



Fireline

The newsletter of the National Wildfire Suppression Association

October 1, 2010

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In This Issue

- Training Corner
- Political Corner
- 2011 Conference

Other News:

[NWSA Home Page](#)

[NWSA Home Page with Training Schedules, Current Members](#)

[Contractorsinfire Blog](#)

[NWSA Blog providing you with great information for the Professional Private Wildland Fire Services](#)

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2011 NWSA Conference

The 2011 NWSA Conference has been downsized this year due to current economics, and in helping curb costs for members that want to attend.

It will be a two day conference at the Peppermill in Reno on Feb. 21 and Feb. 22, 2011. We will not be holding our annual instructors sessions but will instead be sending out updates via email to instructors for the 2011 year. Also we will not be holding the Contractor's Certification Program for the 2011 year, anyone that is currently certified can provide the NWSA office with documentation of accepted training by an outside party to maintain their certification.

We are going to ask Chapters of NWSA to hold their meetings locally and elect their open positions prior to the Reno Meeting to cut down on that time also and allow more members to participate in that.

We will still be having the Resource Group meetings and elections as well as the NWSA business meeting on the 21st along with a vendor show and Welcome Reception.

On the 22nd we will be hosting Region and National guest speakers, as well as a luncheon and our Benefit Dinner/Auction.

Make Hotel Reservations Here

https://reweb.passkey.com/Reseb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2613974

NWSA Training Corner

by Stan Kunzman, NWSA Training Coordinator

Trainer's Corner Fall 2010

Re-certification: Crew Bosses and FFT-1 whose currency has lapsed shall revert back to the Trainee level only in the position for which lapsed. The person shall be issued a new position task-book for the position, complete on the job training if needed, and re-qualify in a position performance assignment. The individual shall also complete any additional training courses which have been added to the position for which they are attempting to recertify.

FFT-2 whose currency has lapsed would be required to retake entry level training (I-100, S-190, S-130 and L-180).

Chainsaws Standards: Presently the agencies have three contracts and Emergency

Rental Agreements the private sector operates under. The following information pertains to the three contracts.

1. National Type 2-IA Firefighter Crew Contract requires 3 qualified Class B sawyers at all times. The National Type 2 Firefighter Crew Contract requires 3 qualified Class A sawyers at all times. Hand crews under this contract shall not perform as hazardous tree fallers. References to faller qualifications are found in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviations Operations (www.nifc.gov/policies/guides.htm, Chapter 13). Chainsaw operators and fallers will have a currency of 5 years under these standards.
2. Pacific Northwest Water Handling Agreement states the chainsaw may only be used for mop up operations, the clearing of access routes and emergency escape routes. The engine crew shall not perform as tree fallers. Even though the agreement does not specify the level of certification any person operating a chainsaw is required to have taken and passed the S-212 course.
3. Oregon Department of Forestry Interagency Crew Agreement provides a detailed set of standards for certification as a Faller, Class A, B, or C. The agreement requires the use of The Bureau of Land Management task book and completion of Field Evaluation Forms or similar document for all trees felled. Faller certification/qualifications have a currency of 5 years. Recertification is required after currency expires. Persons currently qualified as sawyers must complete a Faller Class A PTB and recertify prior to 2014.

In October 2009 NWSA added S-212 RT as a course in the data base to document annual chainsaw safety training. This course was not a substitute for S-212. Persons taking this class should have already been certified. The purpose was to provide refresher training for employees and meet States Health and Safety standards. The Training Committee will be working on an outline for this training and a new code in order to avoid confusion with the S-212 course.

NWSA Political Corner by Chuck Burley, NWSA Governmental Affairs

Consultant

HUB Zones

The NWSA board adopted the position to support 'parity' in the HUB Zone Program. Currently the law requires a contracting officer to set-aside a solicitation for HUB Zone certified small business concerns if he or she believes the government will receive a minimum of two qualified bids (known as the rule of two) from HUB Zone businesses. None of the other set asides, for instance 8(a) or Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) have such a requirement.

As a consequence, there have been protests and legal challenges (in the Federal Court of Claims) that have resulted in rulings supporting the position that HUB Zones take precedent over the other set asides. Even the current administration is divided over this issue with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) taking the position that HUB Zones take precedent while the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Attorney General believe there should be parity.

