



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

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CONTACT: Lynn True
502-564-4496

Kentucky Firefighters Return Home ***Engine Strike Team assists Florida with wildfire emergency***

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 29, 2011) – The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) firefighters who were sent to Florida earlier this month will return home today. The 11 division employees departed on June 15 to assist the Florida Division of Forestry in fire suppression efforts. An on-going drought across vast swaths of the state and numerous spreading wildfires forced Florida to request resources from Kentucky, as well as from around the country to assist with the fire emergency.

Kentucky sent an engine strike team to work several large fires, including the Espanola Fire (5,136 acres burned), the White Eagle Fire (80 acres burned) and the Little Haw Creek Fire (407 acres burned). KDF crews assisted with fire-line construction and mop-up operations.

“The crews are to be commended for their efforts and level of experience,” said Leah MacSwords, director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. “We are proud of our firefighters and pleased that we were able to assist Florida,” she added.

Other division employees left last week to fight wildfires in Georgia. These firefighters are expected to return early next month.

Forestry officials encourage public land managers, landowners and homeowners to help prevent wildfires. For information about fire prevention, please visit: <http://forestry.ky.gov/wildlandfiremanagement/Pages/KentuckyFirewiseProgram.aspx> or contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry office at 502-564-4496.

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