



Nez Perce N.F.
NEWS RELEASE



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 18, 2009

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Smokeyumper Rookie Training To Be Held In Grangeville

Grangeville, Idaho: Seven smokejumper rookies will be trained in the Grangeville area in late May and early June. Training is usually held in Missoula, Montana. This year it was advantageous to conduct most of the training locally to reduce travel costs since most of the rookies will be stationed here. Rookie training has not been held in Grangeville since 1978.

Physical training camp will be held May 26 – 30 on Hungry Ridge south of Grangeville. Rookies will be trained in crosscut saw use, tree climbing and fire line digging. They will also complete a physical endurance test “cross country pack out” at the end of the training.

The course will continue in Missoula from June 1–10. The Rookies will do training jumps from a tower at the Missoula base simulating landing in timber, letting themselves down to the ground and landing rolls.

On June 11th the group will return to Grangeville to do practice jumps from the Grangeville Air Center. The public will be able to watch these jumps from the local area. Each rookie completes 15 jumps to pass the course.

The Nez Perce National Forest has a long history with smokejumping. In 1939 the Forest Service began parachute-jumping experiments with dummy drops. The first actual fire jump was made by Rufus Robinson and Earl Cooley at Marten Creek from the Moose Creek Ranger Station on July 12, 1940.

Brett Rogers is the training foreman and will coordinate the event. For more information contact Randy Nelson, at (208) 983-9586.

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