

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Officer

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### **Lightning-sparked fires burn 11,000 acres northwest of St. George**

**St. George, UTAH** – Two wildfires 15 miles northwest of St. George have burned more than 11,000 acres of scrub and juniper, creating a huge column of smoke visible throughout much of southern Utah Saturday night. Several remote buildings and a utility corridor were threatened.

Three Hot Shot crews, two helicopters, two single-engine air tankers, and more than a dozen Color Country and local fire department engines are working these two fires, called together the Square Complex.

The fires burned within a mile of a power and gas line corridor, but crews were holding the fire away from the corridor Saturday night.

The fires are among more than 20 in southern Utah sparked by lightning storms Friday. Most remained small fires less than two acres and were contained by Saturday night.

A 500-acre grass fire three miles from the small southern Utah community of Apple Valley also produced a column of smoke visible from St. George Saturday evening. Color Country wildland crews and local fire departments had stopped the progress of that fire, called the Little Creek Fire, by late Saturday night. This area is about 20 miles east of St. George.

The seven-acre Hollow Fire is burning 10 miles north of St. George in the Dixie National Forest. Smoke jumpers were called to that remote fire, which could also be seen from St. George.

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