



KENNEWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

HONOR ♦ SELFLESSNESS ♦ COMPETENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Friday, September 8, 2023
Contact: Chad Michael, Fire Chief
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KFD#: 2309351

[Kennewick, WA] On Friday, September 8, 2023, at 1:16 p.m., fire crews from the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) were dispatched to a reported natural cover fire behind the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) Administrative Building, located at 2015 S Ely St in Kennewick.

Chief Michael was the first arriving unit from the Kennewick Fire Department, arriving on scene within five minutes of being dispatched and noted a large black column of smoke coming from the portion of Zintel Canyon located immediately behind the KID Admin Building. After gaining closer access to the fire through the KID property, Chief Michael was able to determine that the fire was advancing uphill from the bottom of the canyon towards the KID property and was moving to the north at a moderate rate of speed. With the fire burning in natural vegetation on terrain that was hard to access from the KID property, two brush engines were directed to fight the fire from inside the canyon, while multiple fire engines attacked the fire from above the canyon to extinguish the fire that was advancing towards the KID property. Much like a forest fire, crews used a combination of hand tools, hoselines, and off-road firefighting vehicles to secure a containment line around the fire. The approximately 2.4-acre fire was 100% contained within approximately 30 minutes of firefighting crews arriving on scene, and mop up operations continued until just after 3:00pm. Fire patrols will be done throughout the night to ensure the fire does not rekindle.

The Kennewick Police Department, Benton County Fire District 1, and the Kennewick Irrigation District all provided extremely helpful assistance during the fire.

Prior to leaving the scene, the Kennewick Fire Department received second-hand information that a person either living near the area of the fire, or recreating in the area at the time of the fire witnessed a person lighting the fire. The Kennewick Fire Department wants to encourage that person to come forward to provide any information they have regarding what they observed to the Kennewick Fire Department and the Kennewick Police Department.

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