

HFD to conduct prescribed burning on site

Beginning today, the Hanford Fire Department will be performing prescribed burning activities in the Washington State Department of Transportation easements along State Route 24 and State Route 240 to remove large areas of very volatile dried cheatgrass and pockets of debris weeds and tumbleweeds, to create improved fire-management zones and to reduce the presence of nuisance vegetation along Hanford Site boundaries.

The prescribed burning is taking place in coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation and with the approval of the Department of Energy along State Route 24 from the Vernita Bridge to 3.5 miles west of the Yakima Barricade, and along State Route 240 between mileposts 9 and 20. Prescribed burning activities will also take place on the Hanford Site where large numbers of tumbleweeds have accumulated.

Burning will occur on a day-to-day basis, weather permitting. Before each day's burn, fire-line perimeters will be inspected for integrity and the day's burn plan will be reviewed with the burn crew. The burn will be conducted in small sections, and every effort will be made to ensure that the fire is extinguished before moving to the next sections.

WDOT flagging crews will provide traffic control along the state highways. Hanford Fire Department ground personnel and crews of two pumper tankers and one water tender will be conducting the burns.

With the potential for another extreme wildland fire season, Hanford Site employees and visitors are reminded to always call 9-1-1 (or 373-3800 if using a cellular phone) to report any smoke or fire conditions.

Contact Hanford Fire Chief Donald Good at 373-1311 for more information. ■



Hanford Fire Department crews will conduct prescribed burns to reduce volatile dried nuisance vegetation and improve fire-management zones along Hanford Site boundaries and along State Routes 24 and 240.