



# **Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association**

## **Wildland Training Exercises**

**Fort Hunter Liggett, CA**

**June 17, 19, & 21, 2013**

# **After Action Report**

Daniel Gearhart  
Division Chief, *Retired*  
Wildland Training Exercise Coordinator  
*Revised – October 28, 2013*

**Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association  
Wildland Training Exercises  
June 17, 19, 21, 2013**

**Table of Contents**

	Page
Personnel and Resources	4
Overall Summary	5
Pre-Event Planning	6
Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Department	6
Advertising / Registration	7
Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District	7
Media Outreach	7
Incident Action Plan	8
Monterey Peninsula College	8
Daily Operations	8
Daily Schedule	8
Check-In	8
Overhead Personnel Briefing	8
Incident Briefing	8
Radio Communications	9
Basecamp / Command Post	9
Logistics	10

Food Unit	10
Medical / Injuries	10
Student Instruction / Live-Fire Scenarios	10
Water Supply	11
Traffic Control	11
Mop-Up Activities	11
Post Incident Briefing	11
<b>Post-Exercise Activity</b>	<b>12</b>
Certificates of Participation	12
Certificates of Appreciation	12
Financial	12
After Action Report	12
<b>Attachments</b>	
Overhead Personnel List	13
Resource List	14
Informational Flier	15
News Advisory	16

## Resources and Personnel:

### June 17, 2013:

Total Participants:	38	IC:	Orman
Total Engine Companies:	6	Safety Officer:	Leist
Water Tenders:	2	Asst. Safety:	Hinckley
Comm. Unit:	1	Plans / PIO:	D. Gearhart
Agencies:		Strike Team Leader:	Loomis
Marina (1)		Instructor:	Lindsey
Spreckles (1)		Instructor:	O'Connell
Cachagua (1)		Instructor:	Robbert
MCRFD (1)		Food Unit:	J. Gearhart
Greenfield (1)		Agency Rep.:	Hewston
CAL Fire BEU (1)			

### June 19, 2013:

Total Participants:	34	IC:	Arista
Total Engine Companies:	6	Safety Officer:	Hinckley
Water Tenders:	2	Plans / PIO:	D. Gearhart
Comm Unit:	1	Food Unit:	J. Gearhart
Agencies:		Strike Team Leader:	Lemos
Marina (1)		Instructor:	Hanzelka
MCRFD (1)		Instructor:	O'Connell
Spreckles (1)		Instructor:	Robbert
Cal Fire BEU (1)		Instructor:	Jensen
Big Sur (1)		Agency Rep.:	Minetti
Seaside (1)			

### June 21, 2013:

Total Participants:	36	IC:	Loomis
Total Engine Companies:	5	Safety Officer:	Hinckley
Water Tenders:	2	Asst. Safety:	Lundgren
Comm Unit:	1	Plans / PIO:	D. Gearhart
Agencies:		Food Unit:	J. Gearhart
Big Sur (1)		Strike Team Leader:	Lemos
MCRFD (1)		Instructor:	O'Connell
Spreckles (1)		Instructor:	Lindsey
Cal Fire BEU (1)		Instructor:	Skrabak
Cachagua (1)		Instructor:	Jensen
		Agency Rep.:	Minetti

Total Engines: 17      Total Personnel: 108

## Overall Summary:

Following the wildland training exercises in 2012, the MCFTOA decided to continue with the same format that was used during the 2012 exercises. The goal was to provide at least three single-day wildland firefighting training exercises for Monterey County fire agencies and personnel at Fort Hunter Liggett. The three day format was selected to provide training opportunities on all three days of the 48 / 96 work schedule. This format would allow agencies the opportunity to send on-duty personnel from each of the three shifts in addition to the flexibility of deploying resources and personnel based on the needs and abilities of the agency. Being that the overall cost of the exercises was considered reasonable in 2012, the MCFTOA decided to continue offering the training at no cost to the participating agencies.

