



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

Memorandum

December 18, 2000

TO: NWCG Members, Working Team, Advisory Group Chairs

FROM: Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2000 Annual Report

Attached is the annual report on activities for NWCG, Working Teams and Advisory Groups. No reports were received from the IRMWT, FWWT, and WFEWTs. Please contact me if you have questions.

Jim Stumpf

**NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP
FISCAL YEAR 2000
ANNUAL REPORT**

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) was formed in 1976 by an interagency agreement signed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. In 1993 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, specifically the U.S. Fire Administration, was added by agreement.

The Governing body of NWCG consists of representatives of Federal agencies and State partners:

Department of Agriculture:

Fire and Aviation Management, Forest Service
Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research, Forest Service

Department of the Interior:

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs
National Park Service
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

U.S. Fire Administration

National Association of State Foresters has both an eastern and western State representative to ensure optimal use of all State personnel during emergencies.

The National Fire Protection Association and Fire Control Officers Group (Australia/New Zealand) are Associate members of the organization. The FCOG is a new addition during this year.

Don Artley, State Forester for Montana is the Chair of NWCG. The detailed products of the NWCG are produced by the twelve Working Teams and Advisory Groups. The remainder of this report is a listing of the major projects or products which are the Working Teams or Advisory Groups. Additional information on any issue can be obtained by contacting the NWCG Chair, the Executive Secretary or the Chair of the particular Working Team or Advisory Group.

The Wildland Fire Investigation was formed this year to provide some consistency between all agencies in investigation.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WORKING TEAM

PMS is the only working Team that we have accepted a calendar year report on accomplishments. This report coincides with the annual inventory at the Great Basin Warehouse in Boise, Idaho.

PMS has no established budget and manages the system of publications for all agencies through the Great Basin Warehouse. They have established a Home Page that is receiving fairly heavy public and agency use. They will be communicating with other Working Teams and Advisory Groups about making more

publications available on this web site. The PMS Home Page address is:
<http://fwspceaa.nifc.r9.fws.gov/~olson/pms/pms.html>.

FIRE USE WORKING TEAM

Team Management (\$4,000 for 2 meetings) - Working Team business included two travel meetings: Boise, Idaho (November 5-6, 1999) and Boise, Idaho (June 6-7, 2000).

Team Web Presence (\$0) - The FUWT has a full presence on the NWCG Web Page including the team charter, membership, business (minutes and annual action plans, FY96 to present), and activities.

Fire Use Qualifications and Certification System (310-1) (\$0) - In conjunction with the IOSWT and TWT completed the update of the Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem. Fire Use position qualifications were updated and included in the January 2000 PMS 310-1. Updated fire use position taskbooks were delivered to the IOSWT for publication in the PMS.

Fire Use Training Development (\$0)

- ! The last (RX300 - Prescribed Fire Implementation) fire use training course was completed and submitted to PMS for publication. Suggested fire use training course updates were forward to the TWT for inclusion in the Projected Course Revisions/Development Schedule.
- ! A task group developed a draft first order fire effects monitoring module for inclusion in the Field Observer (S-244) training course.

Air Quality/Smoke Management Issues (\$0) - A complete draft of the *NWCG Smoke Management Guide* was sent to selected agency and partner reviewers. Completion is expected in late CY 00 or early 01.

TRAINING WORKING TEAM

Team Membership

Some turnover occurred on the team during FY00. Jim Steele, BIA, was replaced by Dave Koch. Buck Latapie, USFS, was replaced by Bill Terry. George Martin, Chair of the TWT, USFS, was replaced by Logan Lee. And Cyndie Hogg, Chair of the Dispatch Subcommittee, was replaced by Patrick O'Leary.

Overall Strategy and Direction of the Team for FY00

The TWT will provide strategic leadership to assure effective training and learning within the fire management community, and encourage training development responsive to the changing environment in which incident management decisions are made. The TWT will also assist agencies in assuring effective delivery of training serving the wildland fire community, and that long and short term monitoring and evaluation of wildland fire training effectiveness is ongoing.

Specific Accomplishments

The TWT continues to meet annually with the geographic area training officers and the IOS Working Team. This

has greatly increased the communication information flow, and has helped resolve issues.

The fiscal year started out with several carry-over courses to be completed prior to getting back on the original development schedule. These courses included Ground Support Unit Leader S-355, Medical Unit Leader S-359, Food Unit Leader S-357, Supply Unit Leader S-356, Communications Unit Leader S-358, and Communications Technician S-258. These courses will be published by the end of the calendar year.

