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For Immediate Release

Utah National Guard Responds to Northern Utah Fires

DRAPER, Utah – Utah Governor Gary Herbert activated members of the Utah Army National Guard Aug. 11 to assist with the response to the State and Millville Fires in Northern Utah.

In true Minuteman fashion, Blackhawk pilots, crews and support personnel from the Utah Guard's 2-211th Aviation answered the call on short notice, getting three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters (each with two pilots and one crew chief) airborne within two hours.

Two aircraft responded to the State Fire, near Portage, Utah, while the other went to the Millville Fire, south of Logan, Utah. Between the two fires, Blackhawk crews dumped 88 bucketfuls of water Aug. 11. The bright-orange buckets, suspended underneath the Blackhawks, each hold approximately 600 gallons of water.

Blackhawks and crews were again on scene at both fires Aug. 12. At the State Fire, two Blackhawks dropped a total of 76 bucketfuls, and one Blackhawk dropped 18 on the Millville Fire, for a total of 94 water drops that day. To accommodate refueling near the fires, the Utah Guard established a fuel point at the Malad, Idaho, airport.

Two Blackhawks will continue dropping water on the State Fire Aug. 13, and the third Blackhawk will again be on the Millville Fire.

The Utah National Guard will continue to send out updates via Twitter @UTNationalGuard.

See photos of the Utah Guard's fire response here: <http://bit.ly/19ZH9fb>.

For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778.