

SOUTH ONE FIRE

Type 3 Incident Management Team



PRESS RELEASE; FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HELP WILDFIRE

By Larry Helmerick

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP, SUFFOLK VA, (June 27, 2008) – A wildfire provided valuable training for nine members of the Job Corps (JC) from across the southeast U.S. When the Great Dismal Swamp fire began, fire officials ordered up this crew from the Daniel Boone National Forest in Frenchburg, KY.

Jeff Melkulcok, a 12-year Job Corps member and assistant Social Services Supervisor at the forest supervised the crew. The JC facility is one of the oldest in the U.S. Members worked as part of the Ground Support Unit at the South One Fire. The Southern Area Incident Management Team had a need for a crew to work at the Incident Command Post (ICP).

The Job Corps personnel are all in a two year program to provide beneficial training in various trades. Most of the personnel (seven) are from various locations in Florida, but one of the men was from North Carolina and another one was from Kentucky. Training is provided in cement work, painting, carpentry, culinary arts, business tech. and facility maintenance.

“This field assignment has proven to be a benefit for both the students and the camp” said South One Incident Commander Steve Ripley. Ripley went on to say that “under great pressure with long days and many varied tasks these young men and women have proved themselves to the firefighters they support.”

After completion of their two week assignment the men and women returned to their families. Some of the members were asking when they can come out again to work with firefighter teams.



CAMP CONSTRUCTION – Jeff Melkulcok (r), Supervisor of the Job Corps Camp Crew helps Nixon Willen, Immokalee, FL, prepare a briefing board for fire crews assigned to the South One Fire. Melkulcok has been the Social Services Supervisor at the Daniel Boone forest for the past 12 years. **(Photo by Larry Helmerick)**



FILLING ORDERS – Mary Peacock, Defuniak, FL, and Joshua Burgos, Margate, FL, fill supply and laundry orders at the South One Fire in the Great Dismal Swamp outside of Suffolk, VA. Members of the crew filled a number of positions at the incident supporting the Southern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team. The skills learned by the men and women on the crew will help them obtain employment after they complete the program. **(Photo by Larry Helmerick)**



WATER & ICE – Firefighters use thousands of gallons of water and ice during a wildfire. At the South One Fire crews have consumed 68,400 bottles of water to date and a semi-trailer full of ice. Pictured (from left) are Beanka Isacc, Miami, FL; Joseph Medina, Daytona Beach, FL; Jean Eltinor, Immokalee, FL, and Clara Brooks, Maysville, KY. **(Photo by Larry Helmerick)**