



Grays Fire

UPDATE
August 20, 2023
0800 Hours



Northeast Washington Interagency
IMT Type 3, Team #1
Tom Merritt
Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

Cheney, WA, - The Gray Fire was first reported at 1227 on Friday, August 18th. The fire started near Gray Road, west of Medical Lake and quickly spread by wind to the east. Shifting winds pushed the fire to the southwest, burning along and spotting across I-90. Crews from around the region have continued to arrive in the area, focusing on structure protection and securing line.

Medical Lake, Silver Lake, and Four Lakes area – Fire activity has moderated and crews have worked to create a containment line, mitigated fuels to secure lines around homes. Crews will continue to assess around homes and along the line, mitigating fuels to secure areas along the line and around homes. Avista is working on repairing downed lines and replacing power poles to restore power to this area.

South of I-90 – Crews worked through the night to create dozer and handlines around the fire edge. Moderating fire activity allowed crews to secure and hold the line overnight. Crews will continue to strengthen the line and work to hold the line throughout today.

Clear Lake and Blue Heron Area – Active fire was reported overnight in this area. Crews worked on structure protection and creating dozer and handline.

I-90 – Falling modules arrived last night and will evaluate and remove fire weakened trees and trees that have fallen on the roadway. Crews will work on suppressing active fire pockets.

The incident command post is located at the Cheney middle School in Cheney WA. **Fire information contact is Eric Keller at 509-481-7064.**

Quick Facts:

Fire Size: Estimated at 10,014 acres

Initial Start: 8/18/2023 at 1227 pm

Location: Medical Lake, Four Lakes, Silver Lake and surrounding area.

Hazards: Urban interface, hazardous chemicals, snags, downed powerlines.

Values at Risk: Structures, Urban infrastructure, Timberland

Cause: Under Investigation

Containment: 10%

Personnel: About 400

Evacuations: Level 3 and Level 2 evacuations are in place, I-90 remains closed