



National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Grand Teton National Park

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Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: Interagency All Fire Days

The 4th annual Interagency All Fire Days training was held on Saturday, June 21st near Granite Creek in Teton County. The day-long event gave fire personnel an opportunity to promote partnerships through cross training and active participation in wildland fire and urban interface drills. "Working and training together helps us get to know each other, learn each other's equipment, and compliment one another's strengths," said Rod Dykehouse, Bridger-Teton National Forest Fire Management Officer.



Agencies provided 14 engines, 2 water tenders, 1 helicopter, and other trucks and equipment for the day's activities. More than 80 firefighters and support staff participated from Sublette County, Lincoln County, Teton County, National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Bridger-Teton National Forest.



Granite Creek's Jackpine Summer Homes area provided a central location for the crews to train and practice responding to two typical fire situations. The first scenario-based drill gave responders an opportunity to implement all elements of a structure protection operation. "More and more wildland fire situations include protecting homes in wooded areas," said Willy Watsabaugh, Chief of the Training Division for the Jackson/Teton County Fire Department. "This wildland-urban interface segment was a vital part of today's training."

Firefighters made a quick structural triage of the homes in the subdivision, wrapped buildings, set up portable water tanks, and put in hose lays. The second training exercise practiced appropriate actions for a wildland fire. Crews sized up the mock fire, determined strategies, assigned resources, and began taking action as part of the drill.



Other situations tested the firefighters' abilities to improvise and overcome additional problems integrated into the scenarios. Role players, which included local residents, made worried homeowners, lost children, injured hikers, and a fire investigation all part of the situation firefighters encountered. John Ball, Fire Chief from Big Piney-Marbleton, was happy to be a part of the day's training. "This is the first year we've participated in All Fire Days," he noted. "It was a great learning experience, especially for the new red card holders." As the day progressed, the cohesiveness and efficiency of the crews increased. "We'll all work together again this summer," concluded Dykehouse at the debriefing, "but it may not be just a training session. Let's use what we've learned today and be safe out there."

