



Black Forest Fire Rescue

www.bffire.org

11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Phone: 495-4300 • Fax: 495-7504

Gary Watson, Public Information Officer
314-7045 or gary.watson@bffire.org

News Release BFFR 2015-6 • Sept. 14, 2015

For Immediate Release

Deployed BFFR firefighters, engine back from Northern California wildfires

The last four of six Black Forest Fire Rescue firefighters deployed to help fight wildfires burning in Northern California came home this past weekend. They also brought back the fire engine they took to the fire lines.

Four firefighters and the engine were deployed Aug. 11, and a crew swap was made on Aug. 28. Two of the original four returned while two others were sent to replace them. The two who remained were given time off as the swap was made. Federal law limits firefighters to 14 consecutive days on the fire lines before they must be given time off.

The federal government covers all costs associated with sending firefighters out of state, including salaries, ground travel and air fare. It also pays for those in Black Forest who cover the shifts of those deployed. While they were deployed, the district was fully covered for any emergencies. The deployed firefighters received valuable hands-on training and experience fighting wildfires that they otherwise could not get.

The four who deployed on Aug. 11 are Firefighter/EMT David Schlingmann, Firefighter/EMT Mike Skeldum, Firefighter/EMT Mike Cobb and Firefighter/Paramedic Stephen Shelters. On Aug. 28, Lt. Jamal Davis and Firefighter Matt Chaston were deployed as Schlingmann and Skeldum returned.