



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS AND COUNTY PERSONNEL RECEIVE WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING

Oklahoma county and city heavy equipment operators and firefighters from Dewey, Major, Ellis, Beaver, Roger Mills, Texas, Custer, and Woodward counties will attend a **Wildland Fire Training** course, conducted by the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), April 3, 2008, at the High Plains Technology Center in Woodward, Oklahoma. LTAP is an outreach program of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology at Oklahoma State University.

County and city employees are often asked to help fight wildland fires using their heavy equipment to assist firefighters in cutting fire lines and creating expedient roads to access fire locations. This class gives county, tribal, and municipality personnel the knowledge they need to do this safely and to work efficiently with firefighters. "These fires place people and their property at risk," said Doug Wright, manager of LTAP. "We are more than glad to be able to respond to requests for this training. Two winters ago we had a serious wildland fire problem in the state. The LTAP Center trained more than 300 county equipment operators in how to fight those fires. It made a difference then and we are confident this training will make a difference again."

The six-hour class includes wildland fire behavior, fuels, weather, situation evaluation, suppression methods, incident command, and safety. Participants will get hands-on instruction on bull dozers, motor graders, and brush pumpers in attacking these blazes in western Oklahoma's rough terrain. The training will also encourage communication among the attendees to share experiences about strategies and tactics used in response to the recent wildland fire incidents in the state.

Class times are Thursday, April 3, from 8:30 to 3:30, at the High Plains Technology Center, 3921 34th Street, Woodward, Oklahoma.