



Photo above by Diane Rodriguez
Photo right by Natasha Kavanaugh

Firefighters from Siletz and Toledo work to complete a "practice burn" (right) on Oct. 22 at the same house in Siletz. Siletz Fire Chief Dave Lapof (left in photo) helped the firefighting crew go through the preparations for the burn, the burn itself and then the mop-up activities that take place after a fire. Members of the community were able to watch the firefighters in action as the house burned.

Firefighters from Siletz and Toledo (left) help conduct a training session on fire investigation on Sept. 23 at a Tribally owned house in Siletz (left) that was ready to be torn down. Fires were started in several areas of the house with different materials so the investigators-to-be could learn to "read" a fire to determine its origin. Other participants included firefighters from Depoe Bay, Newport and as far away as Coos Bay and Eugene, the Oregon State Police, the state fire marshal's office and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Will Ewing, Toledo fire chief and incident commander, thanked the Tribe for partnering with the fire departments on this activity. "Anytime we get these opportunities, it benefits all our firefighters," he said.



Tribal leaders call for increased focus on pressing issues in Indian Country

Hundreds stand together on Capitol Hill to protect Tribal lands, the budget and Native women

WASHINGTON – American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian leaders stood in front of the U.S. Capitol on Oct. 10 and called for immediate action on the most pressing issues facing Native nations and people.

In launching Tribal Unity Impact Week, the leaders called on Congress to acknowledge and recommit themselves to protect Tribal land, the safety of Native women and the federal trust responsibility to invest in and support Indian Country.

In a media event held in front of the U.S. Capitol, NCAI President Jefferson Keel was joined by Sen. Daniel Akaka (HI), chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, as well as elected officials from Tribal nations and leaders of Indian organizations.

"We are here on Capitol Hill with a loud and clear message for all members of Congress to hear. The federal trust responsibility must be respected and, as Tribal leaders, we will continue to protect what is most important to us: our land, our families and our economic vitality," said Keel in a statement following the event. "We have asked members of Congress to do more than listen; we call on them to stand with us on these issues. Together we will be stronger."

In a letter to Congress, participants of Tribal Unity Impact Week called on Congress to acknowledge and recommit themselves to the most pressing issues facing Indian Country.

"Tribes and Tribal entities have patiently participated in the political pro-



Courtesy photo by the National Congress of American Indians

Sen. Daniel Akaka, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, stands with Tribal leaders on Oct. 10 as part of Tribal Unity Impact Week on Capitol Hill. Representatives from leading Tribal organizations and Tribes across Indian Country, including Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian leaders, called on Congress to take immediate action on the most pressing issues facing Native nations.

cess, but recognizing the urgency of these pressing issues, we are now increasing our call for congressional action," reads a letter signed by 12 leaders from the nation's leading Tribal and Native organizations. "We call on U.S. Congress members to stand with us today so we might stand together stronger in the future."

As the nation's oldest, largest and most representative American Indian

and Alaska Native organization, NCAI brought together leading inter-Tribal organizations to organize the event.

Leaders who attended the week of meetings represented the unified voice of hundreds of Tribal nations and indigenous communities from around the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

In addition to NCAI, the following inter-Tribal organizations partnered to

organize Tribal Unity Impact Week: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives, All Indian Pueblo Council, California Association of Tribal Governments, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Navajo Nation, United South and Eastern Tribes, and United Tribes of North Dakota.