



News Release

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As the Wallow Fire forces evacuations of Eager and Springerville Wednesday afternoon, staff from Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and Little Colorado Behavioral Health Centers (LCBHC) remains in Springerville to provide wellness support to law enforcement and fire crews.

Despite a deserted Springerville, staff provide critical incident stress management (CISM) and debriefing (CISD) to those in need during the Wallow Fire. CISM/CISD is a tool used in the military, law enforcement, and emergency services to help personnel work through stressful events and return to duty.

Emergency personnel have been battling the Wallow Fire for 11 days and as zero-percent containment is again reported, the stress continues to build for responders. "This is not counseling, but a mechanism for people to talk about their experience and unload their stress in order to re-engage" explains Michael Downs, CEO of Little Colorado "It's important that they function in the right state of mind, so they can work effectively."

"It is important that frontline personnel are cared for physically and emotionally and we are doing our best to ensure their wellbeing" explains Christina Mencuccini, Director of Communications for NARBHA.

For more information, please contact Christina Mencuccini, NARBHA Director of Communications/PIO, at 928-380-4004 or christina.mencuccini@narbha.org