This debate all comes down to just one word in the Small Business Act—"Shall". The law says the contracting officer "shall" set-aside for HUB Zone businesses when the rule of two is met. In the current congress there have been several bills to change this one word "shall" to "may" which many, including the NWSA board, would put all the set asides on equal footing or parity.

On September 16, the U.S. Senate passed the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010 (HR 5297) by a margin of 61-38 (one did not vote, 100% of the Democrats votes in favor and 95% of the Republicans opposed the bill). The parity language was included in this bill thanks to an amendment offered by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

The bill has passed the house and is now awaiting the president's signature.

Since the "shall" language is law until changed, all the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) that deal with this issue reflect the current law. Thus even though the parity language is signed into law, I suspect we will have to wait for rulemaking to amend the FAR to reflect the new law.

California greenhouse gas emission law

It became official several months ago—California voters will decide in November whether to suspend the 2006 greenhouse gas emission law AB32. This law, among many things, established the on-road diesel emission regulations NWSA has been following.

The ballot measure being voted on called the California Jobs Initiative would not repeal AB32. Instead it would suspend its implementation until the state's unemployment rate drops to 5.5 percent for four consecutive quarters.

Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy 2010

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) was established in 2006 by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to provide cross-agency integration and support of implementation of federal wildfire management policies. Earlier this year the WFLC was tasked with developing a Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy (Strategy).

In October 2009, Congress passed the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Act which included at Title V the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act or FLAME Act. The FLAME Act established two funds, one in Interior and one in Agriculture, both subject to annual appropriations, that are designed to avoid the need for agencies to transfer funds from their management accounts to help pay for large fire

suppression.

The FLAME Act also required the secretaries to jointly submit a report to Congress containing a cohesive wildfire management strategy including the following elements:

- Identification of the most cost-effective way to allocate the fire management budget,
- Reinvestment in non-fire programs,
- Appropriate management response to wildfires,
- Assessing communities level of risk,
- Hazardous fuels monies allocated on a priority basis,
- Impact of climate change on frequency and severity of wildfires, and
- Effects of invasive species on wildfire risk.

Furthermore, the Act requires the strategy be revised at least once during each five year period after submission of the strategy.

The job of developing the Strategy was given to the WFLC with a deadline of this fall. The WFLC held several field sessions across the country to solicit input from the public. NWSA was represented at one of those sessions. Further, NWSA submitted written comments on the draft Strategy released last month for review. For a copy of NWSA's comments, please contact Debbie Miley.

NWSA's comments focused on three items: the Appropriate Management Strategy (AMR), cross-training or recognized training, and the role private sector plays in the wildland firefighting community.

What has NWSA been up to this year?



Your Elected Board members spend a great deal of time discussing the issues that concern our industry, and during that process they have approved several position papers on those issues.

They include Cascading Award System, Appropriate Resource Management, Comments submitted on the Cohesive Strategy Plan.

You can access those papers by going to the NWSA Website, clicking on Members Only. If you need the login info for that page if you don't know the login please email info@nwsa.us. You will find past newsletters, position papers and the NWSA information packet.

NWSA provides Input on the FLAME Report and Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy

NWSA was invited to participate in the Stakeholders Input session as well as providing follow up comment to the draft paper prepared by Wildland Fire Leadership Council. As a Mandate of the passage of the Flame Act of 2009, the USDA is to have a Cohesive Strategy Plan report to congress by no later than October 31, 2010.

As part of this process they held Stakeholder Invitation only meetings across the county. NWSA participated in one in Olympia, WA in July.

Out of those meeting the committee charged with this report prepared a draft which was sent to all those that participated in the meetings, and they were now given opportunity for comment.

NWSA Board of Directors reviewed that draft and Chuck Burley and Debbie Miley prepared NWSA's response.

You can view that response on the "Members Only" page of NWSA home page.

Important Elections Upcoming

It is extremely important for our membership to encourage all your friends, peers and family to participate and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE.

Become familiar with your choices and there are some great local resources to check endorsements by various organization like the Oregonians for Food & Shelter, Women in Timber and more that may share your like values and tell you who they endorse or make your own endorsement flyer and share with your employees while you pass out Voter Registration forms.

