



Zion National Park Fire Management



NPS Director Fran Mainella with Zion NP Fire Management Staff and Grand Teton NP /Bridger-Teton NF Interagency Fire Crew

Director Mainella Attends Zion NP Morning Fire Briefing

During a June 30, 2005 visit to Zion National Park, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella took time out from her schedule to attend the morning fire management briefing. She was briefed about current and forecasted fire weather conditions, the national fire situation, resource availability in the area and daily assignments for the crews. The crews then conducted the daily *Six Minutes for Safety* session in which Director Mainella participated. She stressed that safety was the most important aspect of their jobs and something that she is personally concerned about. She also addressed the fire staff regarding the appreciation she has for all the hard, and at times dangerous, work that they do helping to protect our public and private lands from unwanted wildland fires.

One of the things she was impressed with was the interagency cooperation that occurs between governmental agencies in regards to fire management and was on display here in Zion. Due to the very high fire danger in the park and the surrounding Color Country Fire Management Area, a 14-person interagency fire crew from Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest was on a severity assignment to the park for initial attack duties and, when available, to assist with park fuel reduction projects. Director Mainella made the point that fire does not recognize jurisdictional boundaries and that this type of interagency cooperation is crucial to fire management nationwide.

After the briefing, Director Mainella was given a quick overview of Zion's Fire Management program and some of the issues we are facing such as the abundance of exotic vegetation (mainly cheat grass) that is now causing major fire concerns throughout the area. Her morning with the fire staff concluded with her receiving a 'hard to come by' Zion Fire crew shirt and posing for numerous photos with firefighters. The Fire Management Staff at Zion appreciates the time that Director Mainella took to learn more about our program and the role that wildland fire plays in our national parks.