

National Forest Emphasizes Safety at Annual Fire School

Seasonal Help Is Instructed in All Aspects of Control

Emphasizing safety, the Rogue River National forest conducted its annual fire control training school June 21 to 24 at Camp 2 located on the Butte Falls district.

Purpose of the school is to acquaint seasonal and new forest employees in the correct methods of detection and suppression of fires. Most of the trainees will man lookouts and guard camps during the summer months. Many of them are college students who spend their summer vacation employed by the forest service.

Coordination and planning of the school was under the direction of Robert H. Torheim, fire control officer on the Rogue River National forest. Assisting him in the instruction of the courses were district rangers, a assistant rangers, and fire control officers from the six districts.

More than 70 trainees attended the session. They were divided into seven groups, composed of lookouts, firemen, and suppression crews. The employment assignment for the summer determined placement in the groups.

Instruction in fire behavior was accomplished by Harold A. Thomas, ranger of the Ashland district, who was assisted by Bob Taylor, assistant ranger of the same district.

In this course, students were instructed of the various elements that affect burning characteristics of fire. Demonstrations of burning materials gave graphic illustrations of fire behavior. A special-built table made of wood, asbestos, and sheet metal, which was hinged in the middle, was used to demonstrate the effect of terrain.

To simulate steep country and the effects of convection currents, the hinged table was raised in the middle, and burning pine needles and twigs were placed on the inclined surface and ignited. In this manner, the students were able to see how fire reacts on a slope as opposed to flat surface.

Thomas discussed the subject of weather as related to fire control. In this, he disclosed the effect of humidity and temperature on fire. He pointed out that humidity during the night is higher than in the day. Thus in fire suppression, control should be accomplished by 10 a.m. of the morning following discovery, before the humidity drops appreciably. Temperature, according to Thomas, has less effect on fire than humidity, but humidity generally drops as temperature rises.

To demonstrate the effect of wind, a small hand model hair dryer was used to fan the flames of a miniature fire. This example served to show

how a strong draft can increase rate of spread and danger of spot-fires. The men were also cautioned to be on the alert for "dust-devils," which are small scale tornadoes, and are capable of spreading fire over a considerable distance in an extremely short period of time.

During the lecture, Thomas stressed safety. He stated, "The two main responsibilities of a crew boss are to get a full days work from his men, and to watch out for the safety of the crew."

Map Reading Course
The map reading course was instructed by Darroll K. Frewing, Klamath district ranger; Paul Brady, fire control officer of the Klamath district; Randall F. Perkins, assistant ranger, Butte Falls, and Aaa D. Twombly, Union Creek district ranger; assisted by Robert Webb, Applegate; Ward Blaine, Prospect; Gordon Walker, Butte Falls; George Woodling, Ashland; and Robert Snoch, Applegate.

The purpose of this course was to acquaint the students in practical map reading. After a definition of rangelines and townships, the section numbering system was explained. The trainees were taught to read the legal description of maps down to 40 acre tracts.

Given a legend upon which appeared such marks as buildings, forest camps, national forest boundaries, roads, trails, telephone lines, and lookouts, students were given specific points to find on the fireman's maps. Upon location of the point, they were then called upon to give the legal description of the 40-acre quarter in which it appeared.

Maps used in this course are the most accurate maps available, having been prepared from aerial photos.

The proper use of tools was instructed by Lowell Ash, fire control officer of the Union Creek district; Neil Suttell, Douglas Baker, Prospect district ranger; Robert Krell, assistant ranger, Prospect; Aaa Twombly, Union Creek district ranger; and Donald Strong, Butte Falls district ranger. Assistant instructors were George Woodling, Robert Taylor, and Robert Asher, Ashland; Ward Blaine, Prospect; and Robert Snoch, Applegate. The trainees were instructed in the same method of using basic fire tools, and the proper care of this equipment.

The three tools demonstrated included a shovel, a hazel hoe, and a Pulaski, which is a combination axe and hoe. A fire pack was disassembled to show the contents. The pack, which weighs about 50 pounds includes everything that is needed for the initial attack on a small fire. This includes a compass, protractor and map to aid the smoke-chaser in location of the fire, food, tools, a first aid kit, a water-type fire extinguisher, and the necessary forms and reports.

The progressive method of fire line construction was explained, and practiced by students. This system, called the "bump" method is handled as follows:

Linebuilder First
The linebuilder goes first with a cruiser's axe and blazes the trail. He is followed by two men with Pulaskis who brush out the fire line. Next comes the men with hazel hoes who break up the ground; and last, the shovel crew who clear away the ground down to the mineral earth. The last man in the line controls the line movement. When he catches up to the man directly ahead, he yells "bump". The order is carried up the line and each man then moves ahead a short distance and resumes work. In fire line construction, the most important element is cooperation. Each man must function as a part of the team.

Students were then instructed that the purpose of a fire-line is singular. It isn't to stop fire, but to create a line from which a backfire can be set, and burned in the direction of the fire.