Invite some of your local candidates to visit your facility and talk with your employees.

The Power of One 2011 Campaign

NWSA is working on a Membership Drive in 2011. We know the value of numbers when dealing with issues on our membership behalf.

We are asking you to be our Power of One! The NWSA office will be emailing out to you the following:

- *Business Cards that you can print and hand out with information about joining NWSA.*
- *A Flyer on the program*
- *Also our Membership Application has been changed to include a place for the new member to acknowledge who referred them.*
- *At the end of 2011 anyone who has signed up at least 4 new (never before members) voting members at the \$200 level will receive their 2012 Membership Free.*

Our members are our best advocates, and those that understand the power of numbers in representing one voice to our agency partners as well as our political folks.

Chapter News

NWSA Region 5 Chapter

The Region 5 Chapter of NWSA is holding a Members Meeting:

Date: 9/29/2010 Wednesday

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: La Placica Restaurant
8036 Greenback Lane
Citrus Height, CA

This is the same location as prior meeting.

If you have any questions, please call Don Neverkovec 1-916-768-9004

Tips for writing letters to the editor
Kelli Matthews, DCS Consulting

Letters to the editor can be an important advocacy tool for business owners. Often, the letters to the editor are among the most often read sections of your local paper.

A letter has the potential to reach a large audience and they're often monitored by elected officials looking to get a bead on public opinion. A letter is a great opportunity to expand on an issue or provide a viewpoint not covered in an article and demonstrate support (or opposition) on an issue.

Some tips for getting your letter in the paper:

Keep it short: most newspapers have a word limit. Make sure you know what it is before you send. My local newspaper, for example, the Register-Guard in Eugene, has a word limit of 250 words. There is a lot of competition for a small amount of space.

Stay on topic & be timely: don't wander down the rabbit trail. Keep your letter on a single topic and make your point succinctly. It's crucial that your letter tie into a recent article (see the next tip) or to recent events.

Make reference to the newspaper: References articles that were printed recently are a good way to tie into issues of the day and increase your chances of your letter being printed. (ex: "I was disappointed to see that in MY PAPER's September 19 article..." or "I agree with (author's name) characterization of this issue...")

Don't take - or make - it personal: Use verified facts without overstating or exaggerating your point. Don't insult those who may have a contrary opinion and don't play defense, even if you feel you've been attacked.

Include your contact info: Most papers will not publish your letter anonymously. Be honest about who you are and what stake you have in the issue. You have a valuable opinion - state it and be proud.

If you don't see your letter in 4 - 7 days, it's ok to follow up with a polite phone call to the editorial department of your local paper. And remember, even if your letter isn't published, it has been read and is helping to bring awareness of issues to the editorial staff.



National Wildfire Suppression Association's

"Protecting and Preserving Our Environment"

2011 NWSA Conference

Peppermill ~ Reno, Nevada ~ February 21-22, 2011

To reserve rooms at the **Discounted Room Rates** Call: 1-800-8221-9996 or enter online at:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2613974

(enter Group Code and Password ANWSA11 under reservations)

Room rates are: **Montego Bay Rooms - \$69** (Sun.-Wed.)

Peppermill Tower Rooms - \$79 (Sun.-Wed.)

Single King Tuscany Rooms - \$159 (Sun.-Wed.)

Reservations must be made by January 10, 2010 to insure the discounted rate.

REGISTRATION FORM

Company Name: _____

Names of Attendees: _____ (Please check boxes)

Breakfast Lunch Dinner Meeting

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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All Monies Are
Non-Refundable

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

- *Meeting Rate is: \$150.00 per person* if pre-registered • *or: \$175.00 per person* at the door if not pre-registered
- *Prayer Breakfast - Donations Accepted* (Tuesday Morning)
- *Cost to attend buffet luncheon: \$15.00 per person* (Tuesday)
- *Cost to attend dinner: \$60.00 per person* (Tuesday)

The options to pay are: BY CHECK WITH REGISTRATION FORM..

Mail to: National Wildfire Suppression Association

Deborah K. Miley ~ P.O. Box 330 ~ Lyons, OR 97358

or by using Credit Card:

Type of Card: Visa? MC? Card No. _____

Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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For more information call: Deborah Miley ~ 1-877-676-6972

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