



## Zion National Park Fire Management



Blacklining along Kolob Terrace Road

### Pine Valley Peak Prescribed Fire

In October of 2007, fire management personnel from Zion National Park, with cooperation from interagency partners, began implementation of the Pine Valley Peak Prescribed Fire. This 1,000+ acre burn unit is located on the west side of the park, along the Kolob Terrace Road and is a second entry prescribed burn for the area. Smaller segments were previously burned in 1999 and 2000.

Specific fire and resource management goals associated with this second entry burn were to continue to apply fire to the landscape to re-establish the natural role fire plays in this ecosystem and to maintain boundary protection by reduction of excess hazardous fuels.

The project began with a blacklining operation along a trail in the burn unit that had been mechanically treated to reduce the risk of fire escape. Blacklining was followed by hand ignition of the interior of the unit. The project was completed in two phases over a period of a week due to weather conditions. Once the area was ignited, it burned actively for a few days and then smoldered for an extended period. The fire was closely monitored by park personnel until declared out.

Smoke dispersal was very good during the burn due to favorable wind conditions and a high clearing index. Few impacts from smoke were encountered during the burn. Some temporary trail closures were instituted in and adjacent to the burn unit, however trails were reopened as soon as it was safe to do so.

As usual, the dispersal of information before, during and after the prescribed fire was part of its success. Local citizens and business owners were contacted and made aware of the park's proposed burns through press releases, phone calls and personal visits. The park will continue to work with local residents and businesses to inform them of future planned prescribed burns and the management reasons for them.

The Pine Valley Peak Rx will benefit both Zion National Park and the landowners and residents of the area. The burn will not only provide them with a lowered risk from wildland fire, but will also benefit the plants and animals of the fire-adapted ponderosa pine ecosystem. The policy of using fire as a management tool will help decrease risks to life, property and resources and will help perpetuate the values for which the park was established.



Morning briefing prior to Rx ignition.



Classic ponderosa pine underburn.