



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon Fact Sheet

Release date: Immediate

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

Date: July 1, 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: 433 acres  
Percent Contained: 40%

Resources committed: 7 engines, 3 fire use modules, 2 helicopters, 7 water tenders. Total personnel = 84

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

*Sunday, 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 not directly related 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 staff at the Grand Canyon National Park offers their deepest condolences to Mr. MacDonald's family, the Chief Mountain Hot Shots and the Blackfeet Nation.*

#### Summary:

Today, firefighters will build on the progress made yesterday holding the fire in its current position and reinforcing containment line - the perimeter of the fire continues to be within the boundaries of the Walla Valley Prescribed Burn Unit. Helicopters will be utilized when necessary to secure fire lines.

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

Fire Behavior: Activity has slowed considerably.

Weather: The general weather forecast is mostly sunny, temperatures around 80, light southwest winds 7 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.

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