



Zion National Park Fire Management



Interagency Fire Center Opens in Cedar City

An open house was held on November 20, 2003 to celebrate the opening of the Interagency Fire Center in Cedar City, Utah. This newly constructed facility was a cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Forest Service, and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. All of these agencies make up an organization that is known as the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area that works cooperatively to manage all aspects of wildland fire management in Southwest Utah and Northwest Arizona. The facility will serve as the main dispatch and resource supply center for interagency firefighting efforts throughout the Eastern Great Basin area.

This project was funded through Congressional appropriations associated with the National Fire Plan of 2000, which recognized the need for improved firefighting preparedness after that year's severe wildfire season.

The Fire Center hosts a broad range of wildland fire management personnel within the Color Country Area including engine crews, hot shots, fire use modules, hand crews, fuels crews and dispatchers. Shared training, briefings, and continuous interaction provide an atmosphere and environment that promotes higher levels of safety, both in fire operations and interagency cooperation.

The Fire Center facility is comprised of a dispatch center, conference/training room, offices for fire, computer and business personnel, break room, locker and shower facilities, as well as a physical conditioning room. This facility will also accommodate the Color Country MAC Group, Expanded Dispatch and Buying Team when these groups are necessary. Adjacent to the Fire Center is the new Fire Cache building with room to incorporate all existing local caches. Also new is the Engine Operations building that houses indoor parking for three type 4 engines, two type 6 engines and one water tender, as well as space for an initial attack cache, saw shop and workshop.

The Interagency Fire Center (along with the Air Operations Center opened last year) will give Color Country the state of the art facilities needed to provide quick, safe and more efficient protection from wildfires that threaten public and private properties in the Eastern Great Basin and throughout the West. It also represents the value of interagency cooperation that is vital in our efforts to successfully manage fire in Color Country.