

# News Release

## CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

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### For Immediate Release

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### US FOREST SERVICE AND SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE SPONSOR HANDS-ON WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

**WHAT:** **Southwestern College** and the **US Forest Service** are partnering to provide Southwestern College fire technology students paid, hands-on training at a **Wildland Fire Academy**. Following completion students will receive college units toward their fire technology degree, four wildland certifications, and – possibly – job offers from various wildland firefighting agencies.

**Media are invited to participate in hands-on training. Conduct a hose lay. Prepare a fire shelter. Visuals are phenomenal. Advance notice is appreciated.**

**WHEN:** **March 7, 2009 – 9 a. m. to 11 a.m.**

**WHERE:** **Japatul Fire Station  
21697 Lyons Valley Road  
Alpine, CA 91901  
(619) 445-3382**

**MORE INFO:** Following **2007's devastating San Diego County wildfire**, there has been a renewed interest in preparing firefighters for wildland situations. With the **official start of fire season in June**, the timing is perfect to peak student's interest in the niche arena and offer paid training. With a prosperous employment outlook, firefighters with wildland training are in demand and poised to make a solid living while giving back to the community.

Southwestern College's Fire Technology program includes instruction on the theory and practice of fire technology, fire service, and the fire protection field. The Wildland Fire Academy is one additional way the College is preparing its students for today's most enviable positions. Students will participate in various hands-on wildland firefighting techniques including progressive hose lays, preparing fire shelters, and operating drip torch stations.