The Incident Commander S-400 course is to be carried over again. The original development group disbanded and a new smaller group is being put together to complete this course, with a planned completion date of early 2001. Air Operations Branch Director may possibly be published by the end of the calendar year.

Courses scheduled for completion at the end of FY00 were on schedule. This includes Information Officer S-403, Safety Officer S-404, Logistics Section Chief S-450, Finance/Administration Section Chief S-460, and Finance/Administration Unit Leader S-360. Planning Section Chief S-440 will be delayed until the start of 2001.

The development cycle has started on Command and General Staff S-420, Facilitative Instructor M-410, Fire in the Interface S-215 (S-205), Driving for the Fire Service S-216, NFDRS S-491, RERAP S-492, and FARSITE S-493. Advanced Fire Behavior S-490 is in the planning stages. A hold was put on the updating of the supervision courses: Supervisory Concepts S-281 (S-201), Leadership and Organizational Development S-381 (S-301), and the development of Advanced Management Concepts S-481. The TWT has assigned a task group to investigate the fire management leadership issue and report back to the group with recommendations by February 2001.

A decision was made to no longer continue a course for the Liaison Officer (S-402) position. The assignment of the Liaison Officer could be given to an incident experienced individual with agency specific qualifications. Therefore, it was felt that a course was not needed for this position.

The D-310 Support Dispatcher Training course revision has completed beta testing and is now approved for Area level presentation. The Initial Attack Dispatch course has been approved and is being included in the training development plan cycle. Aviation Dispatcher training is still under development.

FIRE DANGER RATING WORKING TEAM

The Fire Danger Working Team's 2000 accomplishments have been summarized for NWCG's review. The Working Team through the efforts of the members and the technical advisors completed the following tasks. At the direction of NWCG, the Fire Danger Working Team (FDWT) completed its charter, strategic plan and vision for the future of fire danger rating.

The National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) is a trusted decision tool for fire and resource managers. The NFDRS is based upon the integration of the latest fire and atmospheric sciences, climatology, remote sensing, and GIS technology. It is supported by processors and data management systems which are robust and flexible enough to remain state of the art. The NFDRS is easy to use - requiring limited human intervention, minimal in cost, and can be applied through space (locally, regionally, nationally) and time (today, tomorrow, seasonally) across the United States. System access is web-based and outputs are displayed with tabular, graphical, and GIS formats. Fire danger is a description of factors - fuels, weather, topography - which affect the initiation, spread, and difficulty of control of wildfires on an area.

A system test was conducted on the new 10 hr. dead fuel moisture algorithm with the assistance of the Missoula Fire Lab and AL Borup of the BLM. The test simulated as if it was operating on WIMS, the national interagency processor for fire danger rating. The operational test of solar radiation measures passed. It did not load down the system.

The National Fire Danger Rating User's Guide / NFES# 1522 / PMS # 430-3 / will be discontinued as a public document.

A NWS/Fire Danger issue was addressed and standards were adopted concerning the accuracy of resolution for NFDRS Point or Trend forecasts.

Fire Family + User's Guide version 2 was completed and introduced to the field.

The Weather Information Management System (WIMS) Task Group was formed to provide oversight for the FDWT in the re-engineering effort of the system. Funding was acquired for state participation.

The contracted work for the document, Gaining a Basic Understanding of the NFDRS was completed. This new publication will be used for the first time during the newly developed S-491 NWCG Test Course for fire danger rating.

Funding was acquired for the research efforts on the refining the Haines Index. An index used to assess atmospheric conditions that can promote large fire growth.

A Team letter of support was prepared and forwarded to the JSFP for their consideration to fund the two following proposals: "*Monitoring Live Vegetation Status and Fire Potential Using AVHRR Data*" and "*Wildland Fire Assessment System-Expansion and Evaluation*". These two proposals have tremendous potential to enhance fire danger rating.

A letter was prepared to the Southern State Foresters advising them on fire danger related research projects or proposals that were being pursued and would have meaningful impacts on their respective forest protection programs.

A report was prepared on weather stations comparisons conducted in Reading, CA. It involved NWS/FAA - Aerial Surface Observation Station versus a NFDRS reporting RAWS. A sister study in North Carolina/South Carolina is underway. The 2-minute versus 10-minute wind speed average among other station characteristics will be examined.

