



## *Nevada Site Office News*

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### **NEW FIRE STATIONS OPEN AT NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE**

The doors were officially opened on two new fire stations at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) that are expected to significantly improve fire-fighting services not only at the Site, but for local agencies that rely on NNSS fire units for interagency assistance.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held October 6, 2010, for a smaller Station No. 2, located in Area 6, about 22 miles north of Mercury. Local, state and federal dignitaries, along with fire officials from Las Vegas, Nye County and other areas were on-hand October 13, 2010, for a formal ceremony to open Station No. 1, built in Mercury, known as Area 23 of the Site.

Construction began on the stations in April 2009. Both stations were completed on time and at a cost of about \$35 million, significantly under the original \$42 million budget.

The NNSS has a long history of supporting national security. It currently supports an array of modern missions, among them counterterrorism operations and stockpile stewardship, all originating from the base camp at Mercury, off U.S. Highway 95. The new stations are replacing existing stations that had been in use for more than 40 years, said NNSS Fire Chief Chuck Fauerbach.

The original stations were built to house only firefighters, but the new facilities will support missions that were consolidated in 1996 to include structural and wild land firefighting operations, hazardous materials operations, paramedic level emergency medical services, and technical rescue operations, among others.

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The number of fire-fighting vehicles at the Site over the years has grown to eight Type-6 wild land engines; four structural fire engines; two heavy rescue trucks; three light-duty incident command vehicles; one large mobile incident command post vehicle; five hazardous materials, wild land fire supply, and breathing-air trailers; three Fire Marshal vehicles; five paramedic ambulances; and ten special purpose all-terrain vehicles. “The average cost of a fire engine today has the potential to exceed \$300,000,” Fauerbach explained. “We’ve had a significant number of vehicles sitting outside (the current fire stations) in non-climate controlled areas. That causes them to age prematurely.”

In addition to supporting Site facilities and workers, NNS Fire and Rescue personnel also provide mutual aid to Nye County communities such as Crystal, Amargosa and Pahrump, and frequently respond to vehicle accidents on U.S. 95.

The new fire stations also are designed to Leadership and Energy in Environmental Design (LEED) standards, and are expected to achieve LEED Gold Certification in 2011. Combined, the stations encompass more than 40,000 square feet of space.

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