

Electronics helps detect lightening fires

During the last ten years, lightening has started an average of 872 fires in Oregon and Washington annually, but the size of lightening-caused fires has been reduced by new technology, according to Buck Pino, Regional Fire Dispatcher for the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region.

"Lightning fires have burned an average of 1,749 acres per year or two acres per fire over the last 15 years," Pino said. "But quicker detection has reduced their destruction to an average of less than one acre each."

The improved record can be attributed partially to an electronic lightning detection system originally implemented by the Bureau of Land Management and currently used by the Forest Service and other government and private agencies.

The key element of the system is eight antennae strategically located in the states of Oregon and Washington. The antennae detect every cloud-to-ground lightning strike through the electric current it generates. A direction finder then picks up the signal, determines the azimuth and time of day for any location in a three station area. This data is transmitted automatically to Boise, Idaho where a computer triangulates information from two or more direction finders and thus

determines the location.

The location is then transmitted electronically to the Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the USDA Forest Service in Portland, where the strike is automatically recorded on a map on a computer screen. Less than a second transpires between the strike and the recording on the map.

Ken Snell, Forest Service operations analyst, explains that a lightning strike does not necessarily mean a fire. But early knowledge does alert forest officials who can use spotter planes or other means of determining exact conditions. Smokejumpers may be dispatched promptly if conditions warrant.

Human-caused fires have also been reduced over the last ten years through the use of Smokey Bear and other public education programs. The 10-year average of 679 human caused fires dropped to a 1983 total of 407. During the last ten years, these fires burned an average of 5,741 acres. In 1983, this was down to 3,589 acres.

Last year, 42 percent of the human-caused fires in the Northwest were the result of campfires and 14 percent were the result of smoker's carelessness. It's everyone's responsibility to prevent wildfires.

Indian health status law

The health status of American Indian people still falls far short of the national norm despite several decades of steady improvement, according to a report in the latest issue of Indian Affairs, the national newsletter of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

In "Year of Decision for Indian Health," the Association examines major developments in Indian health care since 1955 and reveals that, by most recent statistics,

*The Indian infant mortality rate in the first month of life is 1.1 times higher than the general population, and is almost twice as high in the 28-day to 11-month age range.

*The maternal death rate for Indian women is 20 percent higher than the national norm, and 43 percent of all Indian people die before they reach age 55—compared to just 16

percent of the population as a whole.

*Compared to that of the general population, the Indian death rate for tuberculosis is six times higher; for chronic liver disease, 4.4 times higher; for accidents, three times; for diabetes, influenza and pneumonia, two times.

*One out of every five of the federal Indian Health Service's hospitals and clinics is in need of major rehabilitation or replacement, and the ratio of doctors and nurses serving Indian people is less than half that for the population as a whole.

These still-troubled vital signs lend urgency to current efforts in the United States Congress to bring Indian health up to par through amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, of 1976, which is up for reauthorization this year, the article concludes.

Locals win break dance contest

Three local Warm Springs youth won the break dance contest put on in Bend in conjunction with Bend's "Zany Days." Bo Parkins won first place in the individual category. The 13 year-old Parkins competed against 16

other youth for first place. Bo won a walkman stereo player. In team competition the team of Bo Parkins, Remo Smith and Z-Man Smith took top honors and won a panasonic stereo player.

Leaving home tips

Before you go about getting away from it all, there are a few things you should do so things don't get away from you while you're gone.

- *Pay current bills, arrange for payment of those coming due while you're away.
- *Advise the Post Office what to do with your mail.

- *Have large income checks paid directly to your bank if you can.
- *Cancel newspaper deliveries.
- *Unplug the TV all electrical appliances.
- *Vote an absentee ballot if there's an election during your absence.

Lesson in Warm Springs language

Indian language (Warm Springs)

Twini Miyawax
Bear with Tail
told by Betty Lou Lucio

Mimi miyawax iwača twini, kaatnam. Kwnkiin pináč'łšana páyu. Táaminwa itisxp'itxana kwaana twina. Čau ik'ųštunxana tkwatatki, yalmilkna ipasiksixana tkwatatyau. Wa' autxau isiksixana tanamaman. Tł'axwyautuyau iwaintwinxana. Kwnkiin aukú išapniša, "Mišpam miša?"

