



New Zealand, Australia Contingent to USA 2015

“WE WORK AS ONE”

Update # 7
15 September 2015

Well the main focus of discussion at the moment is around demobilisation and when the team will be returning.

I can confirm the following arrangements for everyone coming home:

Date	Activity
Thursday 24 th	Last working day on the fire line.
Friday 25 th	Depart fire camps and drive to Redmond where they will return the all American ute they have been driving around in since arriving, and will stay the night in Redmond.
Saturday 26 th	From Redmond the team will fly back to Boise and return the PPE, tents, radios, etc they were assigned, which hopefully they still have and not swapped for something else or lost.
Sunday 27 th	Debrief of the lessons learnt plus opportunities to make improvements for future deployments, plus thank you dinner which the NIFC team are organising.
Monday 28 th	From Boise fly to Los Angeles, a short stopover in LA before flying back to Auckland, New Zealand.
Wednesday 30 th	Arrive in Auckland, New Zealand, a short stopover before connecting flights back to the provinces and home.

With operations more involved in reparation and fire suppression work a few are coming across some different machines or terms than what we use in NZ for example Skidgines, Pumper Cats, Masticator, and Weed Washing Unit.

Useful links

Please note that the guys are back in areas of possibly poor phone coverage, so may not be able to phone as regularly as they have over the last few days while on R+R.

If you have any messages you want to get to someone on the deployment you can post them on the Facebook site or send them to me and I will endeavour to pass them on.

Don't forget to use Facebook and the website to help keep up to date on what is happening.

We've set up a Facebook site for friends and family to access photos plus regular updates on what is happening, the site is called "USA Wildfires 2015 – Australia/NZ Deployment". It's a closed site, so you'll need to register to join.

Another useful site giving up-to-date USA Situation reports is:

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/index.htm> (click on the situation report tab left side menu).

For more detailed information about the fires in the Northwest where the Kiwi crews are deployed: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>

You may also find the Friends and Family webpage useful we have setup this page for those who don't have access to facebook <http://files.portal.em.vic.gov.au/refdocs/SCC-IILU.htm?v=3>

I'll send more news soon to keep you all up-to-date.

Cheers,

Tim

(On behalf of the Kiwi team)