The overall goal of the training exercises was to provide live-fire wildland firefighting training under realistic conditions. This goal was indeed met by repeated live-fire scenarios presented to the engine companies during each day of instruction.

The exercises were designed as advanced live-fire wildland firefighting training. Agencies were strongly advised to have participating personnel already trained in wildland safety procedures, wildland firefighting tactics and operations, and fire shelter deployment. Having this accomplished prior to the exercises allowed for the maximum time available dedicated to live-fire training.

Overhead personnel and instructional staff were recruited from various Monterey County fire agencies and repeated notices were sent to all agencies asking for overhead personnel support. The minimum operational overhead staffing needed to support a single Strike Team, (5-7 engines) was established as (1) Incident Commander, (1) Safety Officer, (1) Strike Team Leader, and (3) Instructors. Additionally, a minimum standard of (1) water tender per strike team was also established.

Prior to the exercises, a participation goal was established at between 10-14 engine companies per day. This would allow for (2) Strike Teams, with between 5 – 7 engine companies per Strike Team, each operating in one of the 5 available branches. Total participation was ultimately determined by the amount of overhead personnel available to support each day of training.

During the exercises the span of control remained at a reasonable level based on the amount of overhead personnel and student participation. Additional student participation would have required an increase in overhead personnel and logistical support from Monterey County fire agencies. As it was, overall agency participation was lower than anticipated. With the lower participation, a single Strike Team was formed each day which allowed for a more desirable student to instructor ratio.

One significant change employed in 2013 from 2012, and from all other previous wildland training exercises hosted by the MCFTOA, was changing the grouping of participating engines from Branches to Strike Teams. Previous groupings of engines would be designated as “Branches” operating at locations also referred to as a “Branch.” As an example, Branch 1, with a Branch Director, would operate in a designated area also identified as “Branch 1.” This limited flexibility if the need arose to move a Branch, such as Branch 2 to a different area known as Branch 4. This would cause confusion since Branch 2 was now in Branch 4 but would need to maintain the designator of Branch 2. In previous Wildland Fire Schools an assigned Branch would typically remain within their assigned areas and relocation of Branches was uncommon.

In order to provide more flexibility for moving groups to different areas, and to remain consistent with current out-of-county or in-county deployments, the grouping designations were changed to Strike

Teams with corresponding identifiers of 2175 and if needed, 2176. If the need arose, and ST 2175 was operating in Branch 2 and required relocation to Branch 4, it was a simple process of re-assigning ST 2175 to Branch 4. This allowed the group to retain the designator ST 2175 regardless of where the group was operating.

The use of “Division” designators was considered for identifying a specific training area but was determined that this could also lead to confusion when scenario Incident Commanders would identify locations within their scenario as Divisions such as Division Alpha and Division Zebra. All things considered, the use of Strike Team designators for grouping engines was the most effective method considered and utilized for the 2013 format.

Based on the desired outcome, the overall goal of providing high-quality live-fire wildland firefighting training for Monterey County fire agencies was unquestionably achieved. Participating engine companies were able to form up as a Strike Team, with a Strike Team Leader, and engage in multiple live-fire wildland firefighting training scenarios under extremely realistic conditions. Engine companies were encouraged to practice techniques based on their agency’s policies and procedures. Additional training opportunities included a check-in process, incident briefing, review of the IAP, safety briefing, vehicle inspection, radio communications, mobile fire attack, incident command principles, working with other agencies, size-up, resource deployment, fire behavior and weather monitoring, drafting procedures, off-road driving, fire extinguishment techniques, crew leadership, base camp operations, ICS 214 usage, and mop-up procedures.

