



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

660 North Street, Suite 300  
Jackson, MS 39202

[www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*May 11, 2018*

Contact:  
Brighton Forester  
Public Relations Director  
(601) 500-0489 cell  
[bforester@mfc.ms.gov](mailto:bforester@mfc.ms.gov)

### **MS Forestry Commission Deploys Wildland Firefighting Strike Teams to Texas**

*JACKSON, Miss.* – The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) deployed two bulldozer strike teams to Texas, where they will be dispatched to assist state and federal partners with wildfire suppression efforts statewide. Five MFC Wildland Firefighters are scheduled to arrive in LaGrange, Texas, tomorrow. Their names will be released upon their safe return home to Mississippi in approximately two weeks.

“We appreciate our employees taking part in these efforts to help our state and federal partners in Texas. Fighting the destructive power of wildfire means that our Wildland Firefighters are working in extreme conditions protecting people’s lives, homes, and forestland,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “We are proud of their service and look forward to their safe return home in approximately two weeks.”

The Texas A&M Forest Service reports multiple active wildfires, most recently the Mallard wildfire in Armstrong County, which has burned approximately 20,000 acres.

### **How the Mississippi Forestry Commission fights wildfires**

MFC Wildland Firefighters “fight fire with fire”. They create a fire line (aka fire break) by using bulldozers to plow through vegetation (down to mineral soil) around the perimeter of the wildfire, then they light a controlled backfire along the inner edge of the fire line to consume additional vegetation – this lack of “fuel” for the wildfire creates a barrier to slow or stop the spread of the wildfire. However, their job is not yet finished – even after containment has been reached, wildland firefighters continue to monitor the area. Since the wind can spread hot embers across fire lines, new spot fires may occur as far away as one-half mile from the original wildfire that must be suppressed. Depending on the size, location, wind conditions, and intensity of the wildfire it may have to be monitored anywhere from several hours to several days to make sure the wildfire is no longer a threat to life, property, or forestland.

To learn more about wildfires in Mississippi, please visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

###

## About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the [Mississippi Forestry Commission](#) (MFC), protects the state's valuable forest resources from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees, forests, and natural resources. There are approximately 19.8 million forested acres in Mississippi. Mississippi's forestry and forest products industries have a \$12.79 billion economic impact and employ almost 70,000 people. Forestry consistently ranks as the state's second most valuable agricultural commodity, right behind the poultry industry.



*MFC deploys Wildland Firefighting Strike Teams to assist with wildfire suppression efforts in Texas.*