



March 2004

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Grand Teton National Park

Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest

Teton Interagency Fire Management

Teton Interagency Fire Participates in Incident Information Officer Training



The Teton Interagency Fire Management Program was represented in the second annual Arizona Wildfire Academy this month, helping to round out a cadre of instructors for the academy's first Information Officer's training. The course, entitled *S- 203: Introduction to Incident Information*, was one of 32 classes offered this year at the Prescott, Arizona location.

Many of the courses included both classroom work and field experience, and the Incident Information Officer's training was no exception. Each student was required to record and critique a radio and television interview as well as manage a complex information center scenario. The academy, operated in a fire camp format, included an incident information plan and center. The students had opportunities to visit and work in the center outside of class hours and to contribute to the academy's daily news bulletin and DVD recording.

Multi- agency teamwork was a key to the success of the course. Representing the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service, the six- member team of instructors exemplified the interagency component so integral to the academy. "It is critical that we train together because we will inevitably work together," said Don Howard, Chief of the Summit Fire Department and the Incident Commander for this year's academy. With the addition of 17 Fire Education, Prevention, and Information Specialists since 2001, the National Park Service has significantly increased its participation in Incident Information Officer's training. They teamed with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to host a "Train the Trainers for S- 203" workshop at the National Interagency Fire Center in 2002. Since then, many participants have coordinated the course, emphasizing that working together is critical to the role of Information Officers and National Fire Plan goals.

Thirty- five students from six agencies and nine states participated in the class and will be eligible for assignments as Information Officer Type III trainees.

