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Other News:

NWSA Home Page

<http://www.nwsa.us>
NWSA Home Page with Training Schedules, Current Members

Contractorsinfire Blog
NWSA Blog providing you with great information for the Professional Private Wildland Fire Services

NWSA on Twitter:
Keep up with the latest on Twitter.

NWSA On Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/National-Wildfire-Suppression-Association/185416658920>

Contact Us

<http://www.nwsa.us>
info@nwsa.us
Ph: 1-877-676-6972

NWSA welcomes A New Chapter

Several contractors from Region 2 met and applied for a Chapter in that Region. The Board of Director approved that application, and the chapter is now up and running.

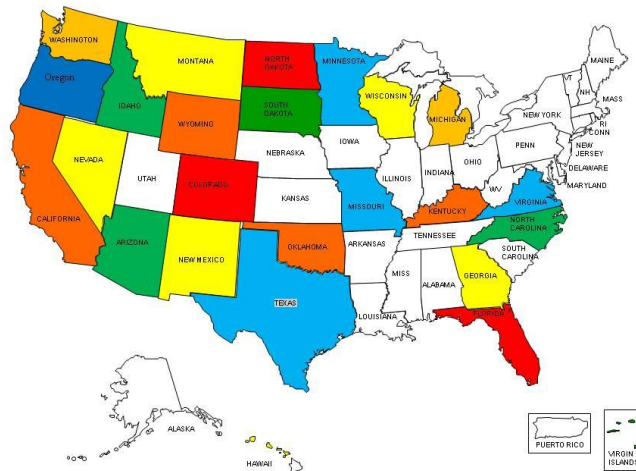
The current acting Chair of the Chapter Jerry Fullerton, Rampart Fire Services.

We welcome them aboard and offer support from the National to help the Chapter succeed. For more info you can email info@nwsa.us

Welcome New Members

Rampart Fire Services - CO
Lyons Wildfire LLC - SD
Riverbanks Building Supply – OR
Fire Attack – Fire Mgt. - NM

Over 225 members/instructors in 23 states.



A letter From NWSA Executive Director

Debbie Miley

Once again during this fire season our industry has faced another season of great challenges.

We watched fires burn in Texas and were frustrated they would not accept our services to assist with protecting their homes, lives and resources.

We watched as "Agency Only" resource orders came out one after the other as our resources sat idle some of us just a few miles from the fires.

We listened as we were told repeatedly that:

- we are too expensive
- Agency personnel had not had fire assignments in the past two years and needed to get their proficiency levels up all the while knowing that we too need the assignments for our upper level management and trainers to stay current and that we are the best value for call when needed resources.

I heard from many of you across the United States and shared your frustrations. I know that many of you contracted your local contracting folks as well as some of your congressional folks out of frustration.

Some of our members did get out for a few days, but was it enough to recoup your costs and make it worth the effort to continue to contract out your resources?

We did get to share your concerns with some upper level management within the Forest Service recently and we asked some tough questions.

The biggest thing we shared with them is potential loss of jobs in this industry. We field a workforce of up to 20,000 firefighters nationwide and based on our survey we stand to lose up to 50% of them if we don't see enough work to justify the costs of doing business with the federal agencies. A loss of 10,000 jobs and the economic impact of dollars no longer spent in these small rural communities would be catastrophic. Below are some of the questions we asked.

1. How many contracted pieces of water handling and heavy equipment do they think they can realistically utilize on a regular basis in an average 10 year cycle?
2. If they can determine that number, they need to consider contracting it with a "**True** Best Value" agreement. One that awards for DPL based on some of the following criteria:
 - Company Work History
 - Financial History
 - Personnel Capabilities
 - Safety & Training Programs
 - Equipment Quality
 - Past Performance History

These are just a few of the factors that should be considered in order for the taxpayer and the agency to get the "best value" for their dollar.

3. Do the folks making the dispatch decision on fires know that the number placed on the 2009 Standard Worksheet for private resources are "All Inclusive" numbers and that the agency costs on that sheet are "Direct Costs" only. Also we provided them with two examples showing that over a 180 day fire season we are the better value when they need us.

And we discussed the need for some day guarantees' for slow fire seasons in order to help our member companies at least recoup their costs for meeting the contract requirements for that year. Things such as insurance, training, and equipment changes.