INCIDENT OPERATIONS STANDARDS WORKING TEAM

- C 310-1 completion
- C Initiated Crew Typing proposal (first and second draft)
- C NFPA Interfacing, completed urban interface action items. Knowledges, skills and abilities completed.
- C Met with parent group
- C Began 410-1 review
- C Approved revised ICS 209 form
- C Supported national All-Risk ICS review
- C Continued to work on Fire Leadership proposal

- C Participated in NFPA 1051 committee
- C Participated in IQS committee
- C Joint meeting with TWT
- C Approved IADP Position Taskbook
- C Updated IOS WT Charter
- C Reviewed PTB-s for FOBS-RXFM compatability
- C Participated in Fire Program Management Competencies and Quals Projects
- C Reviewed need for national standard for fireline EMT
- C Assisted USCG in finalizing one week training curriculum for ICS planning
- C Assisted USCG as technical specialist regarding update of oil field operations guide
- C Assisted USCG with forms update
- C Assisted USCG with developing Incident Management Teams
- C Reviewed and acted upon a variety of external proposals
- C Change in membership:
 - BIA Representation, Nate Shouds replaced Rich Caballero
 - USFS Representation, Marc Rounsaville replaced John Roberts
 - USFWS Representation, Phil Street replaced Mike Phillips
 - SE States Representation, Jim Karles replaced Roger Browning
 - Executive Secretary, Beth Spencer replaced Claudia Standish

FIRE EQUIPMENT WORKING TEAM

The Fire Equipment Working Team (FEWT) experienced another very successful year of activity. The group met in Luray, VA in October, 2000 to review accomplishments, as well as make a presentation to the parent committee. The presentation before NWCG went very well and most of the information shown below was reported at that time.

The key successes this past year include:

- C BDU implementation: The implementation plan for the switchover from nomex jeans to battle-dress utility (BDU) pants was started in June of this year. This was a successful effort and the new pants are gaining wide field acceptance. It is anticipated that two more years of transistion will be required before we have completed the conversion process.
- C Quick connect: The study and field survey on quarter turn (quick connect) hose was completed and a presentation/recommendation was made to NWCG. The conversion to Quick connect hose was approved and we are working on an implementation plan.
- C Various publications were updated this year and reissued:
 1. Lot Acceptance and Quality Assurance Guide
 2. Retardant Base Planning Guide
 3. Fire Shelter Publication and video
- C A successful Joint Meeting was held with the Canadian Fire Equipment Working Group (FEWG) hosting in Charlottetown, PEI. Several provinces are looking to go to a two piece outfit for personal protective clothing.
- C The International Foam Specification was approved and accepted so now we are in line with UL

Canada and the NFPA 1150 specification. This was a seven year effort that was brought to a successful conclusion!

- C The chain saw chaps specification has been revised adding a layer of kevlar and greater width to provide a higher level of protection and coverage for the user.
- C The Long Term Retardant Specification B 5100-304b was finalized this year after three years of work with all the agencies.
- C FEWT undertook a review of the SAFE Initiative (Tri-Data) and sent a report to Steve Holder on FEWT accomplishments.
- C Under the auspices of FEWT, MTDC developed a Fire Shelter publication, as well as a video on fire shelter use.
- C The fire shelter was redesigned B both the body of the shelter, as well the adaptation to the handle for shelter deployment.

WILDLAND FIRE EDUCATION WORKING TEAM

Maureen Brooks, State of Maryland, Chair - \$124,500 was budgeted for the Working Team but we are unaware of any accomplishments.

FIRE WEATHER WORKING TEAM

Wayne Mitchell, California Department of Forestry, Chair - \$8,000 was budgeted for the Working Team but we are unaware of any accomplishments.

INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORKING TEAM

Mike Funston, USDA Forest Service, Chair - \$231,000 was budgeted for the Working Team but we are unaware of any accomplishments.

SAFETY AND HEALTH WORKING TEAM

The FY2000 budget was \$145,000:

\$70,000 for Fire Shelter Performance Standards B funds expended.

\$20,000 for AHuman Factors on the Fireline@training course B funds expended, project completed.

\$10,000 for AFireline Leadership and Decision Making@training course. - No NWCG funds used. The course was developed by an outside contractor (Mission-Centered Solutions), tested and finalized through a presentation to 19 Interagency Hotshot Crews. It was funded by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. The course will be evaluated by the NWCG Training Working Team's Leadership Subcommittee for inclusion in the NWCG curriculum in the Spring of 2001.

