Contact: Jennifer Jones
(208) 387-5437 – office
(208) 631-0406 – mobile
jejones@fs.fed.us - email

An audio interview with Steve Gage, Assistant Director, Operations, Fire and Aviation Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Interagency Fire Center is available at http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_podcasts.html

FIREFIGHTERS MOBILIZE TO ASSIST WITH HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE

Wildfire suppression crews and incident management teams are being mobilized and sent to the East Coast to assist with response to Hurricane Sandy.

Currently, six incident management teams and eleven wildfire suppression crews, a total of more than 250 personnel, are staged in or en route to New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. This includes:

- Two interagency hotshot crews, three 20-person Type 2 wildfire suppression hand crew, five 2-person saw crews, one Type 2 incident management team, and two U.S. Forest Service National Incident Management Organization incident management teams staged at or en route to Republic Airport, Farmingdale, New York (Long Island).

- One Type 1 incident management team, two interagency hotshot crews, and two 20-person Type 2 wildfire suppression handcrews en route to Pennsylvania.

- Two 20-person Type 2 wildfire suppression hand crews and one Type 2 incident management team staged at Fort Deven, Massachusetts.

In responding to hurricanes, wildfire suppression crews and incident management teams typically perform tasks such as clearing downed trees from roads so that local responders can conduct search and rescue missions; assisting at Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) logistics facilities that provide water and other

- more -

commodities needed to sustain life; providing communications equipment and support to local emergency response agencies; and command and control support for emergency response agencies.

Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Forest Service coordinates providing firefighting assets to respond to hurricanes and other emergency incidents.

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