YOUNG ISRAEL STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF 19 ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS

The president of the National Council of Young Israel, Farley Weiss, who is a long-time resident of Phoenix, Arizona, issued the following statement today following yesterday's tragic loss of 19 members of an elite crew of firefighters. The victims were battling a deadly wildfire near the town of Yarnell, Arizona, which is approximately 85 miles northwest of Phoenix. The firefighters were all part of a Hotshot fire crew that was based in the City of Prescott, Arizona.

"The National Council of Young Israel joins with the residents of Prescott, the people of Arizona, and all Americans, in mourning the tragic loss of the 19 firefighters who were overcome by the deadly wildfire that is wreaking havoc in Arizona. This tragedy is a stark reminder of the selfless sacrifices that our courageous first responders make each and every day, as they put their own lives on the line in order to protect the lives of others. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the victims' families. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Arizona during this difficult and trying time."