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(Wyo.)-Fire Deaths In Arizona Prompt State Safety Re-Examination



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/02/2013 11:56 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Wyoming firefighters are re-examining their strategies following the deaths over the weekend of 19 members of an elite Hotshot crew in Arizona.

Wyoming State Forester Bill Crapser says drier conditions around the West are causing fires to become more erratic and unpredictable.

Crapser says firefighters encountered conditions in last year's tough fire season that even the most experienced among them hadn't seen before.

Crapser says fires are spreading faster, winds are blowing more erratically and trees, shrubs and grasses are catching fire and burning quicker.

Crapser says the public may become frustrated when they don't believe firefighters are doing enough to save buildings. He says people need to remember that personal safety is the top priority.