



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MS Forestry Commission to Deploy 20 Wildland Firefighters to Montana**

*JACKSON, Miss.* - On Sunday, August 20, 2017, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) will deploy a twenty-person Type-2 Initial Attack (IA) crew to assist state and federal partners with wildfire suppression efforts in Montana.

“We are extremely proud of our employees who are taking part in these efforts to help our state and federal partners out West. Fighting the destructive power of wildfire means that our guys are out there in extreme conditions protecting people’s lives, homes, and forestland,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “We wish them a safe trip and look forward to their return home in approximately two weeks.”

IA crews serve on the front line of wildland firefighting. The individuals on the Mississippi State 1 team are trained in wildland firefighting tactics and work together to help contain wildfires by constructing a fireline. A fireline is a strip of land cleared of flammable materials and dug down to the mineral soil around the wildfire. IA crews also burn out fire areas and mop up after the wildfire has been contained.

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#### 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.

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