\$30,000 for Wildland Firefighter Health and Safety B funds expended.

\$5,000 for ASafety Gram@, BLM-NIFC - no funds used.

\$5,000 for AHistorical Wildland Firefighter Fatalities@ - No funds expended, will be completed FY2001.

\$5,000 for state travel for three employees.

The activities and accomplishments of the Working Team involved Team members, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) staff, and members of the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FAST) at NIFC, and Steve Holder, S.A.F.E. Initiative Program Manager.

The team took action on 18 suggestions, proposals and recommendations received throughout the year.

The fire shelter project received \$70,000 from NWCG, assigned to MTDC. These funds were used toward the development of new performance tests for the shelter. \$60,000 was utilized to develop full scale thermal testing procedures and small scale tests for material screening and component performance, contracted to Dr. Mark Ackerman, University of Alberta. The remaining \$10,000 was contracted to Omega Point Lab in San Antonio, TX, as part of the effort to develop a new toxicity test for the shelter.

These new performance and toxicity tests are crucial steps toward development of an improved shelter. The discovery in 1999 that flammable gases can, under certain conditions, ignite inside the shelter has made the development of an improved shelter a high priority. To do this properly in a scientific manner, reliable performance test protocols are required. Test development will be complete in FY2001; testing of promising materials and designs will begin in earnest when the test protocols are complete and failure criteria have been identified.

The \$30,000 assigned to MTDC for Wildland Firefighter Health and Safety was utilized to:

Define the scope of the project, including length of assignment.

Review existing literature.

Plan lab and field research for FY2001.

Fund preliminary study of oxidative stress in wildland firefighters (Dr. Bret Ruby).

Support travel for Ruby et al for AEscape to Safety Zone@ study.

Publish spring and fall editions of AWildland Firefighter Safety and Health Report@, MTDC.

The ASAFENET@electronic and hard copy reporting system was developed and implemented in time for the active 2000 fire season. More work remains to be done in developing final management parameters and determining ultimate uses.

A firefighter safety bandana was approved for use in basic firefighting training courses by the S&HWT and the Training Working Team. This will be submitted to PMS in FY2001.

A S&HWT website was established.

The Safety chapter of PMS-410-1 Fireline Handbook was reviewed at the request of the Incident Operations Standards Working Team.

Work was initiated on a new Interagency Safety Alert format and process, to be completed FY2001.

Team members were heavily involved in development of new interagency Wildland Fire Medical Standards; these were completed and await pilot testing in FY2001.

The 1999 Safety Gram was compiled and published.

The NWCG's S-404 Safety Officer course was revised, tested and completed with assistance from S&HWT members.

Lastly, the team experienced considerable membership turnover and expansion. Long-term chair Dave Aldrich, Forest Service, retired in early June, replaced by Paul Broyles, National Park Service.

INCIDENT BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING TEAM

The NWCG Incident Business Practices WT accomplished the following during FY 2000:

Meetings Conducted:

November	1999
February	2000

A planned meeting scheduled for June, 2000, was cancelled because of the historic fire season of 2000.

Cost of meetings from budget: \$2,984

PROJECTS:

IIBMHB revisions

The Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook was revised in its entirety, printed by the cache, and released to the field prior fire season.

Status: Completed

Budget applied: \$800

Recruitment Plan

This report summarized the issues and proposed recommendations developed by the IBPWT for the recruitment and retention of workforce for emergency incident assignments. The purpose of the report is not specific to finance section, but to all incident positions.

Status: Preparing for Submission

Budget applied: \$0

Incident Business Coordinators Meeting

Attended, participated, and gave IBPWT progress report at this December, 1999, meeting.

Status: Completed

Budget applied: \$1,742

Incident Business Advisor Course

Development of the course is ongoing. SME will meet the week of Oct. 16, 2000, to continue this effort.

Status: Ongoing

Budget applied: \$1,000

Incident Base Automation Survey/Review

Reviewed the survey results and saw that it was formatted so that it was useful. Ensured that there was a summary of what was automated, identified gaps, and what the priority was for going forward. Developed short and long term recommendations for Incident Base Automation.

