



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

PO Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

928 638-7779 phone  
928 638-7609 fax  
[www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca)

---

## Grand Canyon Fact Sheet

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Punky Moore, 928-638-7060  
Shannan Marcak, 928-638-7958

Date: June 30, 2008

### Walla Valley Fire Update

**Fire Started:** June 21, 2008 as a prescribed burn project  
June 25, 2008 converted to a wildfire

**Location:** North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The Walla Valley Fire is located in the Walla Valley and Point Sublime area, approximately 9 miles west of the North Rim developed area.

**Fuels:** Gamble oak, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, grass

**Size:** 435 acres

**Percent Contained:** 35%

**Resources committed:** 7 engines, 2 crews, 3 fire use modules, 4 helicopters, 7 water tenders.  
**Total personnel = 124**

**Closures:** Sections of the W4 and W1 roads remain closed at this time.

*Sunday, June 29, firefighter Michael MacDonald was tragically killed in a private medical helicopter collision while being transported from the Grand Canyon to Flagstaff Medical Center for a medical condition unrelated to firefighting. Mr. MacDonald, age 26, was a member of the Chief Mountain Hot Shots assigned to the Walla Valley Fire. The Chief Mountain Hot Shots are an elite, Bureau of Indian Affairs funded, Native American firefighting crew based on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, Montana. The thoughts and prayers of the staff at Grand Canyon National Park go out to Mr. MacDonald's family, the Chief Mountain Hot Shots and the Blackfeet Nation.*

**Fire Summary:** Today, firefighters will build on the progress made yesterday, holding the fire in its current position and reinforcing containment line. Helicopters and air tankers will be utilized when necessary to slow the fire's spread. This evening, operations will include securing the containment line by igniting vegetation between the line and the leading edge of the fire creating a buffer to stop the fire's progress. These burnout operations are implemented in the evening when the potential for active fire behavior is lessened.

**Air Quality:** Very little smoke is being produced by the fire.

**Fire Behavior:** Activity slowed considerably yesterday with very little growth.

---

#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**Weather:** The general weather forecast is mostly sunny, temperatures around 80, light southwest winds 5 to 10 miles per hour with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms.

For the latest information on the Walla Valley Fire, visit the park's fire web site at [http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/fire\\_info.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grca/parkmgmt/fire_info.htm) or call the Grand Canyon Public Affairs Office at (928)638-7958. For recorded information on the fire, you may call (928)638-7688.

-NPS-