Along with the operational and logistical successes of the exercises, a concern should be given to the decrease in agency participation from 2012 to 2013. In 2012 there were 159 total participants compared to 108 in 2013. This was approximately a 32% decrease in total participants from 2012 to 2013. Additionally, there were 31 participating engine companies in 2012 and 17 in 2013. This accounted for a 55% decrease in engine company participation between the two years. Also of note is the overall participation of Monterey County fire agencies. Even though the training was provided at no cost, of the 18 fire agencies in Monterey County, excluding the U.S. Forest Service, 8 departments sent engine companies equating to only 44% participation from Monterey County fire agencies.

### **Pre-Event Planning:**

#### **FHL Fire Department:**

In early February 2012, I met with Interim Fire Chief Clinton Tolle of the Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Department to review the conceptual plan, confirm the proposed dates, and select the appropriate burn areas. The FHL fire department agreed to submit the Training Support Request to Range Control and we agreed to develop a daily Incident Action Plan. An agreement was made to support the FHL fire department with prescribed burning on the days of the exercises if needed.

On June 6, 2013, I met with Assistant Chief Jeff Minetti at Fort Hunter Liggett and discussed the potential for additional burn areas. Chief Minetti provided us with additional burn areas that expanded the training areas from 2 branches to 5 branches. These additional areas increased our total allowable burn areas from approximately 264 acres to approximately 1046 total acres. During the exercises, we were in contact with Fort Hunter Liggett FD for the possibility of them providing additional overhead and water tender support. As the exercises progressed, these additional resources were not needed.

## **Advertising / Registration:**

Notices were sent to all Monterey County fire agencies at least 3 times prior to the exercises. The notice contained an informational flier and an electronic PDF “fill-in” registration form that was designed to be completed and returned via email. An initial registration deadline for Monterey County agencies was set for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and then extended to May 24<sup>th</sup>. The initial plan was to allow registration outside Monterey County following the established Monterey County deadline. However, due to a low number of confirmed overhead personnel at the time, the decision was made to continue with limiting participation to within Monterey County.

On June 3, 2013, a total of 23 engine companies had registered or verbally indicated they would attend. After this date, and due to various reasons, several engine companies rescinded their intended participation. At the end of the three days of training, a total of 17 engine companies actually attended and participated. The most significant participation decrease was on Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> where 10 engine companies had indicated attendance and a total of 5 companies actually attended.

Newly employed this year was a PDF “fill-in” registration form. The needed information could be typed in and then returned via email in the same format. Although this method appeared to be rather straightforward, of the 9 agencies that attended, or committed to attending, only 4 agencies returned the forms in the requested format. The agencies that did not return the forms responded either by direct email, verbal response, or an incompatible format.

## **Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District:**

Prior to the exercises, the MBUAPCD was contacted both by verbal notification and a follow-up email. The MBUAPCD requested a “same-day” notification for the three days of training. This request was fulfilled by a phone call to the MBUAPCD office on the morning of each exercise. Information concerning the training exercises appeared on the MBUAPCD website in the “Prescribed Burn” section prior to the training.

## **Media Outreach:**

A News Advisory was sent to numerous local media outlets prior to the exercises. Before being sent to the media, the News Advisory was approved by the Public Affairs Office at Fort Hunter Liggett. A total of two media outlets responded to the advisory. KSBW TV-8 called during the exercise on Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> and requested that we take several pictures of the activities and email the pictures to them. The pictures were taken as requested and emailed to KSBW the same day. It is unknown if the photographs were used by KSBW.

On Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, a reporter and photographer from the Monterey County Herald attended the exercise. The two were escorted at all times by the PIO and given exclusive access to the activities and attending personnel. On Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a front-page article covering the exercises appeared in the Monterey County Herald.

## **Incident Action Plan:**

A comprehensive and updated Incident Action Plan was developed for each day of the exercises. Twenty-five Incident Action Plans were available on the morning of each exercise. Each engine company and overhead personnel received an IAP at check-in. IAP's were updated specific to each day.

