

Thanks to Our Neighbors in Fighting Fire on INL



Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security view of the Twin Buttes Wildland fire aftermath atop the East Twin Butte.

As the Department of Energy’s manager at the Idaho National Laboratory, I want to commend the outstanding efforts of INL employees, and firefighting and law enforcement staff from our regional neighbors for the outstanding team-work they exhibited in controlling the Twin Buttes Fire on the INL from July 18-20.

The INL Firefighters and support workers joined together with the Blackfoot Fire Department, Idaho Falls Fire Department, Shelley Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management firefighters, Shoshone-Bannock Tribal fire crews, the Idaho State Police, and the Bingham and Butte County sheriff’s offices to effectively control the blaze and protect people and structures until the fire was extinguished. The team work and cooperation among INL staff and off-site agencies was truly impressive, and we at the INL greatly appreciate the way our neighbors jump in to help when there is a fire on the Site.



More than 50 firefighters and equipment battled the fire that was contained at 9:10 p.m. Mountain Standard Time July 19, 2007



Authorities are assessing fire damage to communications equipment and power poles atop the East Butte.

Because of the dry conditions and the wide expanse of land covered by the INL, we know there will be fires on the site, both man- and nature-caused. We prepare for them through training, maintenance of

equipment, and building buffer zones around our major facilities. (See <http://newsdesk.inl.gov/index.cfm?file=20070604> for more on our fire preparations.) Inevitably, however, we will have large fires on the site, and we rely on the skill and cooperation of the outstanding INL firefighters and those of our neighbors.

I have attached some photos on this page to show you the extent of the Twin Buttes fire and its aftermath. We are thankful there were no injuries and minimal property damage caused by this fire. I urge you all to be extra careful about fires this summer, in light of the extremely dry conditions we currently face.



An aerial scan of the area indicated the fire burned more than 9,000 acres.

Elizabeth Sellers
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