



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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MFC Deploys Wildland Firefighters to Colorado

JACKSON, Miss. (*August 10, 2018*) – The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) deployed a 20-person crew of Wildland Firefighters to assist state and federal partners with wildfire suppression efforts in Colorado. Their names will be released upon their safe return to Mississippi in approximately two weeks.

“We appreciate our employees taking part in these efforts to help our state and federal partners in Colorado. 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.”

These Wildland Firefighters are serving as a Type 2-Initial Attack (IA) crew. Type 2-IA crews serve on the front line of wildland firefighting. The individuals on this team are trained in wildland firefighting tactics and work together to help contain wildfires by constructing a fireline with hand tools. A fireline is a strip of land cleared of flammable vegetation down to the mineral soil, creating a perimeter clear of fuel around the wildfire. IA crews also burn out fire areas and mop-up after the wildfire has been contained. Due to the mountainous terrain and accessibility issues associated with using heavy equipment to create firelines in many areas out West, hand tools crews are frequently utilized on-the-ground to battle wildfires. While hand tool crews are still used in some parts of the state due to rough or inaccessible terrain, bulldozers and tractor-plow units are the primary tools used by Wildland Firefighters to contain wildfires in Mississippi.

To view this release online, visit: <http://bit.ly/DeploysCO>

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About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the [Mississippi Forestry Commission](#) (MFC) protects the state's valuable 19.8 million acres of forestland 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. 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. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees, forests, and natural resources.



20 MFC Wildland Firefighters Deploy to Colorado. Photo credit: Lanaya Lewis, WJTV