

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

*Working as One to Serve Central Oregon*

[www.fs.fed.us/centraloregon](http://www.fs.fed.us/centraloregon)  
[www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 13, 2008

Contact: Virginia Gibbons  
(541) 416-6647

**Wild land Firefighter Training “Guard School” June 16 – 20**  
**Live Fire Training Exercises Scheduled June 19 and June 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**on Deschutes National Forest Near Sisters**

SISTERS—Approximately 71 new firefighters with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Portland Water Bureau will engage in classroom and field training from June 16-20 at Sisters Middle School in Sisters, OR. This course is required of all state and federal employees engaged in wild land firefighting.

The week-long training session includes sessions on safety, fire readiness and 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. Firefighters will be required to camp on-site at the school the entire week to attend scheduled evening crew training sessions.

On Thursday, June 19, student firefighters will complete live-fire and mop-up exercises from (approximately) 11:30 am-4:30 pm on the Deschutes National Forest near Sisters just north of Indian Ford Campground adjacent to Forest Road 11 (Indian Ford Road) approximately ¼ NE of Hwy 20.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, another fire training exercise will be conducted on the Deschutes National Forest near Sisters; exact location has not been identified for training purposes. This exercise is for fire preparedness and will be a small 1-acre training burn.

**Note to media reps:** To cover Guard School or live fire exercises and check out personal protective equipment (PPE), contact Virginia Gibbons by COB on June 17 at (541) 416-6647. To cover live fire exercise, all media representatives are required to wear PPE and must be escorted by an 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 visit live fire exercises. Boots must be purchased and are not available as a PPE check-out item.

-End-