

# **Kaibab National Forest Wildfire Prevention & Education Team**

## **Communication Plan**

**May 22 – June 5, 2006**

### **Goal**

To provide wildfire prevention and education expertise to help prevent human-caused wildfires on the Kaibab National Forest and assist the Forest in other prevention activities as needed.

The focus areas are the Williams and Tusayan Ranger Districts. Assistance will also be provided as needed to the Grand Canyon National Park, North Kaibab Ranger District and the Coconino National Forest.

### **Target Audiences**

USDA Forest Service  
National Park Service  
Local communities  
Volunteer fire departments  
Recreational visitors  
Media

### **Objectives**

The primary objective of this team is to provide expertise to help prevent human-caused fires. The main causes of unwanted human-caused wildfires that threaten the Kaibab National Forest are:

- Careless recreational practices, such as campfires and ATVs
- Careless disposal of ashes
- Debris burning
- Smoking

The prevention team will work toward accomplishing this objective by:

1. Providing consistent fire restrictions and fire prevention messages to the public and the media.

2. Supporting fire prevention education efforts and events already underway including presentations to civic and home owners associations, participation in community events such as fairs and local celebrations and providing prevention information to forest visitors.
3. Creating or obtaining fire prevention products for dissemination as time allows.

The team members should always convey the important natural role of fire in the ecosystem while promoting the prevention of unwanted human-caused wildfires.

Safety will be a priority throughout all activities.

### **Strategies**

- Meet with agency and local leaders to discuss areas of concern or emphasis as related to wildfire prevention on the Kaibab National Forest.
- Obtain a list of events that the Forest needs assistance in getting out wildfire prevention and education information.
- Research what fire prevention products are available and what needs to be ordered, or developed.

### **The Fire Prevention Team will provide the following assistance:**

- Provide consistent fire prevention and restriction messages to the public and the media.
- Support ongoing fire prevention education efforts already underway.
- Provide media support as needed; i.e., news releases, interviews, etc.
- Establish records and files for subsequent teams to maintain an efficient transition between teams.

### **Tactics**

- Participate in community events. Gather materials needed and staff information exhibits.
- Visit communities to increase awareness on wildfire prevention.

- Develop draft ideas for flyers, brochures, handouts, coloring sheets coloring restaurant placemats, and other handout materials. These may need to be completed by Team 2.
- Order magnetic car signs to identify team.
- Order Smokey Bear supplies for use by future teams.
- Keep records and files (electronic files and hard-copy files) of accomplishments, including contacts.
- Provide a transition report to assist subsequent teams in providing a coordinated effort to handle fire prevention messages and support on the Kaibab National Forest.

## **Talking Points**

### **1. Wildfire under current severe conditions can be very destructive**

- Firefighters put their lives on the line for the residents of Arizona.
- Uncontrolled wildfires carry a cost for everyone!
  - Safety - Firefighters and the public
  - Property
  - Natural resources
  - Tax dollars
- Wildfires burn hotter and faster when it is dry, making them harder to control.

### **2. On the Kaibab National Forest, wildfires that are human-caused are mostly caused by:**

- Campfires
- Escaped debris burning
- Improper disposal of ashes from fireplaces and charcoal cooking
- ATVs
- Smoking

### **3. What is being done to help protect your lives, communities and natural resources?**

- We have brought in additional (national) resources to the Kaibab National Forest to raise awareness about the high fire danger to help prevent human-caused wildfires.
  - National Fire Prevention Team

### **4. What can you do to help prevent human-caused wildfires and help protect your lives, communities, and natural resources?**

#### **Campfires**

- Observe restrictions on federal lands.
  - Kaibab NF and Coconino NF - as of 5/24/06, campfires are restricted in all areas, except designated fee campsites.
- Starting 5/27/06, during red flag warnings, all campfires may be restricted on certain days

#### **Be Firewise**

- Protect your house and property by creating survivable space. Make it lean, clean and green.
- Store flammable fuels in a secure place and provide adult supervision to reduce the risks of intentional or unintentional fires started by youths.

#### **Debris Burning**

- Choose not to burn debris when conditions are severe. Use alternatives for burning, such as, chipping, composting, and creation of wildlife piles.
- If you burn, use recommended methods.
- Always notify the appropriate authorities prior to burning.

#### **Vehicle Use**

- Don't park on dry grass. Vehicle catalytic converters can ignite dry grass when wildfire conditions are severe.
- ATVs and Equipment – use spark arrestors.

#### **Smoking**

- Observe current restrictions on federal lands.
  - Kaibab and Coconino National Forests – as of 5/24/06, smoking is allowed ONLY in enclosed vehicles and buildings or in a developed fee campground.

- Grand Canyon National Park restrictions may be different.
- Always use an ashtray and use common sense. Cigarettes can ignite wildfires easily when humidity is below 10%, which is typical during severe wildfire conditions in the spring and early summer, and during drought.

### **Hot Ash Disposal**

- Dispose of wood ashes in a metal container that can be tightly closed, douse with water, place the closed container outside your home away from combustible materials, and leave in the container for several days before disposing of them.
- Do NOT place hot ashes in a dumpster where there are certainly other combustible materials.
- Do NOT dispose of ashes in paper, plastic, or cardboard containers.
- Do NOT assume the ashes are cold and pour them onto the ground (even into a hole) where leaves can blow onto them or the wind can stir up sparks.