



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
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News Release

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Multi agency collaboration provides critical training to local structural fire fighters

JOHN DAY, OR – The Malheur National Forest has teamed up with Oregon Department of Forestry and other agencies represented by the Grant County Fire Defense Board to provide necessary and critical training to structural firefighters in the Grant County area.

The Forest has provided a decommissioned house, through an agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry, and later this month the Grant County Fire Defense Board will ignite it, providing the fire fighters with a valuable training opportunity in battling a live structure fire, under controlled conditions.

While the house is a 1965 ranch style house, the compound has followed the historical elements tied to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), in which the house does not meet. All historical elements at the compound will be preserved, including all CCC buildings, CCC rock work, and all vegetation. Past sales have fallen through, leading to this cooperative agreement. The house will be used for training in structural fire protection procedures, including venting practices (cutting holes in the roof), search and rescue (using a smoke machine), as well as live fire exercises (final training exercise).

The ignition of the John Day Forest Service Compound house, located at 150 Government Road, will occur on April 18 with site clean-up on April 19. The Ignition date may change based on weather conditions.

“With low statistics of structural fires in the area, this opportunity to provide a live atmosphere is critical to the education of new trainees and inexperienced fire fighters, as well as, a great refresher for our seasoned fire fighters,” said Ron Smith, John Day fire chief.

This training allows Grant County’s city and rural fire departments an opportunity to complete training to meet state requirements to become certified as a Fire Fighter 1, while providing a substantial benefit to the safety of the local community.

“As wildland fire fighters, we value the local city and rural fire fighters as structural experts,” said Kevin Brock, Blue Mountain Ranger District assistant fire management officer. “We are very thankful for the long-standing and close working relationship between our agencies.”

A short term impact of smoke is to be expected. No impacts to traffic routes are expected.

Please contact your local city or rural fire department with questions.

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