## **Monterey Peninsula College:**

Per agreement with Monterey Peninsula College, the exercises were divided into three separate sessions, June 17, 19, and 21. This allowed us to capture all attendees including those who attended more than one session. Of the 108 total participants, 107 applications were completed and submitted to MPC for approval. One participant requested that his application not be submitted since the additional credit would change his degree requirements. With the 107 applications submitted, an estimated reimbursement of \$856.00 is anticipated.

## **Daily Operations:**

### **Daily Schedule:**

0830-0900	Check-In
0900-0915	Overhead Personnel Briefing
0920-0940	Incident Briefing
0950-1030	Instruction / Additional Safety Review
1030-1230	Firing Operations / Live-Fire Scenarios
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1630	Firing Operations / Live-Fire Scenarios
1630-1700	Mop-up
1700-1730	Post Incident Briefing

### **Check-In:**

Resource and personnel Check-In occurred each day from 0830-0900 hours. All resources and personnel were accounted for on the Apparatus / Personnel Check-In Rosters. Liability waiver forms were completed and received from 100% of the personnel attending. Each engine company was given an Incident Action Plan, (1) case of water, (35 individual units) and every attendee was offered a 2010 Incident Response Pocket Guide.

### **Overhead Personnel Briefing:**

An overhead personnel briefing led by the Planning Section Chief was conducted each day prior to the general incident briefing. During this briefing, a complete review of the IAP was performed and daily training objectives were agreed upon.

### **Incident Briefing:**

Following the Overhead Personnel Briefing, and prior to the start of the daily training, an Incident Briefing was conducted and attended by all personnel. During the incident briefing the IAP was reviewed, the safety message was covered by the Safety Officer, the training expectations were conveyed, and the daily schedule was provided.

## **Radio Communications:**

Radio communications for the exercises utilized the Monterey County fire service communication system. Being that all fire agencies in Monterey County utilize the same Kenwood portable and mobile radios with common frequency lists, radio operation and device use was consistent with all participants. Monterey County fire service Tactical 1 and Tactical 2 were authorized for use by Monterey County Emergency Communications. Command frequency was VFIRE 22 and the designated Strike Team operated on MoCo Tactical 1. Due to the relatively flat terrain, communications were “line of sight” and a repeater system was not needed. An issue did arise with radio communications that was attributed to PL protection on several portable radios. Once identified, this issue was corrected by utilizing the “Monitor” feature on the radios.

Command / Communication Unit 5390 from the Salinas Fire Department was present and in operation on all three days. The primary operator of Command 5390 served as the Communications Unit Leader and several other operators served as exercise dispatchers and conducted Command 5390 operations training. Command 5390 provided a valuable resource in that the unit was able to establish a reliable radio communication link with the Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Dispatch, provided a “cell site” for Verizon cell phone users which greatly increased our ability to have cell phone coverage, offered a Wi-Fi signal for Internet access, had an elevated camera to monitor activities which could be streamed to a remote site, and constantly monitored and recorded the localized weather. Additionally, the Communication Unit Leader was able to problem solve radio communications issues and provide technical expertise. Command 5390 also had a cache of Kenwood TK-280 portable radios that were available for use as needed.

Also, the Monterey Regional Airport District Fire Department provided (10) Kenwood TK-290 portable radios for use as needed.

User radio communications generally worked well and showed marked improvement as each day progressed. However, several communication issues were identified that interfered with effective and clear radio communications. Issues identified were users speaking too fast, speaking too loudly which caused over-modulation, incomplete transmissions, and keying the microphone after beginning speaking. All of these issues resulted in compromised radio communications which required repeated transmissions. Other issues included inadvertent “open-carrier” transmissions, and transmitting on the wrong frequency.

An additional radio communication issue encountered was engine companies identifying a training scenario as “Stony Command” or “Stony IC.” These identifiers were actually assigned to the Exercise Incident Commander and were not intended to be used for identifying the IC of a scenario. This issue was quickly identified and participants were advised to use alternate identifiers for naming a scenario.

