292 acres
2008 – 12 fires/1,990 acres
2009 – 13 fires/4,738 acres
2010 – 31 fires to date/1,589 acres

The 2010 wildland fire season appears to have come to an end, but Hanford firefighters are not yet ready to put away their hoses and relax. They soon will begin conducting approved prescribed burns in an effort to reduce the amount of flammable material available that could fuel a major fire in the future.

“This has been a very active fire season for us with over 30 wildland fires—62 percent of them due to lightning,” said Hanford Fire Captain Jerry Keelin. “Fortunately, we were able to contain them so that we did not experience great acreage loss due to fire. This year, we encountered and responded to more than double our average number of wildland fires. For the most part, this year’s wildland fires did not happen during severe wind events and the response crews were not hampered by difficult terrain,” Keelin said.

The Hanford Fire Department provides life safety services to the 586-square mile Hanford Site. The chief mission of the department is to manage and resolve emergencies that can threaten the safe operation of the Hanford Site, or that can harm employees or the public.

Hanford firefighters, MSA Heavy Equipment Operators and their Teamster support crews, and the support of our mutual aid partners—approximately 30 fire departments outside of the site—contributed significantly to a successful fire season thus far.

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About the MSA

The Mission Support Alliance is a team led by Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering and WSI, and has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. The MSA team provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site such as site infrastructure and utilities, logistics and transportation, environmental integration, safety, health and quality, interface management, emergency services and training, strategy and external affairs, information management and portfolio management.