

Twin Peaks Handcrew

2025 Season Report



Twin Peaks 2025

The 2025 field season was a great success for the Twin Peaks Handcrew. It was a safe and productive season, with minimal near-misses or injuries. We concluded the year with a strong performance, logging 943 overtime hours. Throughout the season, we responded to incidents across New Mexico, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. As always, Twin Peaks upheld its standard of training new firefighters — including six individuals with no prior experience — while continuing to support the Utah Wildland Fire Operations Center and the State of Utah as a whole. The return of our experienced overhead staff significantly contributed to the season's overall success. The season officially began with a delayed start on May 12th, kicking off with a 50-hour critical training period. Hands-on training prepared the crew for the field, including facilitation of the RT-130 and RT-212 refresher courses. Center-based training covered chipper operations, radio communication, weather monitoring, medical scenarios, and physical fitness. For the field day, the crew traveled to Spanish Fork Canyon for saw and handline construction exercises. On May 16th, the final component of critical training was a base review conducted by center and state leadership. The review evaluated the crew's administrative, logistical, and operational readiness through scenario-based discussions. Shortly after, the crew was made nationally available through the Northern Utah Interagency Fire Center.

Our first assignment began the following Monday with a fuels reduction project — Chipper Days in Elk Ridge, UT. As the season pace picked up, we moved on to high-output cut and pile projects near Morgan and Tooele, where crew cohesion and technical skills improved significantly. On May 28th, we received our first 14-day assignment: a SWCC Support preposition in Cloudcroft, NM. The crew prepped 75 acres for a future broadcast burn. During this assignment, all crew members gained valuable chainsaw experience. We also delivered an S-212 course, completed FAL3 evaluations for five firefighters, and facilitated a sand table exercise for ICT5 trainees. Upon returning to Morgan, UT on June 17th, we resumed work on the Deep Creek/Line Canyon fuels project, cutting, piling, and chipping excess fuels near town. On June 20th, Twin Peaks received its first fire dispatch to the Rock Creek Fire near Pocatello, ID. After one shift on the 15-acre grass and brush fire, we were reassigned to the Connor Fire near Carson City, NV. Over five days, the crew secured more than three miles of line, including mop-up in areas with difficult access.

Following R&R, Twin Peaks was assigned to the State of Utah Taskforce, engaging on five separate incidents: Sage Valley, Tabiona, Mail Draw, Gap, and Monroe Canyon. Each fire presented unique challenges, reinforcing our tactical versatility across various fuel types and terrain. The Monroe Canyon Fire stood out — the crew defended multiple structures, cutting and prepping around them and assisting with burns. It was the most intense fire activity of the season. Following Monroe, the crew supported a state preposition assignment, working on the

Rick Springs Fire in Logan Canyon, including a spot fire near the highway. Later, we were stationed at Utah Lake State Park, where we helped with tree removal and led additional ICT5 sand table exercises.

On July 11th, we returned to the Monroe Canyon Fire, where previous work had held effectively. Assigned to night operations for three shifts, the crew executed several successful burn operations, completed direct line construction, and suppressed spot fires. Our sawyers collaborated with a felling module to remove hazardous trees. Next, Twin Peaks was dispatched to the Willow Creek Fire, where recent rainfall left poor road conditions. The crew accessed the area via UTV and worked in subalpine fir, constructing 2 miles of line and extinguishing numerous spot fires.

On September 19th, the crew was sent to Wyoming for the Dollar Lake Incident, where fire activity was minimal. We focused on line repair and restoration work at a damaged campsite. During this assignment, one member worked on their HEQB Position Task Book. After 10 days, the crew moved to a preposition assignment in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, prepping two prescribed burn units. We then assisted with an initial attack on the Bull Fire near Alpine, WY. Gear was flown in, and the crew hiked to the fire, wrapping it in one day and taking command under an ICT5 trainee. The fire was mopped up the following shift.

As fire activity slowed in early October, Twin Peaks returned home and resumed local fuels mitigation work. We supported additional Chipper Days, chipped fuels near the Sundance Ski Resort, and participated in a large prescribed burn near Park City, UT, burning over 2,000 piles. Twin Peaks officially shut down for the season on October 23rd. The 2025 season was a testament to the skill, dedication, and adaptability of the Twin Peaks Handcrew. From training new firefighters to responding to diverse and complex incidents across the West, the crew maintained high standards of safety, professionalism, and effectiveness. We look forward to building on this success in 2026.

Throughout the duration of the season, Twin Peaks staff supported other resources with:

- 1 detailer to Alta IHC (duration of season).
- 1 detailer to Lone Peak IHC (one roll).
- 2 detailers from Thunder Mountain (duration of season).

Training is an integral part of our program. In addition to on-the-job and classroom instruction, some of the training opportunities for individuals over the 2025 season included: CRWB, HEQB, ICT5, FFT1, and FAL2.

Thank you to all who helped by contributing to Twin Peaks' success!