## **Basecamp / Command Post:**

A Basecamp and Incident Command Post were established just off of Nacimiento-Fergusson Road about 1.2 miles west of Lower Stony Creek Reservoir. This area also served as the apparatus staging area and the check-in location. The Basecamp contained two portable toilets and a hand washing unit that were contracted from A&G Pumping for all three days. The total cost for the units was \$200.00. The total of \$200.00 for the week was a discounted price provided by A&G Pumping. Also located at the Basecamp were the Food Unit, the Medical Unit, and the Communications Unit.

**Logistics:**

The MCFTOA wildland trailer was delivered to the training area by personnel from the Monterey County Regional Fire District and remained at the site for the entire week. At night, the trailer was moved nearby to the military training village in an area not visible from the road. Having the trailer available at the site greatly increased the convenience of storage in between training days. Items used from the trailer included two “easy up” canopies, several ice chests, trash containers, traffic cones, barricades, “Drop Point” signs, tables, and chairs. The Gearhart’s provided one “easy up,” several tables, a portable BBQ, and other Food Unit supplies. The Seaside Fire Department provided (2) “Fire Department Training Ahead” traffic signs and a portable generator which was utilized by the Food Unit. At the conclusion of the exercises on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the wildland trailer was returned to the MCRFD Toro Station by MCRFD personnel.

**Food Unit:**

The MCFTOA provided lunch with hot food and cold beverages to all participants on all three days of the exercises. Outside the designated lunch period, cold beverages were available to the participants. Surplus food items were donated to the Monterey County Regional Fire District Chualar and Toro fire stations during the return trip from the exercises on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Beverages and snacks still remain including (8) cases of water. Surplus items will be used for future MCFTOA monthly meetings and other events sponsored by the MCFTOA.

Total food / beverage and food supply cost for the three days was \$1118.56. This equates to \$372.85 per day. Based on the total attendance, food /beverage and food supply cost amounted to \$10.35 per person. (Prior to MPC re-imburement)

**Medical Incidents / Injuries:**

During the three days, one over-exertion / fatigue incident was reported on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The individual was immediately evaluated and treated by on-site paramedic personnel from engine 7331. After initial evaluation, the individual was taken to Command 5390 by the Safety Officer for cooling and monitoring. The Safety Officer remained with the individual for approximately 45 minutes monitoring diagnostic signs. The individual remained on site but did not participate in further training. Notification was made to the fire chief from the individual’s employing agency. The individual was later left in care of the supervisor from individual’s engine company.

**Student Instruction / Live-Fire Scenarios:**

Following the morning incident briefing, all engine companies and overhead personnel conducted a radio check on the assigned frequencies. Participants then formed as a Strike Team and moved to their assigned branch. Prior to the live-fire operations, the assigned Instructors provided verbal instruction on the training expectations, scenario parameters, mobile attack extinguishing techniques, and further safety considerations.

The live-fire portion of the instruction was dedicated to engine company mobile attack operations. Mobile attack scenarios were designed by the Strike Team Leader and Strike Team Instructors. Strike Team Instructors also served as Firing Officers and carried out the scenario firing plan. Each live-fire burn was limited in size to between 1 and 3 acres. All participants were given multiple opportunities for live-fire mobile attack, initial size-up, incident command, and radio communications.

During the live-fire scenarios, Strike Team Instructors monitored student performance and provided feedback as needed.

Prior to each live-fire scenario, a weather reading was obtained to ensure conditions did not exceed the established burning prescription. Hourly weather readings were also taken and recorded to ensure continued adherence to the burn prescription.

On Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, engine 5531 experienced electrical problems and was taken out of service. FHL fire department personnel assisted with the troubleshooting of the vehicle. Personnel from engine 5531 were re-distributed to remaining engines that had available space.