After instruction in the methods of tool handling and small fire action, the crews were given actual fires to suppress, under supervision of the instructors. The groups were divided into three-man crews, with one crew to a fire. When the fires were put out, a critique was held to discuss the performance of the crews, again stressing safety.

The smokechasing portion of the school began with a lecture on how to read a compass. Each man was then allowed to practice reading the bearings to several known landmarks. The group then formed an a 100-foot course which had been previously staked out. They paced the course 3 or 4 times, counting each double step. They were then able to average out the length of their pace.

Each man was given a different azimuth (compass bearing) and distance to a hypothetical fire. Dividing their length of step into the distance to the fire, and following the compass bearing, the men then headed off into the brush in pursuit of their fire. When the specified distance was paced off, the trainee then called to an instructor who measured his distance from the mark. In this manner, each man was able to determine his accuracy in smokechasing.

Instructors for this course were Robert Webb, Applegate; Douglas Baker, Prospect; Darroll Frewing and Paul Brady, Klamath; Donald Strong, Butte Falls; and Harold Thomas, Ashland assisted by Gordon Walker, Butte Falls; Robert Taylor, Ashland; and Ward Blaine, Prospect.

A lesson in fire detection was given for the lookouts by Douglas Finch, fire control officer on the Butte Falls district. Assisting him was Douglas Shaw, assistant ranger of the Klamath district.

In this course, lookouts were given instruction and practice in the use of a fire-finder. The fire-finder is a large flat circular disc upon which is a 1/4-inch scale map of the area. It is equipped with two sights.

The lookout lines up the sights on the Butte Falls district. He reads the bearings of the fire off the bearing circle. He ascertains the vertical angle of the fire in relation to the elevation of the lookout by reading another scale. He then reads the distance of the fire from him on another scale and reports the fire. He gives the distance, legal description of the area down to the 40 acre quarter, direction from which smoke is drifting, volume, color, and characteristics, estimated size, and whether or not the base is sighted.

This information goes to the dispatcher. If two or more lookouts can take bearings on the same smoke, the references are cross-plotted, and the location is considered much more accurate. Instruction for the lookout group was held on Buck Point Lookout, an emergency manned station.

At the completion of the fire control school session, a test was administered to the students to ascertain the value of the training session, and to determine where additional instruction might have been beneficial. Evening events during the school included a softball game refereed by Harold Thomas, and a lecture on the use of the forest service radio commission system by Harold Howard, electronics technician. Contests were held in compass reading and pacing, dirt throwing and log sawing.



PRACTICE USE—A group of students receive practice in the progressive method of fire line construction. They are supervised by George Woodling, forester on the Ashland district, and Neil Suttell, Applegate district ranger. It was part of a fire control training school in the Butte Falls district by George Woodling, forester on the Ash-



CHECK HOT SPOTS—After suppressing a fire, members of the crew feel for hot spots with bare hands to make sure all sparks are extinguished. About 70 trainees participated in the forest service's fire control school last week.

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Owners Report Galls Near Homes

Many home owners have been calling the county extension office inquiring about the tiny mustard-seed-like galls which they find on their patios and under their oaks, according to Don Berry, Jackson county extension agent.

"These little galls have a tendency to jump like a Mexican jumping bean," Berry said. "This characteristic is imparted in them by a tiny insect which is inside."

As the galls ripen and fall from the underside of the oak leaves, the larvae throws itself within the gall causing it to jump considerable distances probably in an attempt to find seclusion in a crack or crevice for hibernation.

The following spring tiny black wasps emerge and re-infect the oak leaves in the area. This is a common pest which is occurring in epidemic proportions this year. They work only on oak leaves, and there is no known control for them, the county agent said. However, they are seldom considered a serious problem.

Horse Show Queen Injured in Fall

Salem - (UPI) - The Queen of the Keizer Area Lions Club Horse Show fell from a horse Friday evening and suffered a slight concussion.

Queen Jo Ann Monner, 14, Salem, was hurled over the head of her horse "Tammy" when the animal fell at the Monner home.

Jo Ann rode in the Keizer Days parade Saturday morning, but in a car—not on a horse.

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CAMP LEADERSHIP
The "Y" has a Camp Director, Program Director, three Unit Directors (one for each age unit), and a Cabin Counselor for each cabin. They all attend the Pre-Camp Leadership Training Course held by the YMCA.

HEALTH
A camp nurse is always on duty with a fully equipped First Aid Room with beds. She is a Registered Nurse. A health exam is required by all campers prior to going to camp. Cleanliness is stressed to all the campers during the entire week.

LOCATION OF CAMP
The "Y's" camp is located on the southwest corner of Diamond Lake. It is at the south end of the country homes area. Diamond Lake is about 10 miles northwest of Crater Lake. The road is well marked to the camp.

IMPORTANT TIMES TO REMEMBER
Camp starts on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Camp ends at 4:00 p.m. on the following Saturday. Sign up for camp as soon as possible, as the YMCA will have to stop registrations when the list is 72 campers per week. Camp office is open week days from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10:00 to 12:00 in the morning. Day Camp starts at 9:00 a.m. each morning.