

DROMEDARY PEAK FUELS CREW

2016 SEASON REPORT



Dromedary Peak 2016

The 2016 field season was a successful season for The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew and its staff. The majority of the crew's time throughout the summer was spent helping with the suppression efforts of 11 wildfires in 4 different states throughout the west. During the season we completed pre-suppression hazardous fuels reduction work on 5 different units throughout the state of Utah. On August 20th Dromedary Peak filled the first Type 2 Initial Attack crew order of the crew's history, and remained qualified as a Type 2 Initial Attack crew for the remainder of the season.

The Dromedary Peak Fuels Crew officially began the 2016 season on May 2nd with our annual 80 hours of critical training. During our critical training, rookie crewmembers attended the S-212 chainsaw training course while returning crewmembers attended a variety of classes including RT-130, RT-212, S-133, and S-131. Different instructional stations provided the crew with a refresher on the basics of chipper operations, helicopter flight preparation, crew transportation, crew SOGs, and physical fitness training.

On day 3 of our critical training the crew traveled to Johnson's Pass in Tooele county to participate in a mock fire exercise. The field day was constructed to provide a realistic simulation of what the crew faces during the initial attack phase of a wildland fire. The exercise provided a good opportunity for the crew to begin learning their fireline roles and responsibilities, while building crew cohesion and increasing our fitness level. Sawyers had the opportunity to construct saw line through thick juniper and sage while the rest of the crew followed constructing hand line. Throughout the exercise crewmembers participated in gridding for spot fires, operating GPS units, programming radios, utilizing belt weather kits to collect weather observations, as well as identifying and cutting out a helispot. A medical situation was also built into the fire scenario with the intention of fostering our EMT's medical skills and introducing new crewmembers to the "Incident within an Incident" procedures and the Dutch Creek Protocol.

The final step of the 2016 critical training involved our annual base review at the Lone Peak Conservation Center. LPCC overhead reviewed Dromedary's administrative preparedness, crew readiness, and equipment preparedness while crewmembers went through a series of instructional stations, including a sand table exercise. Dromedary Peak was made available for wildfire assignments through the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center on May 13th.

Dromedary's first three weeks of project work was completed in the northeast area of the state. These projects offered Dromedary a chance to start building some good fundamental chainsaw skills with our new sawyers in small diameter Pinyon Pine and Juniper trees. New sawyers were also able to learn proper techniques by watching more experienced sawyers cut

larger diameter, more complex snags. We were also able to expose folks to the prescribed fire environment by burning 2 acres of slash piles.

The beginning of June found the crew on fuels reduction projects in the southeast area of the state. These projects gradually increased in complexity, providing our sawyers with experience limbing, bucking, and falling larger diameter and more complex trees while creating fuel breaks around housing communities. Dromedary Peak sent 2 crewmembers to Alta IHC for a two week detail, filling positions that became available on their crew.



On June 18th, Dromedary Peak received the first wildfire dispatch of the 2016 season. The crew spent 3 days on the West Mountain fire in Utah County before being called down to the Saddle Fire in southern Utah for the next 11 days. On these two fire assignments the crew took part in a wide variety of suppression operations, including the final Task Force Leader assignment for one individual.

During the month of July, the crew worked on a fuel break in Summit County, Utah before being called to the Choke Cherry Fire near Callao, Utah. The Summit County project provided some complex timber falling situations, and we were able to certify 2 of our sawyers as Intermediate Fallers (FAL2). On the Choke Cherry incident, the crew responded well to the challenging fireline assignments given to us. Temperatures were high, and the wind made things difficult but the crew successfully constructed over 2 miles of line, utilizing direct downhill line construction tactics and helicopter support.



Dromedary Peak spent a total of 26 days in August on 2 fire assignments in Wyoming and Idaho. The Cliff Creek Fire on the Bridger Teton National Forest in Wyoming was a great learning experience for the crew. We covered over 4 miles of fireline and implemented multiple different suppression tactics and rookie crewmembers were exposed to the construction of multiple different progressive hose lays.

The crew was assigned to the Pioneer fire for a total of 29 days during August and September. Dromedary Peak assisted in suppression efforts in 4 different divisions on the Pioneer Fire and our sawyers were very busy dropping hazard trees for the duration of our time assigned. The crew was able to certify 4 folks as Intermediate Fallers (FAL2); and re-certify 1 Advanced Faller (FAL1), and 2 Intermediate Fallers (FAL2).

Dromedary Peak spent the last 2 days in September completing a fuel break in Morgan County, Utah. The first 2 days in October were spent completing a fuel break in southeastern Utah before being called to Colorado for a fire assignment. The crew spent 10 days in Colorado assisting in the suppression of 3 wildfires, and being pre-positioned for initial attack in Grand Junction. After our return to Utah, the crew finished the season by supporting suppression efforts on the Hicks Creek Fire near Cedar City, Utah. Dromedary's last day of the 2016 fire season was November 4th.



2016 was a successful year for Dromedary Peak. We gained a significant amount of fire experience as a crew, as well as accomplishing advancements for multiple individuals' qualification levels through crew assignments and individual detail assignments. The Assistant Crew Supervisor completed a 40 day detail assignment with the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center which benefited all agencies involved. With the help of individuals from Twin Peaks IA, Dromedary Peak was able to respond to fire assignments as a Type 2 Initial Attack Crew for just over 2 months. Thanks to all who helped Dromedary Peak succeed and grow this season.



