



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Division of Forestry Firefighters Head West

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 23, 2013) – The Kentucky Division of Forestry announced today that 20 division firefighters are being sent to Utah to assist with wildfires in big timber, juniper and grass.

The firefighters will gather in London, Ky., tomorrow, Wednesday, July 24 for briefing and then head to Utah.

The U.S. Forest Service notified the division Tuesday that assistance was needed. The division has a cooperative agreement with the Forest Service to provide assistance during forest fire emergencies.

"We are glad to be able to help. I am sorry for the situation they find themselves in but happy that we are able to respond." said Leah MacSwords, Director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

The last time the division sent crews out of state was in 2011 when Georgia and Florida were experiencing catastrophic wildfires. The employees actually volunteer for this opportunity and will be on leave from the division. The Forest Service will pay their salary during this time. Fourteen days plus travel time is the maximum number of days the firefighters will be away from home.

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