



News Release

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GEORGIA FOREST RANGERS HEAD FOR OREGON FIRES

A crew of 20 specially trained Georgia Forestry Commission Rangers has been dispatched to help fight wildfires in Oregon. The crew will travel Tuesday afternoon, August 19, from the U.S. Forest Service office in Gainesville, Georgia to Redmond, Oregon, where they will be given assignments for attacking fires that scorched almost 12,000 acres over the weekend.

"These Rangers will be on what we call a 'hand crew,'" explained Neal Edmondson, Prescribed Fire Manager for the GFC. "Because of the area's rough terrain, they will be fighting the fire with hand tools, such as rakes, shovels and other specialized instruments." The crew will be on duty in Oregon for two weeks.

"Service outside the state during an emergency such as this benefits Georgia in several ways," said Edmondson. "Georgia will be reimbursed for our employees' time and expenses. Also, our Rangers gain valuable experience in wildland firefighting, which they may put to use here in the future." Edmondson noted that during the 2007 south Georgia wildfires, which burned some 462,000 acres, firefighters came from all over the country to help.

"It's a good system that enhances every American's safety."

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