



BIG BEAR LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

41090 Big Bear Boulevard / P. O. Box 10000

Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-8900

909.866.7566 (phone) / 909.866.8288 (fax)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 15, 2010

CONTACT PERSON: Michelle M. Caldwell, Fire Prevention Officer

SUBJECT: ADDITION TO BIG BEAR LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FLEET

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA – The Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District has added Incident Support 281 (IS-281) to its fleet of resources. IS-281 is a twenty-three foot mobile incident support unit, designed to accommodate a multitude of command and support functions during emergencies and disasters in and outside of Fire District boundaries.

The unit's advanced mobile satellite system allows for the transfer of information through networked computers and satellite telephone, faxing, television and Internet access. IS-281 has both VHF and 800MHZ radio communications, so whether the unit is assigned to a major disaster or in a remote location, communication and information flow can still be achieved.

The unit has an ancillary function of a medical support unit and is registered with the State and Federal Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) for deployment to major disasters, wildfires or large-scale emergencies for incidents occurring outside of Fire District boundaries. This past wildfire season, IS-281 was assigned to the Forks Fire (Inyo National Forest), Morris and Station Fires (Angeles National Forest), and Sheep Fire (San Bernardino National Forest).

As a medical support unit, IS-281 is advanced life support (ALS) qualified and carries trauma care equipment as well as a variety of over-the-counter medications. The stock maintained on the unit is unique from that carried on a traditional fire engine or ambulance. Items such as Ibuprofen, sunscreen, and lip balm are commonly in demand by fire personnel and are not easily accessed in remote deployment locations.

The unit is completely self-contained with two treatment beds, a sleeping area for unit personnel, a bathroom, cooking facility and heating and air conditioning. Carried on-board is a 10' x 20' fully enclosed and environmentally controlled treatment tent. IS-281 carries enough fuel and water for self-containment up to approximately five days.

IS-281 compliments the Fire District's existing equipment fleet of 3 fire engines, a seventy-five foot aerial ladder truck, brush engine, water tender, rescue unit, administrative staff vehicles and antique fire engine.

###