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# KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023  
Contact: Michael Heffner, Deputy Fire Chief  
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KFD#: 2308992

[Kennewick, WA] On Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at 12:42 p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) were dispatched to a reported natural cover fire along the Bob Olsen Parkway near the intersection of the future Montana Street extension. Callers reported seeing fire burning in grass and sage brush.

The first KFD unit arrived within eight minutes of being dispatched and noted fire being pushed by moderate winds in the area, but not threatening any structures. Due to low visibility because of heavy smoke blowing across the roadway, the incident commander ordered the shut down of Bob Olsen Parkway between Sherman and 15<sup>th</sup> Place. With the fire burning in natural vegetation on undeveloped property, vehicle access was limited and the incident commander requested additional off road-capable firefighting apparatus to the scene, including a bulldozer. Much like a forest fire, crews used a combination of hand tools, off-road firefighting vehicles, and a bulldozer in a coordinated effort to secure a line around the fire, allow some natural fuels to burn, and douse hot spots to prevent the fire spread. The approximately 15-acre fire was 100% contained by 3:19 pm and several natural and manmade firebreaks were established around the burned area. A fire patrol unit was on-scene past midnight mopping up hotspots.

The Kennewick Police and Public Works Departments, Benton Co. Fire Districts #1, #2, and #4, Franklin Co. Fire District #3, Richland Fire and Emergency Services, and the Benton Public Utility District also responded to assist with rendering the scene safe.

The cause of the fire is undetermined and there were no injuries to any firefighters or any civilians. It is possible that small hotspots will continue to smolders for the next few days. The public is encouraged to call 9-1-1 if they see a new fire start outside of the blackened area, but not for smoldering debris inside the previously burned area.

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