

2009 Season Report

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Utah Fire and Rescue Academy Wildland Fire Crew
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Fire Season Overview

The UFRA Wild land Internship crew's 2009 fire season was a successful learning experience. Due to movement throughout the Lone Peak organization Wade Snyder detailed into the Foreman position on the Lone Peak Hotshots. Because of that detail it created opportunity on the UFRA crew for Lyle Jennings and James Pummel to step into new roles and run the crew.

5/4/08 – 8/25/09

In 2009 the Eastern Great Basin experienced a slower fire season than previously observed. The majority of the crews' time was spent in Utah, the UFRA crew responded to 3 fires out of state.



The season started on July 15. Although the fire season was slow and a majority of the tours were short, we feel that the season was productive and a huge success.

One of the best tours for the UFRA crew this year was the 12-day tour that started in Garden Valley, Idaho. Upon arriving on scene at the Eight Mile fire the UFRA crew was transported by helicopter to the fire. The crew spent three days suppressing the fire until a severe weather storm was predicted to hit the area. Once the crew was transported back down to base camp they received word that a resource order came through for the Big Pole fire located in the Stansbury Mountains, West of Salt Lake City, Utah. The UFRA crew traveled back to Utah and was placed on a very critical part of the fire, where they spent the rest of the 9-days on tour. This fire tested the knowledge of communicating and directing heavy air support, helicopter flights, long line operations, burning operations, digging hot line, long hikes in and out on steep rough terrain, felling fire weakened trees,

spiking out for long duration and eating MRE's for a long period of time. After the crew tied in the section they were on, they hiked back from spike camp to their vehicles. The sight was rewarding for the whole crew who had just completed a challenging week. This fire was a

great test for the entire crew, which tested



everyone mentally & physically

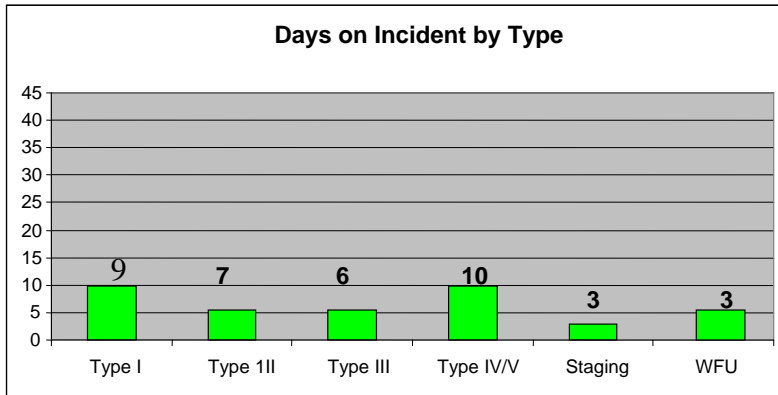
8/26/08 – 10/22/09

Soon after the Big Pole fire the crew lost two student-employees who returned back to school. This loss allowed opportunities for crew members from the Dromedary Peaks fuels module to move on to the UFRA crew.



The later part of the season continued to be steady with small fires and project work. The UFRA crew was able to go to Wyoming and help with a type 4 incident, and finished the fire season in Zion National Park on a type 3 incident.

Fire Assignment Summary



The 2009 season was very unique. The UFRA crew was dealt many hard tasks and each student learned a lot throughout the summer. Students now have the ability to take this gained knowledge to other areas of interest or continue to build an exciting career in Wild land firefighting.

Incident Dates	State	Risk Type	Fuel Type	Fire Size	Incident Name
4/13	UT	RX3	2,6	B	Galena Property RX
7/15 – 7/16	UT	4	2,5,	B	Twin Knolls
7/21 – 7/23	UT	4	9	B	McCook Ridge
7/23 – 7/26	CO	3	1,3,4,5,	C	Denny
8/3-8/6	ID	WFU	1,2,5,10,	D	Eight mile Creek
8/6 – 8/14	UT	2	1,2,10	G	Big Pole
8/30 – 9/5	UT	1	1,3,5,	G	Mill Flat
9/5 – 9/7	UT	4	1,3,5,	B	New Harmony Support
9/26 – 9/28	WY	4	1,3,10	B	Rock Creek Ridge
10/4 – 10/7	UT	3	1,3,5,10	C	Lava

Project Assignment Summary



When not on fires the UFRA crew stays hard at work throughout the state of Utah. The work varies but the majority consists of fuel mitigation project in various fuel types.

