



News Release

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GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION HOSTS HEAVY EQUIPMENT ACADEMY

Forestry professionals from eight states will gather with heavy equipment experts and wildlife, land, and defense personnel for the “Geographic Area Heavy Equipment Academy,” June 16-22 at the Georgia Forestry Commission’s headquarters in Dry Branch. The meeting will provide specialized training for those who may be called to fight wildland fires in widely differing conditions.

During this training, participants will spend two days in the classroom and three days in field exercises, one of which will take place at night. Through a variety of scenarios and practice sessions, students will confront situations common to various geographical terrains and fuels that wildland firefighters face while battling fires. Focus is centered on tactical approaches and safety precautions that are crucial to the skills needed by geographical area heavy equipment operators on wildfires.

The training brings together numerous professionals, including students, instructors, incident management team members, steering committee members, and equipment and logistical support from the Texas Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Tennessee Division of Forestry, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Florida Forest Service, North Carolina Forest Service, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife, Department of Defense, and US Forest Service.

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Note: Demonstrations and interviews may be arranged for media. Contact Bryan Haire at the number or email address listed above.