

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2023
www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contact:
Maggie T. Reynolds
Public Information Specialist
mreynolds@sde.idaho.gov

Media Advisory: Critchfield to Discuss Career Technical Education's Role in Addressing North Idaho Workforce Shortage

IDL Fire Cache visit will highlight need for additional CTE programs

(BOISE) - Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield will visit the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Fire Cache in Coeur d'Alene this week. The cache is central to Idaho's annual firefighting efforts by supplying firefighters with essential equipment. However, the cache faces challenges recruiting skilled workers based on a gap in the regional workforce.

During Critchfield's Thursday tour, IDL Director Dustin Miller will explain the challenges the department faces in recruiting skilled workers for building wildland fire engines, maintaining small engines on pumps and chainsaws, operating equipment like forklifts and driving commercial vehicles. Critchfield is a proponent of expanding Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in Idaho's public schools as a means of preparing students for jobs in Idaho industry. Critchfield's tour coincides with National CTE Month, which celebrates programs that prepare students with relevant workforce and leadership skills in an applied setting.

Kootenai Technical Education Campus (KTEC) Director Colby Mattila will join Critchfield and Miller to see firsthand local opportunities for placing CTE graduates in good paying state jobs while addressing a gap in the local workforce.

Media is invited to attend the IDL Fire Cache tour.

What: Superintendent Critchfield tour of IDL Fire Cache

When: Thursday, February 9, 2023; 3:30 PM (PT)

Where: 3284 W. Industrial Loop, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Photos and videos of the tour will be available after the event.