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## **President Shelly Announces Navajo Firefighters Deployed To Fires In Raton and Carlsbad**

*Navajo Nation Division of Health staff under a 24-hour emergency stand-by notice*

**Window Rock, AZ**—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly announced today, two Navajo Nation fire crews have been deployed to the Track Fire in Belen and the Loop Fire in Carlsbad to assist with New Mexico firefighting efforts.

“As of this morning, 10 members of our Navajo Camp Crew are helping at the Track Fire and 20 Navajo Scouts #6 joined the front lines at the Loop Fire,” President Shelly stated. “We are very proud of our firefighters and police officers as they assist local, federal and state fire management agencies in New Mexico and Arizona. We are praying for the safety and well-being of all firefighters and personnel on the ground, in the air and on the frontlines.”

Yesterday, President Shelly, Division of Public Safety Director John Billison, and David Nez, Director of the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness toured Springerville/Eagar, Alpine, Luna and Nutrioso, including the Incident Command Post at the rodeo grounds in Eagar. They received a briefing of the Wallow Fire from Apache County Sheriff Joe Dedman and other fire commanders.

“Our Apache County Sheriff’s Posse Search and Rescue teams are working around the clock to keep the firefighters fed and supplied,” explained Sheriff Dedman. “We have teamed up with several tribal leaders such as the Navajo, Apache and Zuni Nations to assist fire emergency efforts.”



(L to R) Apache County Sheriff Dedman and President Shelly visited with Navajo firefighters Michelle Albert, Chassity Lee, Fiona Tsosie and Moriko Nez stationed at the supply unit at the Incident Command Post in Eagar.

According to the Navajo Region Fire Dispatch Supervisor Patrick Willetto, there are several Navajo firefighting crews working at the Wallow Fire in Arizona, including Navajo Scouts #5 with 20 members, Navajo Camp Crew #1 with 10 members and a Navajo Hot Shots Crew of 20 members.



(L to R) President Shelly and Apache County Sheriff Dedman observed homes and neighborhoods burned down by the Wallow Fire in an undisclosed location.

David Nez, Director of the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness also led a group of volunteers from the Navajo Nation Division of Health (NNDOH) today to help serve and stock food at the Apache County Emergency Operations center in Eagar for the next five days.

“Yesterday we toured the Wallow Fire and the affected communities, it was a devastating scene, and we will continue to do all we can to help the firefighters,” stated Mr. Nez. “Our NNDOH staff is under a 24-hour emergency stand-by status until the fire is deemed under control.”

The Navajo Forestry Division and the Navajo Region Fire Dispatch are working closely with the Southwest Coordination Center in Albuquerque to deploy Navajo firefighters where they are needed most.

President Shelly concluded, “We have a reserve crew of 40 Navajo Scouts who stand ready to protect our Navajo Forests and woodlands from any fire threats or danger.”

For more information:

Highway Closures visit: <http://www.azdot.gov>

Wallow Fire updates visit: <http://www.azein.gov>

View Wallow Fire pictures at: <http://www.flickr.com/apachesitgreavesnf>

For more information about public safety visit: [www.azingov](http://www.azingov)

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