



## Zion National Park Fire Management

### Fire Information Bulletin Boards

As more people move into our wildlands, information regarding the risks from wildland fire becomes more important. Private landowners need to be aware of these risks and some of the measures that can be taken to reduce them. In recent years, federal and state agencies have begun to do their part to reduce some of these risks on public lands, but without the cooperation of adjacent private landowners these efforts can only be partially successful. Personal responsibility for reducing risks to private lands is vital.

To help further this process, Zion National Park's Fire Management Division requested and received FY2003 funding (\$4000) through a Community Assistance/Wildland Urban Interface grant to erect two, NPS-approved, aluminum bulletin boards to provide information for local residents and landowners.



Zion fire crew erecting information bulletin boards.

These bulletin boards were placed at the Zion Ponderosa Ranch, which is located on the eastern boundary of the park. The Ponderosa is the main activity/gathering spot for residents and visitors to this area and serves as a base of operations for people using the east side of the park. It is a fast growing area, with lots of new development. This area has also been designated as one of six wildland urban interface focus areas in Southern Utah by agency administrators with the Color Country Fire Management Zone. A number of fuel treatments have already been completed and others are in various phases of completion.

The goal of these bulletin boards is to create a centralized "hub" for information relating to fire education and fire management activities in the area. This information and the planned fuel treatments would in turn help the park reduce the potential for wildfire spread and make it easier to contain and suppress wildfires near the park boundary, thus providing a higher degree of safety to treated homes and property. It is looked upon as an opportunity to be proactive with our fire management program and maintain a continuous presence. The bulletin board would have updated information on all fire management activities that are proposed for the area and what has been accomplished. It would also include Firewise-based information for property owners.

What we hope to accomplish from this project is to educate the landowners and visitors in this wildland urban interface focus area to the risks that wildland fire poses and to keep them updated on fuels treatment projects that we are conducting to reduce these risks. The hopeful outcome would be a public that is more educated about the role of fire in the ecosystem and a better cooperative relationship between them and fire management agencies.