



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy Uses Tagging and Tracking System

For staff of the Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy (#NFWA2015), Saturday, April 11 began at 6:30 A.M. with a staff briefing at the command center in the Post Playhouse at the Fort Robinson State Park. Staff received a daily update, direction for the day, and a copy of the Incident Action Plan (IAP). This was the initial step in the first full day of classes at the academy.

120 students and 16 incident management trainees from Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, Texas, and Michigan are registered to attend this training.

Students were not the only ones who traveled to come. Command Staff and Instructors came from Nebraska, South Dakota, Idaho, and Arizona and spent much time in preparation for this day.

Students and staff have arrived and checked in through an onsite registration process to obtain proper tagging and tracking for this event. This process is part of the Nebraska Incident Command System that responders would be required to complete at the scene of a large wildfire incident.

At wildland fires, crews work together and are provided assignments. The assignments may be varied in function. Sometimes crews may be working in different geographic areas, but all crews have to have down time to eat and rest. Tagging and tracking helps staff track working hours, provide accountability, safety, and control of individuals entering and leaving the scene of an actual incident. The same system of accountability and tracking used at a wildland fire will be applied to the individuals attending classes at the Wildland Fire Academy. The use of tagging and tracking at a training program provides an opportunity for emergency management personnel to learn and practice the performance of this essential process.

Casey McCoy of the Nebraska Forest Service stated, "The ability to track the activity of firefighters at an incident is extremely important. The ultimate goal of tagging and tracking is to try to make sure everyone goes home safely."

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