Status: Phase I & II complete

Budget applied: \$500

Forms/Modification Development

All forms have been approved. The OF-296, Vehicle/Heavy Equipment Safety Inspection Checklist has been printed and may be ordered from GSA. The other forms have yet to be printed but are expected soon.

Status: Complete

Budget applied: \$0

NWCG Business Plan

Completed February, 2000.

Status: Completed

Budget applied: \$0

Revised/Improved IBPWT Web Pages

Broadened the scope of the web site with the addition of links to other sites for useful incident business information. Such sites include FEMA, GSA, OPM, etc.

Status: Ongoing

Budget applied: \$0

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE WORKING TEAM

Background of the National Program

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a private nonprofit membership association with the mission of reducing the burden of fire on the quality of life by advocating scientifically based consensus

codes and standards, research and education for fire and related safety issues. NFPA was founded in 1896 to protect people, their property and the environment from the effects of destructive fire. As the leading worldwide advocate for fire safety and protection, the NFPA codes, standards, and public education materials have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and other languages for use all over the world.

In 1986, NFPA and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service entered into a cooperative agreement to develop and implement fire protection and prevention programs to reduce the nation's wildfire losses. Since 1986, the Program has enjoyed the added sponsorship of the United States Department of the Interior wildland agencies (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Fish and Wildlife Service). The management of the Program is the responsibility of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Working Team.

Fire suppression techniques, fire analysis, landscaping, firefighter safety, wildland/urban interface fire analysis, and many other special projects have been added to the existing cooperative agreement in annual agreement operating plans. All projects are for the good of the public and the environment.

Activities for 2000

The Program enjoyed a start-up at the beginning of the year, thanks to the efforts of staff from NFPA, the USDA Forest Service, and others involved in the Program. The following is a brief description of each task under the program and its status and expected completion/resolution. NOTE, because the Program is managed by the calendar year, this report covers January thru August 2000.

Task 1. Public Information Dissemination

The National Public Education and Information Dissemination Task is targeted at the overall goal of creating an increased awareness of the wildland/urban interface fire problem throughout the country. This awareness is accomplished through contact with the general public, homeowners, homeowner associations, private industry groups, the fire service, governmental organizations and the insurance industry. Through this awareness and information, those affected by wildland/urban interface fire problems will be encouraged to take action to reduce losses that normally result from unwanted fires.

This task includes several publications and activities described below.

Firewise Home Page (www.firewise.org)

January 2000 ended with 62,749 hits, a 3,600 hit increase over the month of January 1999 (59,149). Our list of registered guests now stands at 1,482---more than double the number of registrations at the end of February last year (737).

February 2000 had 16 percent more hits than February 1999 with a total of 67,042, while the 1999 total was 57,805.

March 2000: The month ended with overall hits 80,203. The busiest single day was 23 Mar with 4,229 hits. Registered Users now total: 1,595.

April 2000: The April hits totaled 87,479. Compare this with April 1999 when the monthly hits were 76,277! Our list of registered users now stands at 1,708, in comparison with 783 in April 1999. Our

registrations more than doubled in twelve months.

May 2000: May Firewise hits totaled 89,628. Compare this with May 1999 when the monthly hits were 84,324. Our list of registered users now stands at 1,708, in comparison with 817 in May 1999. Our registrations have more than doubled.

June 2000: Overall Hits for the month totaled 93,117, with the busiest day 29 Jun with 4,134 hits. Registered Mailing List Recipients now stand at 1,969, an increase of 261 over last month.

July 2000: Overall Hits totaled 94,151 (Busiest month on record) and the busiest day (27 July) with 4,187 hits. Registered Mailing List Recipients now total 2,098.

Samples of the Questions/Comments/Requests received via the website:

What are the different types of forest fires?

Need information about protecting power poles from wildfire

What is state statute for Oklahoma regarding fire bans and Red Flag days?

What type of training do firefighters need to fight wilderness fires?

What types of marketing plans are most successful for educating the public about urban/interface fire hazards?

Is there no way to improve the Dead End Road situation on the Fire Hazard

How long does it take to become incapacitated by smoke?

Have there been any fires in the world in the past week?

How can we (a commercial, Boise-based company) become partners with Firewise?

How would a local planner/city official use Firewise as a resource?

What are the impacts of anthropogenic fire on the woodlands of eastern US?

How are wildfire effects measured?

Need international forestry marketing information (Russian students)

Need information on the use of water sprinklers for house protection

What are different types of prescribed fires?

