



GLOBAL WILDFIRE AWARENESS

Chuck Bushey, President of the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF), recently wrote an article titled "New Beginning for Awareness" calling for a Global Wildfire Awareness Week. His article is presented below in its entirety:



International Association of Wildland Fire

Facilitating *communication* and providing *leadership* for the wildland fire community.

I can remember being taught that "fire prevention" and all it encompassed was one of the three legs of the stool, along with "detection" and "suppression," of successfully developing a wildland fire program for any wildland fire organization. If any leg of the stool was missing, your fire program would collapse.

Over the years, I have seen the "fire prevention" leg of this stool get progressively shorter as money and emphasis shifted. The IAWF has decided to try to help regain some of the local to global momentum that wildland fire awareness and prevention education deserves. We are establishing our first Global Wildfire Awareness Week, not so much as a single-week event but as 365 days of practice. Our plans are to have two dedicated weeks: one for the Northern Hemisphere (May 1-7) and another for the Southern (October 1-7; <http://wildfireworld.org/>). We will provide a theme and materials for both prevention specialists and homeowners that can be used to support local programs. This is a beginning and something different for us at the IAWF, and I would hope that you will help us by both participating and contributing to its development and signing on as supporting organizations and groups.

Our two dedicated weeks are not intended to replace currently established local efforts. However, we hope to be able to provide materials from around the world that will help enhance your established fire educational programs. We realize that there are many scattered periods that groups have chosen to use as their education week, commonly tied to local weather patterns and fuel types. Just in the United States, I know of 15 states that have dedicated prevention/awareness weeks, spanning mid-March to late-May. Similar circumstances occur all around the world.

While I realize that you most likely will be reading this after our initial week has gone by, that doesn't mean you can't continue to use our selected theme if you like and provide input to us online. Our theme for May is "**Your Home ... Your Responsibility**" with four objectives:

Raise awareness about the global wildfire reality, its evolution and the changes in the fire scene worldwide. This should be done at all levels, from citizens to professionals and administrators.

Increase citizen awareness about the emerging reality that multiple wildfires under extreme conditions often exceed the capacity of firefighting mechanisms to protect them, which means they need to prepare themselves and their properties for such a scenario.

Help citizens realize the importance of their active contribution to prevention as an alternative to ever-increasing costs for increased firefighting capacity.

Contribute to the international exchange of knowledge, examples, ideas and educational resources on the role of wildland fire, the characteristics of the wildfire problem and the methods to mitigate it.

Each year, more people around the world in the wildland-urban interface zone are affected by wildfire. Each year, people have to decide how to best protect their homes from fire, as well as whether to stay and protect their homes or evacuate as early as possible if a wildfire does occur.

We are encouraging people to perform their own home assessment if they don't have a qualified expert available to do it for them. We encourage you to submit your sample home assessment forms and other tools that professionals and homeowners can use as examples, and we will create an online global map that will help you find materials from your region. Additionally, we ask that you identify where, such as a regional fire authority, the general public can go to seek answers to any questions on their particular home assessment form.

For more information about IAWF, visit www.iawfonline.org.

FIRE TRESPASS

Fire Trespass is defined as the occurrence of unauthorized fire on agency managed lands where the source of the ignition is tied to some type of human activity. One of the BLM's primary responsibilities, as outlined in the BLM's *draft* National Fire Trespass Handbook (Handbook), is to determine the cause of all wildland fires on public lands. Agency policy requires any human caused wildland fires to be investigated to determine cause, origin and responsibility. Further, the agency must pursue cost recovery, or document why cost recovery was not initiated for all human caused fires on public lands.

The Handbook was revised in 2011 and should be released in the near future. Some of the key elements of the Handbook include defining roles and responsibilities, outlining the process for the various types of fire trespass, and requiring states and units to develop their own fire trespass plans. A joint Colorado/Wyoming Fire Trespass Plan is currently in draft form. Once finalized the Colorado/Wyoming plan will outline the criteria for a fire trespass plan for Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU) - as the MIFMU plan will tier to the state's direction and guidance.

BACKYARDS & BEYOND CONFERENCE



The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Wildland Fire Operations Division hosted the 4th

"Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference" in Denver in October. The event was devoted to bringing together a diverse audience of leading wildland fire experts, Firewise community representatives, community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others. It offered an opportunity to network with like-minded professionals, share best-practices that attendees could take back to their communities and workplaces, and explore key issues with over 50 breakout sessions in five educational tracks.

