UPDATE: Wildland fire at the NNSS

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nevada – Air and ground operations in support of the Cherrywood Fire continued today. Firefighting teams took full advantage of favorable weather today, with five single-engine planes and two large air tanks performing more than 50 air drops.

As stated yesterday, the fire entered a site with remnant radiological material from a Cold War era test yesterday evening. There is no risk to health and human safety, and there is no offsite risk to the public.

Estimates provided by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center indicate potential radiological exposures for onsite personnel are well below the criteria for initiating protective actions.

A radiological response team has taken multiple samples from throughout the Site today, and results will be available tomorrow.

In addition to the dose monitoring and modeling conducted at the Site, the Desert Research Institute, working with members of the local community, operates the Community Environmental Monitoring Program, an independent radiological air monitoring system at 24 locations around the Site and throughout Nevada and parts of Utah and California.

Results are posted regularly on DRI’s website, here: https://cemp.dri.edu/.

The NNSS is in unified command with the Bureau of Land Management, which is leading the Cherrywood Fire response efforts. Nearly 190 additional personnel—including a Type 3 Incident Management Team—have been brought in to support the effort, and there are presently 239 personnel on the fire. Containment is at 15 percent as of today.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available on the NNSS Twitter page at https://twitter.com/NNSANevada, Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NNSANevada and the NNSS website at http://www.nnss.gov.
The NNSS and its related facilities help ensure the security of the United States and its allies by: supporting the stewardship of the nation’s nuclear deterrent; providing nuclear and radiological emergency response capabilities and training; contributing to key nonproliferation and arms control initiatives; executing national-level experiments in support of the National Laboratories; working with national security customers and other federal agencies on important national security activities; and providing long-term environmental stewardship of the NNSS’s Cold War legacy.

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For more information on the NNSS, visit www.nnss.gov.

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