Need definition of when property is exposed to wildland fire and when it is not

How long must a landscaping plant withstand direct flame to be called fire resistant?

Requested a copy of SIAM (Mexico)

Need a list of fire-safety rules for children

Want information regarding what to do in case of a fire

Requested information on cigarettes and fire starts

Does a simplified home inspection form exist?

Requested (in Spanish) information on wildland fire prevention and other materials (from Peru)

How many animals were injured, evacuated, saved and sheltered during the Florida fires?

Please describe the dangers, chemical properties and history of fire.

What chemicals are in a fire extinguisher that makes a fire go out

Requested permission to establish a link from The Complete Story of Russian

Fire Engines from 1700 to 2000 (Belarus)

Ways that fire affects humans and animals (2)

What is the likelihood of discarded cigarettes starting forest/heath fires (England)

Contact information for mental health professionals involved in fire prevention

Request for technical information on the Suzuki Samurai with relation to its being a fire hazard in off-road settings (overheated drive train/shock absorber)

Request for the average temperature of a wildland fire

Request for a list of foods/equipment needed to prepare for a fire

How can a person make a fire evacuation less stressful
Can water always put out a fire?
How do you detect fires?
How many vents should be in the storage shed I am constructing?
Request for information about the Federal Excess Property Program
Request to reprint the Firewise Construction and Landscaping Checklists.
Two requests for information about a home-use foam/wetting agent

Here are examples of the outreach and feedback we've been getting from the website:

"We are writing to say how amazing your web site is! We are students from the Siberian-American School of management (Irkutsk, Russia), and we study international marketing. Especially, we are interested in learning more about international market of forest products (commercial roundwood). Your profound knowledge in this area has already helped us. The depth of your materials is what attracts us the most."

USA Today (early May) featured an article on the Los Alamos NM fires in which Randy Eardley provided information on the home page and the Firewise Workshops.

On 5 June 00, NBC Dateline featured a program on the national wildland fire problem and instructed viewers for more information on how to protect their homes from wildfire, to visit the website www.dateline.msnbc.com which featured a link to the Firewise webpage.

USAA Insurance magazine carried an article on Firewise and mentioned the home page.

The Firewise Home Page has also established a relationship with LOGIN (Local Government Information Network). LOGIN has recently developed Planapolis, developed for municipal planners. The site will include our 'Examples of Successful Programs' (Shenandoah County, VA; Prescott, AZ; Orange County, CA) module in that area. It will also include the Firewise Communities events on its calendar and link to Firewise so that users can obtain further information regarding the issue of the wildland/urban interface.

Wildfire News and Notes

The final issue of 1999 was an electronic version, posted on the Firewise website.

The first issue of WN&N was printed and mailed out in March. The issue was also placed on the Firewise home page. Mailing addresses are being adjusted constantly but the readership remains fairly stable at about 16,000. Internet viewers of WN&N continue to be reflected in the overall numbers for home page activity.

Publications

The CD-ROM (of the previous reports *Wildfire Strikes Home*) was completed and entitled Firewise Communities, CD#1. The *Protecting Your Home from Wildfire* publication is being revised as a homeowner retro-fit guide and will be published by the Institute for Business and Home Safety. The new

publication will be available as an adjunct to the Firewise Communities Workshops.

Public Affairs

The development of public information and awareness tools is a valuable way to affect and inspire action from those closest to the problems of the interface. However, simply providing information does not ensure that the information is effectively used or the appropriate action taken. For that reason, the second major task of the program is to demonstrate the effects of action and encourage the establishment of local, regional, and national partnerships and alliances to reach targeted audiences with a wide range of information, strategies, and activities.

Task 2: Workshop Planning & Participation

The development of public information and awareness tools is a valuable way to affect and inspire action from those closest to the problems of the interface. However, simply providing information does not ensure that the information is effectively used or the appropriate action taken. For that reason, the second major task of the program is to demonstrate the effects of action and encourage the establishment of local, regional, and national partnerships and alliances to reach targeted audiences with a wide range of information, strategies, and activities.

