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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 6, 2003

Contact: Phil Bain, UM registrar, (406) 243-2995.

FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE DEADLINE EXTENSIONS AT UM

MISSOULA-

The University of Montana will extend important fall semester deadlines for students fighting wildfires. The extension gives student firefighters extra time -- until Sept. 22 -- to meet registration, financial aid and other deadlines.

"I think it appropriate, under these circumstances, that we recognize the willingness of our students to put themselves in harm's way to protect the natural and built environments in Montana," UM President George Dennison said. "By reserving their places, we can let them know that we appreciate what they have done."

To take advantage of the extension and reserve a space in courses they've registered for, UM student firefighters must call (406) 243-2500 by Sunday, Aug. 17.

The number is in operation 24 hours a day and offers a recording asking students to provide the following information: their name, student identification number and the name of the agency for which they work.

The extension applies to all students working in firefighting efforts, including those providing support services for fire crews, as well as National Guard members and other military personnel.

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CBS USA Today, dailies, weeklies FiresII.rl