



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park of
American Samoa

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National Park of American Samoa News Release

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National Park Hosts Wildland Firefighter Refresher Training

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The National Park of American Samoa hosted its annual Wildland Firefighter Refresher Training on May 1 and 2. John Ziegler, Kings District Fire Management Officer from Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks in California traveled to American Samoa to present the training.

To become wildland firefighters, these men and women have to pass an initial course, followed by yearly refresher training and two weeks of skills training. They also must remain fit and healthy. As part of the refresher training they must pass the pack test. This test requires that firefighters walk three miles in less than 45-minutes while wearing a 45-pound pack.

“We sponsor over 30 federal wildland firefighters each year that are trained and ready to fight fires during the hot summer months on the United States mainland. They work side-by-side with fire crews from across the nation to help save the resources that people need and to keep communities safe,” said Superintendent Jim Bacon.

The primary response area for the Samoan fire crew is Northern California.

The National Park of American Samoa works in partnership with the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's Wildland Fire Program to train and administer these firefighters.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

About the National Park of American Samoa. The national park was established in 1988 to preserve and protect the coral reefs, tropical rainforests, fruit bats, the Samoan culture, and to provide for the enjoyment of these to this and future generations. National park lands and waters in Tutuila, Ta'ū, and Ofu islands are leased from villages and the American Samoa Government through a long-term agreement with the National Park Service.

For more information about visiting the National Park of American Samoa, call 633-7082, email NPSA_Info@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/npsa. Also, visit the national park's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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