



*HANFORD JOINT INFORMATION CENTER  
NEWS RELEASE.005  
Richland, Washington  
June 28, 2000  
10:05 p.m.*

## **HANFORD MANAGER GIVES STATEMENT ON HANFORD SITE BLAZE**

"Our first concerns are the health and safety of our employees, the security of the Hanford site and the protection of the region's environment and communities," said Keith Klein, manager of the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office. "I offer the full assistance of the Department of Energy and all federal agencies to the units fighting the fire. That offer of cooperation comes from all the way from the White House."

Klein has been in touch with Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson's office as well as that of President Clinton. Each has offered any assistance requested to help fight this fire.

The fire began as a result of a traffic accident on Highway 240 as it runs through the Hanford Reservation.

The fire is now being affected by a wind change that is moving the fire to the south and east. There are no known radiological releases as a result of the fire at this time. The Hanford Fire Department is a member of the team of firefighting agencies involved in battling the brush fire. DOE field teams are monitoring the environmental impact of the fire. The State of Washington is providing independent oversight of that monitoring.

Manager Klein appreciates the support received from many different agencies involved as members of the firefighting team. "The effort of the State of Washington, EPA, U. S. Fish & Wildlife, and the members of Washington State Interagency management Team has been phenomenal," Klein said.

An alert emergency was declared at 4:30 p.m. An alert level emergency is the lowest of the three DOE emergency categories. An alert level emergency requires activation of Hanford's Emergency Operations Center, which includes communication and consultation with a number of outside agencies.

More information will be made available, as it becomes known. Media inquiries should be directed to the Hanford Joint Information Center at (509) 376-3322; the phone number for Public inquiries is (509) 376-8116. Also, Emergency broadcast information can be heard on KONA Radio on 610 AM and

105.3 FM.

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