The Firewise program celebrates 10 years of working with homeowners to reduce the risk of wildland fires to communities. To close the conference, Jack Cohen and Michele Steinberg described the Firewise journey from an initial idea to a national model. Jack Cohen, research

physical scientist with the USFS, shared how his research over the years led to the sequence of events that brought him to work with some of the initial pilot communities of the Firewise program. Michele Steinberg then detailed the Firewise Communities/USA program from the pilot communities through today. She shared how the pilots offered several lessons that shaped the program, including; the need to focus on one community at a time, the importance of mitigation education, the focus on action instead of reaction and the maintenance of persistence and patience. Today, the Firewise program includes over 750 communities in 40 states and has an 80% retention rate over the past 10 years.

The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) sponsored six members of the Council to attend the conference through a grant received from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The six council members shared what they learned and their experiences from the conference at the recent November WRWC meeting. Complete coverage of the conference, including a synopsis of most of the breakout sessions is available by visiting the NFPA website (<http://nfpa.typepad.com/firewise/backyards-beyond-conference/>).

WILDFIRE MITIGATION ON PRIVATE LANDS



The West Region Wildfire Council (WRWC) supports interagency efforts to develop and implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) to better mitigate the threat of

catastrophic wildland fire to communities and natural resources in the Colorado counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel. WRWC has secured grant funding which is intended to support private landowners living in the wildland urban interface in their effort to implement fuels reduction and mitigation projects.

To help ensure the success of the CWPPs, WRWC continues to offer private landowners and collective groups of private landowners the opportunity to apply for funding assistance in an effort to implement recommendations outlined in approved CWPPs. The goal of these funds is to assist in completing site specific fuels mitigation and/or landscape scale fuels reduction projects defined in an approved CWPP.

The West Region Wildfire Council Community Assistance funds are a 90/10 cost-share reimbursement opportunity. The 10% match from the private landowner or group of landowners can be fulfilled through in-kind efforts. The 10% match may also be fulfilled through direct payment. Landowners are reimbursed upon project completion and review.

To date, WRWC has funded wildfire mitigation projects for 25 properties in wildland urban interface communities throughout the region. The projects have treated a total of 53.4 acres (average treatment cost = \$1025/acre) - with an emphasis on creating defensible space around structures as outlined in the various CWPPs. The work completed reduces fuels in the hazard ignition zone and improves egress for homeowners

and groups of homeowners living in the most at risk communities.

For more information on the WRWC mitigation, or to apply, contact Lilia Colter at lilia.colter@gmail.com.



WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING

The Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU) hosted several wildland fire courses (S-215, S-230, S-231) this fall. The courses were open to employees and cooperators. Students enrolled in the S-230 and S-231 were exposed to the new blended (classroom/online) versions of the S-230 and S-231; which require only one day of class time each, but have a 16 and 8 hour (respectively) online training commitment.

MIFMU will also be hosting several wildland fire courses for cooperators at no cost in early 2012. More information will be sent via email, however **those interested in the following courses should contact Chris Barth** (cbarth@blm.gov):

S-131, Firefighter Type 1 - an eight-hour course designed to meet the training needs of Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1). Several tactical decision games are designed to facilitate learning the objectives and class discussion.

Objectives: Demonstrate the ability to use fireline reference tools to facilitate communication and the decision-making processes; describe how to incorporate and maintain open lines of communication with appropriate personnel; demonstrate the ability to apply the standard operating procedures found in the Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG); demonstrate the ability to apply information found in the Fireline Handbook.

Target Group: Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1).

Course Prerequisites: Qualified as Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2).

S-211, Portable Pumps & Water Use – a twenty-four hour course focusing on the supply, delivery, and application of water. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of correct water use, basic hydraulics, and equipment care.

Objectives: Select equipment required to maintain a flow of water as required by the incident; install pumps, hose lays, and holding tanks to provide water for use during the incident; perform required field maintenance on a portable pump.

Target Group: Individuals desiring to gain competency in the use of portable pumps and water.

Course Prerequisites: None.

S-215, Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface – a thirty-two hour course to assist structure and wildland firefighters in making tactical decisions when confronting wildland fire that threatens life, property, and improvements, in the wildland/urban interface. Instructional units include interface awareness, size-up, initial strategy and incident action plan, structure triage, structure protection tactics, incident action plan assessment and update, follow-up and public relations, and firefighter safety in the interface.

Objective: This course provides students with the skills and knowledge to size-up a wildland/urban interface fire incident, evaluate the potential situation, order and deploy the necessary resources, and apply safe and effective strategy and tactics to minimize the threat to life and property.

Target Group:

Wildland Fire Agencies: This course is required training for initial attack Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) and Strike Team Leader (tractor/plow, dozer, engine, or crew).

Structural Fire Departments: This training is appropriate for engine operators, chief officers, and company officers responsible for structure protection in suburban and urban interface areas that may be threatened by wildland fire.

Additionally, leaders from municipal planning, law enforcement and emergency management disciplines may find value in the course.

