

Dehradun-based forest academy trains NDRF for tackling wildfires

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DEHRADUN: The Dehradun-based Central Academy for State Forest Service has taken the onus of training the members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for two weeks in tackling wildfires in the state.

A total of 50 officials of the 15th Battalion of the NDRF are being trained and given info about forest fire prevention and mitigation strategies, besides firefighting equipment and forest fire alert system by the academy's senior officers.

The programme started on Monday as Uttarakhand is all set to clock into the summer forest fire season starting February 15. Academy principal Meenakshi Joshi apprised that the participants will be given field

exposure as Uttarkhand has "difficult terrain as compared with other plain states that see the equal intensity of wildfires".

The special sessions on the forest fire alert system of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) along with mock drills in collaboration with the forest staff of Uttarakhand will be conducted in the second leg of their training which is being given by senior IFS officers.

The training is being conducted by senior IFS officers. On the first day on Monday, the program was started in the presence of Atul Karwal, director general of NDRF.