

NEWS ADVISORY

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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News Contact: Paula Nelson
(406) 329-3472

Preparations Underway for the 50th Anniversary of the Aerial Fire Depot

2004 marks the 50th anniversary for smokejumping and fire research operations at the Aerial Fire Depot (AFD) located west of the Missoula Airport. A community event is planned for June 19 from 1 – 5pm with speakers, displays, firefighting aircraft, and a demonstration, training smoke jump.

At the 1954 dedication attended by and estimated 30,000 people, President Eisenhower provided the keynote speech. Information on the historic event, this June's event, and background on how the AFD has grown to include the National Weather Service, the Northern Rockies Fire Training Center, the Northern Rockies Fire Coordination Center, and more to become the Missoula Fire, Science and Technology Center (MFSTC) is available from a new website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/mftc/index_home.shtml

If you would like to learn more about up-coming events or have an in-depth look at the work in research, technology, training or firefighting, feel free to get in touch.

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