Local Workshop Participation

This task provides for participation in local, regional, and national workshops and conferences to present Wildland/Urban Interface program activities and products. Meetings with traditional fire-oriented groups will be maintained and emphasis on other non-traditional groups will be given in order to enlist the assistance of other disciplines related to the wildland/urban interface fire problem. Here are a few of the conferences at which Firewise information was presented:

- C C National Association of Home Builders in Dallas, TX
- C IBHS Land Use Planning Committee
- C Briefed the NFPA Forest & Rural Committee on the Firewise Communities Workshops and explained the underlying principles of the Firewise philosophy to the task group developing a wildland/interface fire code as they revise NFPA 299, the standard upon which the Firewise Communities Workshops are based
- C Pacific Northwest Coordinating Group at Skamania Lodge (200 people) B Barbara Kennedy
- C Oregon Department of Forestry Protection Conference (200 people) B Barbara Kennedy
- C Integrated Firewise concepts into FLASH (Florida Alliance for Safe Homes) website information and also FLASH cards on wildfire.
- C FIREWISE article written for Florida Elder Affairs newsletter circulated to 300,000 elder citizens
- C Firewise concepts drafted into CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program for FEMA and Florida.
- C Firewise presentation given to local and state emergency managers
- C Firewise presentation given at the State Fire Marshals Conference

- C Firewise material given out to Florida Fire Chiefs Association Disaster Committee
- C Firewise presentation given to FEPA (Florida Emergency Preparedness Association)
- C Firewise presentation given at Fire/Rescue East (25 attendees) February 2000.
- C Updated area emergency managers on Firewise during 4 separate meetings, 75 total attendees .
- C Firewise Communities Workshop briefing for the USDA Forest Service in Minnesota
- C The WUI/Firewise Exhibit was presented at a conference in Nevada (Pat Durland)
- C Began discussions with NC Colleges for Firewise Communities and related WUI programs for NC
- C Firewise Communities presentation and demonstration was done for the Congressional Fire Services Forum in Washington DC
- C Interface Fires 200 in Halifax, Nova Scotia (two separate presentations)
- C Presentation at the NACO7 Annual Meeting in Boise on May 18th. (Dan Bailey)
- C Public Forum **B** Los Alamos NM with IBHS representative Bonnie Manley
- C ESRI International Users Conference in San Diego, CA, featured a Firewise Communities showcase presentation and the tabletop exhibit.
- C Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission **B** Sturbridge MA
- C ISO/State Farm Insurance Meeting **B** Missoula MT
- C Fire & Aviation Review Team Meeting **B** Denver CO
- C National Association of State Foresters (Don Smith)
- C Oregon State Fair (Barbara Kennedy)
- C National Emergency Managers Association (David Halstead)

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES Workshops

The theme of these workshops for 2000-2001 is **Firewise Communities.** This will take into account both new and existing communities and developments. Pilot tests were done in the last quarter of 1999 in Deerfield Beach, FL and San Diego, CA.

The Deerfield Beach, FL Pilot Test attendees provided a good mix of the various disciplines the workshops are designed for. There were about 80 participants.

Although the San Diego Pilot workshop was smaller (about 35), we found that it held appeal for Realtors and conservation groups as well as providing the CA FireSafe Councils with a readily available tool to be used locally.

The first workshop was held in Stevenson WA at the Skamania Lodge. Attendee distribution for the workshop was:

Locations and dates for the remaining workshops in the 2000 series are:

25-27 September 00, Brooklyn Park MN (concurrent with the Fire Management Study Group)
 18-20 October 00, Atlanta GA
 4-6 December 00, Prescott AZ

At the first workshop in Stevenson WA, the Firewise Communities painting was unveiled, and it was announced that the image would become a US Postage stamp in January 2003, bringing the message of Firewise to all of America.

RADIO NARROWBAND ADVISORY GROUP

Budget

No funds were expended in FY 2000.

Accomplishments

Considerable testing on individual digital radios were performed to understand and compare the performance differences of the three operating modes (wideband analog, narrowband analog and digital) by the Engineering and Field Operations section assigned to the National Incident Radio Support/Infrared Operations Group. This testing encompassed both wildland fire and law enforcement activities. Of the units tested (3 portable radios, 1 low current mountain repeater, 2 mobile radios, 1 aircraft FM radio, battery clamshells) there are still some deficiencies that must be corrected before a list of recommended equipment will be released. The general consensus of the NIFC testing, the BLM Wyoming system, and the Southwest Colorado testing is that the deficiencies will be rectified and the fire radio equipment will be selected prior to the FY2001 fire season.

The Radio Narrowband Advisory Group will meet November 14th and 15th in Boise to hear from each of the above groups. At the conclusion of the meeting the Group will recommended the mode of operation for the FY2001 season.