

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Returning Heroes Firefighters to Help Stop Tennessee Wildfire

Santa Fe - New Mexico State Forestry (NMSF) is sending crews from the Returning Heroes Wildland Firefighter program to aid wildfire suppression efforts in Tennessee. The crewmembers dispatched from Santa Fe in the early hours of this morning.

“New Mexico’s firefighting resources are often called upon at the national level because of their skills and dedication to service,” says State Forester Eddie Tudor. “Our Returning Heroes are primed for these efforts and proud to answer the call for help.”

The request for additional support came to NMSF from the Tennessee Interagency Coordination Center. Headed to the emergency in the east are 20 Returning Heroes personnel. The Returning Heroes will be assigned to a specific location and task upon their arrival. In recent days Tennessee has been pressured by wildfires that have resulted in evacuations, road closures, and the reported loss of homes.

The Returning Heroes Wildland Firefighter Program was created to provide veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces with training and work opportunities to fight wildland fires. Previously a pilot program, Returning Heroes was made permanent and signed into legislation by Governor Susana Martinez in 2014.

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.