



Wayne firefighter on loan to Modoc National Forest

Wayne firefighter Jason Simms serves with an engine in California.



Jason Simms sharpens a tool during his detail on the Modoc National Forest.

Ironton Ranger District firefighter Jason Simms has returned from an assignment on the Modoc National Forest. For a little over two months, Adin, California, was his home. Working on Engine 44 of the Big Valley Ranger District, Simms served as a Firefighter Type I and Engine Boss trainee.

Upon arrival to the Modoc numerous lightning fires demanded his attention. These incidents provided Simms with a fast paced introduction to a Type 3 engine and the in's and out's of the Modoc's fire organization and operations. Engine 44 responded to various incidents on the entire forest and two separate off forest assignments.

The first assignment was to the 14,154 acre Devil's Den Fire on Utah's Fishlake National Forest. Following this assignment Engine 44 returned to Adin and stayed busy with project work. The second off-forest assignment had Engine 44 link up with a Strike Team of four Modoc and one Bureau of Land Management engines. Strike Team 3630C spent 14 days on the 162,702 acre Day Fire on the Los Padres National Forest. Extreme fire behavior and constantly changing situations made for an eventful and safe assignment.

The Battalion Chief Scott Orr where Simms detailed sent a message back saying that he had "done the Wayne NF proud." The Battalion Chief stated Sims: "adapted, learned, produced, and fit right in." He noted that it was a pleasure to work with and get to know Simms.

The assignment to Modoc Engine 44 allowed Simms to gain more western fire experience, learn in diverse settings and spend time working on qualifications as a perpetual student of fire.

Story written by Jason Simms

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