Wiyat'isxi patak'iskna, čaan aukú hananui patapxwinawana.

Anam itxanana. Ku iwača nč'i puui. Tł'axwtun išana. Li...ikw'i pawac'ılaknxana twatq'ukipa tawaipa. Kwnaxi ipaišna miyawax. Aukú ik'apxwina "Aa...ana awaš tkwatata xulxulna čiwat." Pataq'inuna ku nuwait ipapašapniša, "Mišlikina ašapašwita miyawaxna?" Kunki naxš inatxanana, "Auna ašapawac'ılakta pmikiin twinki. Aukú tı'ak awainata." Či aukú i'aišna ku iwac'ılakna twinki. Aukúškiin ipinašukana xati'k awainana twin ku itutiya ku ipinawapašaiya twin ku inatxana, "Aa...ana aunaš txana twinut." Ku pinasapa-k'ulkaya ku iwanina. Kumán aukú iwá twinut.

Interpretation

Long ago the black bear had a tail, a long one. He was excessively proud of it. Always he would be grooming that tail. He didn't worry about food, he would get chummy with just anyone for food. He especially favored getting chummy with Indians. He would watch everything they did. And then asks, "What are you folks doing?"

For a long time they put up with him, but there came a time when they just got tired of him.

Winter came. And there was a heavy snowfall. Everything froze. All day long they would fish through a hole cut in the ice. The black bear showed up at that place. Then he thought to himself "Oh I'll eat my fill of trout." They spotted him and at once they asked, "How shall we

teach the black bear a lesson?" Then one of them said, "Let's make him fish with his tail. Then it'll break off." So then he sat down and fished with his tail. Suddenly he felt his tail snap off and he stoop up and felt around in his rear for his tail and said, "Oh, I've lost my tail!" And he covered up his rear and went away. And from then on the black bear has no tail.

Hot Shot crew busy

Firefighters on the Warm Springs Hot Shot crew have been gaining firefighting experience recently during suppression of three Deschutes National Forest fires. The 20-person crew has assisted in suppression fires at Kelsey Butte, Skyliner and Fly Lake.

The crew has excellent reports, according to Hot Shot squad leader Bruce Jim. "The Tribe's money is being well-spent," Jim feels.

Hot Shot crews are called into fires threatening large plots of land where experienced and disciplined firefighters are needed. Physical endurance

and stamina are essential for Hot Shot crew members. The demands on firefighters include climbing steep terrain and working in dangerous conditions for long periods of time. With specialized firefighting techniques they work with other firefighters in building fire lines and performing mop-up activities.

The Warm Springs Hot Shot crew was formed three months ago. Since that time, crew members have received extensive training in firefighting skills. Maintaining physical fitness is also part of the crew's

training. Five mile daily hikes have been increased to 12 miles.

The Hot Shots are full-time tribal employees all of whom are tribal members. When not firefighting, they are assigned to building fire trails and reducing fire hazards through prescribed burns. The crew also works with other departments on reservation projects. They are available for work on such projects, according to Jim. Information may be obtained from the Fire Control Office at 553-1161, ext. 413.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno-Baker

The season of the fire is here

On Sunday, July 8, a grass, sagebrush and juniper fire was controlled through the combined efforts of Fire Management and the Fire and Safety department in the Upper Dry Creek area. A total of two acres were burned with no damage to any structures. This year, the fire conditions are "bad" with the hot temperatures and an overabundance of tall dried wildgrasses. This, wildgrasses have grown above normal thus, making fire conditions extremely hazardous. Also, this summer, fewer people have requested control burns around their homes by Fire Management. Fire management officer Walt Sixkiller advises, "control burns eliminate fire hazards." If you have tall dried grasses in your area contact Fire Management at 553-1161, ext 413 to arrange a control burn. This fire season the Fire Management "hot shot" team has responded to 30 fires, 26 of those fires have been on the reservation.