

# Tahoe-Truckee firefighters rewarded for efforts in Colorado

Three engine strike teams from the Eldorado/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Plumas and Tahoe national forests were recognized by the regional forester as Honor Award recipients for their response to the Waldo Canyon Fire near Colorado Springs, Colo.

Strike Teams 4601C, 3660C and 4660C arrived at the Waldo Canyon Fire on June 26. Driven by winds up to 65 mph and burning through historically parched fuels, the fire raged into the Mountain Shadows community, spotting extensively and displaying extreme fire behavior creating very challenging conditions. The strike teams, each composed of five engine crews, worked through the night to protect lives and property.

“Comments from Incident Management Team members who were directing the suppression efforts, local agency personnel, and Colorado Springs residents consistently praised the outstanding efforts of the engine strike teams. They emphasized that the strike teams were responsible for saving many homes on the night of June 26 and 27 with their decisive and aggressive actions and that their efforts directly contributed to the 80 percent survival rate of residences impacted by the fire,” Tahoe Forest Supervisor Tom Quinn, who was working on the fire as agency administrator, said in a press release. “I am very proud of these men and woman and their effectiveness in fighting this fire which eventually burned over 18,200 acres and has been described as one of the most destructive fires in Colorado State history.”

The strike teams were also specifically recognized for their efforts by the president when he toured the Waldo Canyon Fire

on June 29.

**TNF Strike Team participants:**

**Strike Team Leader:** Robert Hilfer

**Engine 333 – White Cloud Station east of Nevada City:** Andy Achter, Lee Helgeson, Bill Bakker, Dana Salisbury, Dustin Friedman.

**Engine 31 – Camptonville:** James Prince, Matt Mullins, Daniel Sadlo, Christopher Buckbee, Danny Rasmussen.

**Engine 42 –Foresthill:** Mike Durocher, Eric Husmann, Tyler Bosworth, Daniel Manry, David Foster.

**Engine 71 – Truckee:** Jesse Green, Ryan Herrera, Wade Boan, Bryce Dana Boyer, Sabrina Retterer.

**Engine 73 – Truckee:** Matt Bradford, Adam Smith, Richard Herrera III, Gregory Lowdermilk, Jens Schneyder.