



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2018

### **Opportunity to see fire investigators in training**

(Coeur d'Alene) – In preparation for the upcoming fire season, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is training 25 people from various agencies to become wildland fire investigators. To help news agencies and the public better understand fire investigations, reporters and photographers are invited to see some of the field training first hand. This will be during a field test portion of the class in which trainees will be examining a burned area, talking to witnesses and working to determine the cause of the fire.

Instructors and trainees will be available for interviews. The training is Thursday, April 19, near Post Falls, across the road from 5536 South State Line Road. The entry gate is about a ¼ mile from the actual training and parking areas.

The training will be available to the media from 1:00 p.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, please contact Sharla Arledge by emailing [pio@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:pio@idl.idaho.gov) or calling 208-334-0286.

Last fire season there were 212 fires on state, private and federal lands protected by Idaho Department of Lands, and 147 of those were human-caused. Each human-caused fire on lands protected by the State of Idaho is investigated by IDL. If an investigator determines there was negligence in causing the fire, the person who started the fire is billed for the cost of fighting the fire, as allowed by Idaho Code 38-107.

The IDL is in the process of sending out multiple bills that add up to \$3.4 million in firefighting costs from negligent fire starts. The money recovered goes into the Fire Preparedness dedicated fund that allows IDL to hire firefighters and get fire equipment in place prior to the fire season.

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