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News Release
For Immediate Release
May 15, 2015

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Northern Utah Multi-Agency Wildland Engine Training

(Laketown, UT) – Municipal fire departments from Northern Utah are assembled near Bear Lake to take part in a two-day wildland fire engine training course. On May 15th & 16th, firefighters will take part in simulations and practical exercises to sharpen wildland skills. The training is being conducted using the Incident Management System (ICS) to simulate a large-scale wildfire and structure normally used to coordinate a type 3 incident.

40 firefighters from 12 departments will take part in 5 different training sessions including structure protection and wildland engine tactics. Simulated fires will be managed in wildland-urban interface areas in and around the Sweetwater subdivision near Laketown.

The wildland engine training courses have been an annual offering statewide since 2009 and more than 1,000 firefighters have taken part. This year, the course is being held in five locations to cover all areas of the state.

“Local fire departments are most often the first on scene to a wildland fire, and they put out the vast majority of wildfire starts,” says Bear River Area Manager, Blain Hamp. “These wildland engine trainings have made a big impact on their ability to step into that role very effectively,” he continued.

Of all wildland fire starts in Utah, approximately 98% are put out before they reach 10 acres. The high training standards, professionalism and cooperation between local, state and federal firefighting resources is believed to be a major contributing factor to that success.

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