Course Prerequisites:

Wildland Fire Agencies: Qualified as Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1).

Structural Fire Departments: Students should have completed Introduction to ICS (I-100), Human Factors on the Fireline (L-180),

Firefighter Training (S-130), Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (S-190), and Firefighter Type 1 (S-131); or equivalent training.

S-230, Crew Boss (Single Resource) – a twenty-four hour course designed to produce proficiency in the duties associated with crew boss, single resource (CRWB). Topics include operational leadership, preparation and mobilization, assignment preparation, risk management, entrapment avoidance, safety and tactics, offline duties, demobilization, and post incident responsibilities.

Objectives: Describe crew boss responsibilities prior to and during mobilization, on the incident, and during demobilization; identify the hazards and risks on various incidents and describe how to mitigate them; describe tactics which are appropriate to various wildland fire situations and procedures to implement them through the chain of command.

Target Group: Required training to be qualified as a single resource boss.

Course Prerequisites: Qualified as Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1).

Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290).

S-231, Engine Boss (Single Resource) – a sixteen hour course to produce student proficiency in the duties associated with engine boss, single resource (ENGB). Topics include engine and crew capabilities and limitations, information sources, fire size up considerations, tactics, and wildland/urban interface.

Objective: Perform the tasks of an engine boss in making the tactical decisions required to safely manage an engine on an incident.

Target Group: Required training to be qualified as an engine boss (ENGB).

Course Prerequisites: Qualified as a Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1). Crew Boss, Single Resource (S-230).

Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone – a 2-day seminar that will help you to identify hazards and reduce risks in the home ignition zone before a wildfire starts. Wildland fire agencies have largely been unable to reduce home loss in the wildland/urban interface through traditional fire response procedures. Recent research has led to a greater understanding of how wildland fires ignite homes. By applying new knowledge of how wildland/urban interface fires occur and by using new approaches, future wildland/urban interface fire disasters can be significantly reduced.

Objectives: Assess the risk of wildfire to residential structures; describe the processes of heat transfer from an interface fire on vegetation and homes; explain the impact of severe wildland fire conditions on local fire agencies; describe the impact of ecological changes on fire potential; define the characteristics of the Home Ignition Zone; identify factors that determine the risk of ignition; conduct a hazard assessment that will assist residents in recognizing the risk and hazards that expose homes and communities to wildfire losses.

Target Group: Wildland Urban Interface coordinators, firefighters, fire officials, foresters, developers, community planners, insurance professionals, and others.

Course Prerequisites: None



SMOKEY BEAR

Smokey Bear made an appearance in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Not as a balloon but as a character on a float. This year's new float - "Hats Off To Our Heritage" - made its debut in style celebrating the 85th anniversary of Macy's Parade. On board were two of the parade's most famous leaders - Jean McFaddin and Robin Hall - stewards of the Macy's parade legacy for a combined 34 years.

The "Hats Off To Our Heritage" float featured a host of characters that have graced the skies of New York in the line-up from the first-ever Macy's balloon of Felix the Cat to wildfire prevention advocate, Smokey Bear. The parade's balloon history came to life on this float.



This was Smokey's 15th appearance in the parade. The Smokey Bear balloon first flew in the Macy's

Parade in 1966. The 59 foot balloon was sponsored by the General Electric Company which gave publicity to a network television animated special, "The Ballad of Smokey Bear" which was aired that evening. The balloon flew in the parade every year from 1966 through 1974 - with the exception of 1971. He graced the skies of NYC again in 1975, 1978, 1979, 1981 and 1993. He also made an appearance for the first time as a character, and not a balloon, walking alongside of Woodsy Owl, Thermy, BAC, and Power Panther (*all USDA characters*) in 2000.

Smokey Bear was escorted by New York State Forest Ranger Captain Eric Lahr.



MIFMU MONTHLY



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Look for new updates to come to the MIFMU website in 2012

http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/

November Events

- MIFMU Fuels Conference Call, November 1
- Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System, November 9
- West Region Wildfire Council, November 10
- Interior West Fire Ecology Conference, Snowbird, Utah, November 14-17
- Forest Ecology & Management Conference, Tallahassee, Florida, November 14-17
- MIFMU Fuels Conference Call, November 15
- MIFMU Fuels Conference Call, November 29

Historical Events

- *Loop Fire, San Diego, California, November 1, 1966 - 12 firefighters killed*
- *Waterfall Fire, Waterfall, NSW, Australia, November 3, 1980 - 5 firefighters killed*
- *Inaja Fire, Santa Ysabel, California, November 25, 1956 - 11 people killed*
- *Esperanza Fire, Cabazon, California, October 26, 2006 - 5 firefighters killed*