

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



Date: October 18, 2004

San Bernardino National Forest  
1824 S. Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ruth Wenstrom  
(909) 382-2711

## *“On Fire” Play to Dramatize Fire in American Forests*

San Bernardino, CA...The play “On Fire,” which tells the story of fire in American forests from the founding of the Forest Service in 1905 to the disastrous fires of 2003, is coming to local communities during late October and early November.

The play is free-of-charge and is being sponsored by the San Bernardino National Forest, the San Diego Fire Recovery Network and the San Diego River Park Foundation. It is being presented in San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, including the following locations:

**October 26** Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce  
Town Hall Rm. 2  
54295 Village Center  
Idyllwild, CA  
**Show time 8 p.m.**

**October 29** San Bernardino Board of Education  
Community Room  
777 North F Street  
San Bernardino-CA  
**Show times: 6 and 8 p.m.**

**-MORE-**

**November 6**

Big Bear Discovery Center  
1020 Highway 38  
Fawnskin, CA  
**Showtime: 1 p.m.**

In addition to the listed public performances, two performances are scheduled at San Geronio High School on October 27 and 28.

“**On Fire**” dramatizes the political wars that have shaped our current fire policy. Playwright Rick Foster concentrates on the Great Fire of 1910, which created heroic stories and moved public opinion in support of fire suppression. The play leaves the audience understanding how chaotic, terrifying, frivolous, and tragic a great fire can be.

The story is being presented by ***Duende***, a drama and literature group from Sonoma, California. The four man cast of Jay Newington, Zachary Drake, Don Bilotti, and Thomas F. Maguire will play a multitude of roles- from crews of fire-fighters, hecklers, newsboys and cleaning ladies, to presidents Teddy Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, and Gifford Pinchot, the legendary founder of the Forest Service.

###