

Delaware wildfire crew fighting blazes in N. California



Front Row (from left) Kiera Westfall of Philadelphia, PA, Jennifer DeCarlo of Felton, Nicholas Sturm and Christopher Sturm of Hamburg, PA, Samuel Topper of Federalsburg, MD, and Guy Cooper of Millville. Second Row (from left) – Erich Burkentine of Milton, Katrina Rothbart of Magnolia, Daniel Mihok of Magnolia, Monica Testa of Newark, Alexander Pratt of Ambler, PA, Kyle Hoyd of Felton, Todd Gsell of Townsend, and Matthew Paul of Bear. Back Row (from left) – Jeffery Wilson of Clayton, Michael Krumrine of Magnolia, Andrew ‘Doug’ Rawling of Newark, Adam Keever of Newark, and Todd Shaffer of Smithsburg, MD (Not pictured: Scott Veasey of Millsboro).



Flickr Album: [Photos from crew departure at Blackbird State Forest on Saturday, August 1.](#)

The Delaware Forest Service has joined with four 20-person crews from Maryland (1), Ohio (1) and Pennsylvania (2) to fight a wave of lightning-caused wildfires around Hayfork, California in the area of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. California has declared a state of emergency and the Northern California Region is now at its maximum Preparedness Level of 5 on a 5-point scale. Delaware’s team is part of almost 1,500 personnel currently assigned to an incident known as the [Fork Complex](#), which consists of approximately 40 fires totaling more than 25,000 acres located near Hayfork, CA. All of the blazes were ignited by lightning between July 29 and 31, 2015 and are currently listed as only 5 percent contained. Due to the evolving nature and

complexity of the firefighting operation, a Type I Incident Management Team was to assume command of the Fork Complex on August 3, including all the fires around Hayfork, including the Blue, Deer, Rail, Farmer, and Barker Fires.

According to fire officials, the blazes have forced several evacuations and road closures. The Red Cross has established an evacuation center at the Solid Rock Christian Church at the intersection of State Route 3 and Tule Creek Road in Hayfork. The Salvation Army is also offering water and meals to residents at the Church, whether or not they are staying at the evacuation center.



Delaware's wildfire crew was on the scene in California yesterday awaiting orders from its incident command post. Pictured from left: Alex Pratt, Doug Rawlings, Guy Cooper, Adam Keever, Mike Krumrine, Jeff Wilson, and Todd Shaffer. (Photo by Kyle Hoyd).