



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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AFCA Offers Condolence on Wildland Fire Deaths

July 1, 2013- The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association would like to express our condolences on the tragic loss of 19 firefighters on Sunday in Arizona. The Association's extends its sympathy to the families and friends of the fallen, including the members of the Prescott Fire Department and the community of wildland firefighters to which they belong.

The AFCA asks its members and the entire firefighting community to keep the fallen, their families and those still battling the Yarnell Hill fire in their thoughts and prayers.

Alaska's Fire Service is very busy this time year with numerous large wildland fires throughout the interior of Alaska. With the 4th of July weekend approaching, we ask that you think twice before using fireworks. Please be very diligent and watchful during all open burning activities.

There are still many communities who feel the threat of wildland fire is something that only happens to other people, such as hot, dry locations like Prescott. Current data tells the firefighting community that this isn't true. The threat is growing in grasslands, in forests—and even in suburban areas throughout Alaska.

In memory of the fallen, we ask every fire department to consider the risks to their community from non-structure fires. By teaching and working with local residents in fire prevention techniques, all parties can come to a better understanding of the collective roles and responsibilities we must all undertake.

James Baisden, 1st, Vice President