

NEWS RELEASE

Kaibab National Forest

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Kaibab National Forest Teams up with Local Agencies To Prepare for Emergency Response

WILLIAMS, Ariz. - On Saturday, May 16, members of the Wildland Fire Advisory Council (WFAC) will team up for their annual multi-agency emergency response training drill in Williams. Federal, state and local council participants will spend most of the day practicing wildland firefighting techniques and testing equipment to improve coordination and cooperation between assisting agencies.

The training day is developed as a mock incident with Buckskinner Park serving as the Incident Command Post. The day will begin with check-in and morning briefing where participants will receive assignments for the exercise. The day will end with a bar-b-que at the park and a review of the day's activities.

In conjunction with Coconino County Emergency Management, the "Ready Coconino" automated emergency notification system will be activated Saturday, May 16 at 8:00 a.m. to test the system and notify local residents of the training exercise. This computerized service allows public safety personnel to send important information to a high volume of citizens simultaneously during emergencies.

There are four simulations planned for the day including: a wildland fire scenario in Buckskinner Park; structure assessment in the wildland fire urban interface on the south end of 9th, 10th, and 11th streets; equipment capability and compatibility at the Kaibab N.F. Supervisor's office parking lot and an air operations group with the Kaibab N.F. Helitack at Buckskinner Park. The groups will rotate through all of the stations receiving instructions from leaders and working together to accomplish specific tasks safely and proficiently.

"This annual training is a great opportunity to test equipment, practice communications, strengthen working relations and prepare personnel before incidents happen," said Joe Reinartz, Williams Ranger District Fire Management Officer. "Teamwork and good communication are essential for success on any incident."

There will be personnel and equipment traveling in and around Buckskinner Park as well as on city streets on the south side of town during the drill. The public is advised to use caution in these areas.

The following agencies are represented in WFAC: AZ State Forestry Div., Ash Fork Fire Dept., Coconino Co. Sheriff's Dept., Flagstaff Fire Dept., High Country Fire & Rescue, Junipine Fire Dept., Juniper Woods Fire Dept., Kaibab Estates West Fire Dept., Kaibab National Forest, Ponderosa Fire Dist., Red Lake Fire Dept., Sherwood Forest Est. Fire Dept., Tusayan Fire Dept., Valle-Wood Fire Dept., Williams Fire Dept., and Williams Police Dept.

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