The projects started May 26th with a fuel mitigation project in Aspen Acres just east of Kamas. Fuels consisted of Aspen. This was a 4 day campout. Here the fuels were primarily beetle killed timber. The crew fell, bucked, limbed and chipped the dead timber.

The crew designates two people to cook and to shop for the whole crew, this is an important task feeding 20 guys can be challenging and rewarding.

It was hit and miss with some early June snow-storms but the objectives were accomplished and the experience gained was apparent once the crew hit the fire line.

During breaks in fire assignments UFRA continued work on the timber projects. In addition to fuel mitigation the crew was tasked with a large scale trail restoration project. This was a 4 day campout on the Dixie National Forest. Here the crew re-established an equestrian trail through thick gamble oak. Using chainsaws and hand tools UFRA was able to clear nearly five miles last year and two miles this year on the South Boundary trail, East of Cedar City.

Typically projects are not the preferred assignment but they are what enable the crew to guarantee 40 hours a week to its employees. Through thick and thin the UFRA crew stuck together and was always regarded as a highly motivated and productive work force whether on project or fire.

2009 UFRA Crew

Name	Position	Duration
Lyle Jennings	Crew Boss	Permanent
James Pummel	Assistant Crew Boss	Permanent
Geoff Whatcott	Squad Boss	4/15/09-10/22/09
Matt Schrier	Squad Boss	4/15/09 – 10/22/09
Robert Reedy	Squad Boss	4/30/09 – 10/22/09
Chad Roscher	Lead Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Ted Sneed	Lead Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Scott Swensen	Lead Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Adam Everett	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Daniel Walton	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Nick Flemmer	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Jaxon Mehloff	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Michael Cunniff	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Logan Peterson	Sawyer	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Jon Oliveria	Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Austin Wilson	Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Nico Paraso	Crewmember	5/4/09 – 10/22/09
Zack Peterson	Crewmember	5/4/09 – 8/15/09
Justin James	Crewmember	5/4/09 – 8/5/09
Pedro Estrada	Crewmember	5/4/09– 7/10/09

2009 UFRA Detailers

A special thanks to all the Lone Peak personnel that helped fill open positions on UFRA and the other Lone Peak fire crews. These individuals allowed the UFRA crew to stay available till the end of Oct. This was the first year UFRA detailed people into other positions. It shows the depth of the UFRA program, and offers opportunity for the employees. As we continue to gain experience, the crew becomes stronger through the good employees who will return to work for us and invest in the UFRA 2 I.A. crew.

UFRA	Salt Lake Helitack	Lone Peak Hotshots
William Taylor Tanner Morley Scott Crandal	Matt Schrier James Pummel	Wade Snyder

Season Data Summary

Number of days the crew was available:	152
Number of days committed to incidents:	38
Number of Project Campouts:	13
Number of Extensions to 14-day incidents:	0
Number of days paid of R & R:	0
Number of days in staging:	3
Number of days on type I/II incidents:	16
Number of days on Type III/IV/V incidents:	19
Number of days on WFU incidents:	19
Number of vehicle accidents:	0
Number of times crew flew (Helicopter):	4
Number of career personnel:	3
Number of vacant career positions:	0
Number of days on project:	53
FFT1/ICT5 Task books completed:	1
CRWB Task books completed:	1
HECM Task books completed:	1

2009 UFRA Crew Photograph



Back Row (Left to Right): Lyle Jennings, Geoff Whatcott, Scott Swensen, Robert Reedy, William Taylor, Zack Peterson, Jon Oliveria, Justin James, Nico Paraso, Austin Wilson, Chad Roscher, Ted Sneed, Matt Schrier, James Pummel.

Front Row (Left to Right): Daniel Walton, Nick Flemmer, Jaxon Mehloff, Michael Cunniff, Logan Peterson, Adam Everett