



NEWS RELEASE

Pueblo Chemical Depot



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot
45825 Highway 96 East
Pueblo Colorado

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Range fire at depot is 95 percent contained

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo. — Firefighting officials report that as of 8:45 p.m., approximately 95 percent of the grass fire on Pueblo Chemical Depot has been contained. Crews are now mopping up hot spots and some fire fighters have been released.

Approximately 40 local fire fighters from the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Rural One Fire, Transportation Technology Center, Boone Fire Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office fought the blaze, which began this afternoon at approximately 4 p.m., when strong winds knocked down a power pole, starting a grass fire on the south east side of the depot.

Officials estimate 5,000 acres, or 2.5 miles of grassland burned on the installation. One structure was lost in the blaze, a small shed located next to the depot's Lynda Ann Reservoir.

The fire jumped the perimeter of the depot at approximately 6:30 p.m. burning East/Southeast, near IL Road, and was later contained.

As a safety precaution and to keep traffic congestion at a minimum, 600-700 employees and construction workers at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant were evacuated from the construction site and administration buildings at approximately 4:50 p.m.

The depot's Emergency Operations Center continues to monitor the situation along with Pueblo County Emergency Management.