



# NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

In April, state and federal agencies partnered to present the third annual Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy at Fort Robinson State Park near Crawford, NE. The academy offered eight National Wildfire Coordinating Group courses: S130/S190/L180 Basic Wildland Firefighter, S131 Advanced Firefighter, S230 Single Resource (Crew Boss), S231 Engine Boss, S290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, P310 Fire Prevention Education Team Member and RT130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher. The courses were provided at a very low cost, just \$30 per person, and were presented mainly on weekends to accommodate the work schedules of volunteer firefighters.

Over a nine-day period, 178 hours of training were completed. Attendees included 191 firefighters from 9 fire departments, five state agencies, Chadron State College and four federal agencies. Also attending were local, state and federal firefighters from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Numerous photos of the academy are available on the Nebraska Forest Service home page at [www.nfs.unl.edu](http://www.nfs.unl.edu) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NebraskaWildlandFireAcademy](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWildlandFireAcademy).

The academy again benefitted greatly from the support of the Panhandle community. Many local agencies and entities contributed time, funding and facilities. Those entities included the Crawford Fire Department, Crawford Public Schools and the Fort Robinson State Park, in addition to many private businesses.



Interagency support for the academy also grew this year. Agencies involved with the academy included the Nebraska Forest Service, U.S.DA Forest Service-Pine Ridge Ranger District, Nebraska State Fire Marshal Training Division, National Park Service, National Weather Service, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Nebraska Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Planning for the fourth annual academy is already underway. Fort Robinson State park was again a gracious host and has set aside April 9-17, 2011, for next year's academy. Plans include increasing the number of courses offered and expanding the curriculum to include prescribed fire, fire prevention and pump operations courses. Courses will also be offered in a variety of ways to allow firefighters from other areas of the state to attend while cutting travel requirements. Information regarding plans for future classes will be available on the Nebraska Forest Service webpage and the NWFA page on Facebook.

