

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 5, 2009; 4 p.m.

Media contacts

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***Emergency response to engine derailment north of Kettle Falls***

(NORTHPORT, WA) – A unified command has been formed to respond to the derailment of two railroad engines nine miles south of the community of Northport in Stevens County, Wash.

At 10:53 a.m. Stevens County Sheriff's office received a report of the derailment in a wooded area adjacent to the Columbia River. Two engines and a box car derailed where a landslide had undermined the track. Two railroad employees received minor injuries.

Responders include the Kettle Falls International Railway Company, Stevens County Sheriff's Office, the Washington Department of Ecology and Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

Officials report no immediate threat to local residents or the environment. Ecology spill responders report that there has been no significant release of fuel from the engines and there is no immediate threat of a spill to the Columbia River. The engines may contain a combined total of 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

The railway company has hired a contractor to remove the fuel and right the engines.

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