#### **Water Supply:**

Water supply was provided by (2) agency water tenders each day. The Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade provided a tender on two of the days, and the MCRFD provided tenders on all three days. Water was drafted from the nearby Nacimiento River for re-filling the water tenders. On Monday June 17, a portable “fold-a-tank” was placed at Drop Point 2 by Water Tender 7840. During a live-fire scenario, a tarp that was placed underneath the “fold-a-tank” sustained fire and heat damage. On Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, and Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>, water tenders supplied water directly to engines without using portable “fold-a-tanks.”

#### **Traffic Control:**

Prior to burning operations, “Fire Department Training Ahead” traffic signs were placed on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road on the East and West ends of the assigned training areas. Additionally, when smoke conditions obscured visibility on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road, traffic control measures were instituted to ensure safe passage by private vehicles on the public road.

#### **Mop-Up Activities:**

Mop-Up activities were conducted at the conclusion of each training day. Mop-up was performed based on the established criteria of all completely extinguished material 100 feet in from the roadways. Several oak trees and fallen snags proved to be a challenge during mop-up operations.

#### **Post Incident Briefing:**

Following each day of training, and prior to units being released from training a post incident briefing was conducted with all personnel. A review of the daily activities was conducted along with an advisement given to engine companies to perform a vehicle inspection prior to leaving the training area and to drive with caution when returning to their home bases.

## Post Exercise Activity:

### Certificates of Participation:

All personnel who attended the training exercises were provided with a Certificate of Participation indicating the date, amount of hours, and a brief description of the training.

### Certificates of Appreciation:

All overhead and support personnel were provided with a Certificate of Appreciation from the MCFTOA. Additionally, agencies that provided support or supplies were also provided with a Certificate of Appreciation.

### Financial:

Total cost for the three-day training exercises was \$ 1676.14. A general breakdown of expenses follows:

Food / Food Supplies / Beverages:	1086.56	( \$1118.56 – \$32.00 water buy back )
Portable Toilets:	200.00	
Certificates:	20.47	
Photo Mailers:	16.25	
Certificate Mailing:	24.57	
Gasoline Reimbursement:	296.29	
	Total Expenses:	1644.14
	Revenue:	856.00
( MPC re-imbusement )		
	Net Expense:	788.14
	Per Day Cost:	262.71
	Individual Personnel Cost:	7.29
	( 108 total personnel )	

### After Action Report:

Within 30 days from the conclusion of the Wildland Training Exercises, the Wildland Training Exercise Coordinator submitted a comprehensive After Action Report to the MCFTOA.

Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association  
 Wildland Training Exercise - June 17, 19, 21, 2013  
 Finalized Overhead Personnel List

	<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June 21st</b>
<b>Incident Commander:</b>	Chris Orman	Humberto Arista	Brett Loomis
<b>PIO:</b>	Dan Gearhart	Dan Gearhart	Dan Gearhart
<b>Planning Section Chief:</b>	Dan Gearhart	Dan Gearhart	Dan Gearhart
<b>Operations:</b>			
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Troy Leist	Brad Hinckley	Brad Hinckley
<b>Assistant Safety:</b>	Brad Hinckley		John Lundgren
<b>Strike Team Leader:</b>	Brett Loomis	Ron Lemos	Ron Lemos
<b>Instructor</b>	Patrick O'Connell	Patrick O'Connell	Patrick O'Connell
<b>Instructor:</b>	Deano Lindsey	Peter Robbert	Deano Lindsey
<b>Instructor:</b>	Peter Robbert	Eric Hanzelka	Todd Skrabak
<b>Instructor:</b>		Dave Jensen	Dave Jensen
<b>Instructor:</b>			
<b>SOFR:</b>			
<b>SOFR:</b>			
<b>Comm Unit Leader:</b>	Sam Klemek	Sam Klemek	Sam Klemek
<b>Finance / Food Unit:</b>	Julie Gearhart	Julie Gearhart	Julie Gearhart

**Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association  
Wildland Training Exercises  
June 17, 19, 21, 2013  
Finalized Resource List**

