

Delaware sending wildfire crew to Utah in response to large fires in West

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[Click here for photo album](#) from DES#2 – Fire crew mobilization at Blackbird State Forest on Sunday, August 11.



After battling a wildfire in Alaska in July, the Delaware Forest Service has again fielded a 20-person volunteer crew, now headed to Utah to await assignment to a fire in that region.

Back row (from left) are: Samuel L. Topper of Federalsburg, MD; Monica Testa of Wilmington; Michael Krumrine of Magnolia; Scott A. Veasey of Millsboro; Guy W. Cooper of Millville; Tyler S. Torres of Smyrna; Jonathan E. Stave of Newark; Brian K. Ward Jeffrey A. Wilson of Clayton; Todd W. Shaffer of Atglen, PA; **Front row** (from left) Luke S. Terrell of Salisbury, MD; Kyle M. Kokoszka of Middletown; Todd Gsell of Townsend; William K. Ruark of Towson, MD; Brian P. Keszler of Middletown; Robert S. Baldwin of Chestertown, MD; Bartholomew D. Wilson of Dover; Matthew Chamberlain of Newark; Michael D. Hyde of Havre de Grace, MD; Michael A. Valenti of Dover.

In response to increased fire activity in the West, the Delaware Forest Service is sending a 20-person crew of wildland firefighters to Utah. The crew will be “pre-positioned” there before its likely assignment to a fire in the Eastern Great Basin region. This is the second crew that Delaware has dispatched this summer – the first team was sent to battle an 85,000-acre blaze near North Pole, Alaska in July.

The 20-person team departed at approximately 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 11, from Blackbird State Forest, 502 Blackbird Forest Road, Smyrna, DE, 19977. They will be boarding a flight to Salt Lake City, Utah from Harrisburg, PA on the morning of Monday, August 12.

The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise Idaho (<http://www.nifc.gov>) has increased its National Preparedness Level to 4 on a 5-point scale, in response to the fact that “36 wildfires are burning in eight western states and Alaska and nine new large fires have been reported in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming.”



Kyle M. Kokoszka, a volunteer firefighter from Middletown, packs his gear for the trip out West.

Wildfire Crew Members and Hometowns:

*Crew Boss

Samual L. Topper*	Federalsburg, MD
Monica Testa	Wilmington
Michael Krumrine	Magnolia
Scott A. Veasey	Millsboro
Guy W. Cooper	Millville
Tyler S. Torres	Smyrna

Jonathan E. Stave	Newark
Brian K. Ward	Houston
Jeffrey A. Wilson	Clayton
Todd W. Shaffer	Atglen, PA
Luke Spencer Terrell	Salisbury, MD
Kyle M. Kokoszka	Middletown
Todd Gsell	Townsend
William Keegan Ruark	Towson, MD
Brian P. Keszler	Middletown
Robert S. Baldwin	Chestertown, MD
Bartholomew D. Wilson	Dover
Matthew Chamberlain	Newark
Michael Davis Hyde	Havre de Grace, MD
Michael A. Valenti	Dover

A Preparedness Level IV is triggered under the following conditions:

- Three or more Geographic Areas are experiencing incidents requiring Type 1 and 2 IMTs.
- Competition exists between Geographic Areas.
- Nationally, 60 percent of Type 1 and 2 IMTs and crews are committed.

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