

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and  
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management  
Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Wildland Firefighter Training “Guard School” June 15 – 19  
Live Fire Training Exercises Scheduled June 18

PRINEVILLE—Approximately 50 student firefighters with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management are currently enrolled in “Guard School”, a course required of all state and federal employees who are training to become wildland firefighters. Guard school classroom training is being held today and tomorrow at Crook County High School in Prineville. On Wednesday, June 17, the student firefighters will engage in field exercises near Big Summit Prairie on the Ochoco National Forest in preparation for a live fire exercise on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The week will end with additional classroom lecture and testing on Friday.

The week-long training session includes sessions on safety, fire readiness and fire organization, fire behavior, basic fire leadership, suppression methods and tool use, ignition devices, map & compass, engine and pump operations, hazardous materials, working in the wild land/urban interface, air resources and lessons learned from previous wild land fire incidents. Firefighters are camping at Crook County High School tonight and Thursday night, and near Big Summit Prairie on Tuesday & Wednesday evening.

The live-fire and mop-up exercises start around 11:00 am on June 18 and will continue throughout the afternoon.

**Note to media reps:** If you are interested in covering Guard School live fire exercises, and/or need personal protective equipment (PPE), RSVP Heather Fisher by close of business on June 17 at (541) 480-0913.

To cover live fire exercise, all media representatives are required to wear PPE and must be escorted by a qualified Information Officer. PPE includes nomex pants and shirt, leather gloves, hard hat, safety glasses or goggles and a fire shelter. Leather boots with 8”

tops and non- skid soles are also required to shoot live fire exercises. Boots must be purchased separately and are not available as a PPE check-out item.

Live fire exercises will be held near Big Summit Prairie at the junction of Forest Roads 42 and 4230 on the Ochoco National Forest. Tavel time to Big Summit Prairie is approximately one hour from Prineville. Meet at Ochoco National Forest Headquarters, 3160 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> to caravan to the site. Media reps needing PPE should plan to arrive by 9:00 to allow time for checking out and changing into PPE. Please bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. Drinking water will be available on site.