**June 17, 2013**

**June 19, 2013**

**June 21, 2013**

5431

5431

5531

5611

5611

5611

5531

7832

7331

7731

6231

7731

7331

5531

7831

8432

7331

7840

7840

5544

5544

5544

5542

5390

5390

5390



Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association  
P.O. Box 771 Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
[www.mcftoa.org](http://www.mcftoa.org)

The Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association is pleased to offer:

# ***Wildland Training Exercises***



**June 17, 19, and 21, 2013**  
**0900-1700 each day**

## **Fort Hunter Liggett Military Installation**

(Staging area: Nacimiento-Fergusson Road, 1.2 miles west of Lower Stony Creek Reservoir)

- *Three Separate Days of Wildland Firefighting Training*
- *Live-Fire Exercises*
- *Mobile Attack, Progressives Hose Lays*
- *Incident Command Opportunities*
- ***Free of Charge**, Lunch and Beverages Provided*
- *Certificate of Participation*

*The registration deadline for Monterey County Fire Agencies is **1700 hours on Friday May 17, 2013**. After that date, open registration will occur. Please register ASAP so we can plan accordingly.*

*For agencies wishing to participate, complete the attached registration form and email to: [mcftoa@att.net](mailto:mcftoa@att.net)*

*This training is designed as engine-company based advanced wildland firefighting operations for Type III & Type IV engines as per ICS 020-1. Only personnel assigned to an agency engine company will be allowed to participate. By participating, agencies are assuring that assigned personnel are authorized to attend, are covered by workers' compensation insurance, have been provided appropriate wildland PPE and are trained in the use of such PPE, are physically fit to participate in strenuous live-fire wildland firefighting training, and have received recent training in fire shelter deployment, LCES, the 10 standard fire orders, the 18 watch-out situations, wildland fire behavior, wildland tools and equipment, wildland firefighting safety procedures, and any other appropriate wildland firefighting training that would prepare the attendee for participating in live-fire wildland firefighting training. Participating agencies are also assuring that fire apparatus drivers are properly trained in fire apparatus operations, both on and off-road, and have the appropriate license as required by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.*



Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association  
P.O. Box 771 Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
[www.mcftoa.org](http://www.mcftoa.org)

## News Advisory

### **Monterey County and Fort Hunter Liggett firefighters work together to prepare for 2013 wildland fire season**

Monterey County firefighters representing several local fire agencies will converge on Fort Hunter Liggett on June 17, 19, and 21 to learn how to fight wildland fires – and at the same time help the Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Department with their essential control burns.

The Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association, in conjunction with the Fort Hunter Liggett Fire Department, will host this year's wildland firefighting training exercises for local fire agencies at Fort Hunter Liggett. The training exercises are expected to draw over 100 firefighters from several fire agencies in Monterey County.

Wildland firefighting training exercises prepare local fire agencies and firefighters for the upcoming wildland fire season. They also enhance the ability of agencies from around Monterey County and the region to work closely together. Local fire agencies from all over Monterey County have an outstanding reputation for understanding the importance of mutual aid and cooperation during emergency situations. These exercises further strengthen that cooperation and give firefighters the opportunity to practice contemporary wildland firefighting techniques under actual wildland fire conditions. The Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association offers these training exercises *at no cost* to local fire agencies.

**The staging area for the training exercise is on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road at Fort Hunter Liggett, about 1.2 miles west of Lower Stony Creek Reservoir.**

Media representatives are invited to attend for a chance to observe realistic wildland firefighting training under actual live-fire conditions, and talk to people from local fire agencies and Fort Hunter Liggett about how we work cooperatively for a common goal.

**Media representatives must be escorted at all times on Fort Hunter Liggett. If you plan to attend, please call by 10:00 a.m on any of the three days, or send us an email by 6:00 p.m. on the night before so we can properly coordinate your arrival.**

Contact:

Dan Gearhart

Director of Communications

Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association

Dan5221@sbcglobal.net