Times are changing across all industries in the United States and times are hard for all of us, but we think making some of these changes will save money for the taxpayers and the agencies. At the same time it will allow our member companies to make some sound business decisions. We will continue to follow up on these discussions and work to move our issues forward.

We have heard your frustrations and we are working to try to create a better work relationship with our client, the federal agencies.

I want to thank all of you for providing input on your concerns, and trusting your President Rick Dice and representatives on the NWSA Board of Directors to carry those concerns to the appropriate folks.

Sincerely,
Deborah Miley

Deborah Miley
Executive Director



Your Board of Director at work discussion our issues.



Rick with Paul Bell



Rick with Tom Harbour

Database Issues:

Instructors:

1. **PLEASE** resize the pictures **BEFORE** you upload them into the system. For those of you that have Microsoft Office Picture Manager use the edit function to resize to Web size small before uploading. The pictures will load faster, and it will not utilize so much storage room in the database.
2. Also if you teach an Entry Level FFT2 Course you must enter the Position Task Book (PTB) for an FFT2 or their cards will not print.
3. If you do a Records Review for outside training, please scan the documents into your computer and then upload them into the system when you enter grades just like a normal class.
4. When you teach a course you must enter the class upon completion of that course. So you need to make payment arrangements accordingly. Most instructors require payment in advance so there are not any issues.
5. Please remember your obligation to inform the NWSA Training Coordinator about any scheduled classes or classes that are cancelled. This info is used to schedule random inspections by our outside contracted vendors to ensure our instructors are meeting course requirements.

Company Owners:

1. If you are unable to print a card or an employee does not show up in your Print Card Screen, check the following:
 - Must have picture
 - Must have current pack test score
 - Must have current Training in the Training History
 - If R6 water handling must have Inspected Card Box marked yes and the USFS must have checked the verified or passed box yes for their signature to print on IQ Card.
 - If R6 Regional Crew Agreement ODF must have checked the passed or verified box yes for their signatures to print on IQ Card.
2. If training was done by someone outside NWSA you must have an NWSA instructor review training documents and input them into the system as a Records Review.
3. If you have resources that do not require a pack test score such as tender operators per the agreement, you must still enter Not Required as a score in the fitness test section of the database. This system is set to require a new fitness score each year therefore even for those position you must trick the system by selected the Not Required score in the field.

Interested in becoming an instructor?

If you believe that you may be qualified to become an NWSA Certified Instructor, please review the information provided at <http://www.nwsa.us/about-instructors> and contract our training coordinator Stan Kunzman to provide him with the required information for him to go through the certification process. There is also a onetime \$150.00 Certification Fee and an annual \$200 renewal fee for all instructors.

Mark your Calendars

NWSA 2012 Annual Conference **Your Voice, Your Vote!**

Location: Reno, Nevada

Peppermill Resort

Dates: February 27 & 28th, 2012



We have negotiated some great benefits for our members attending the conference.

Some great room rates, Complimentary Continental Breakfast for all registered guests, \$10.00 resort fee waived, WiFi in sleeping rooms, each guest will received a \$25.00 food and drink coupon upon checkin.

You can register on line at

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3538556&utm_source=7268&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5211930

Or by phone at 1-800-282-2444 and use the Group Code ANWS212.

You must make reservations for those benefits no later than January 25, 2012.

Some of the event planned:

- Fire Weather Presentation
- Vendor Show
- Members Only Business Meeting
- Professional Contractor Certification Program
- Agency Day
- Vendor Reception
- Benefit Dinner/Auction for Wildland Firefighter Foundation

Please use the attached auction donation form to submit your donations as well as contacting your suppliers for donations!!!!

Getting Political

2012 is an important election year for the country and our industry. As a business owner you have great impact on those that work for you. Therefore we want you to consider doing some of the following:

- **Educate yourself** on the issues and candidates! Remember this country is run by those who show up!
- Invite your local candidates to speak to your employees about their position on natural resource and small business issues.
- Start a campaign at your workplace to encourage all employees to register to VOTE!
- Prepare a newsletter for your employees letting them know the candidates you are endorsing.
- Volunteer time or money on a political campaign
- Visit the website for your local elections department to learn about issues up for vote and educate yourself.
- Write letters to your elected officials. Here are some how to's:
 - Identify yourself, and be sure to let them know you live in their district.
 - Let them know how certain legislation will affect your business.
 - Be Specific, Refer to bill numbers when possible.
 - Keep to the facts, do not incorporate emotional arguments.
 - Use your letterhead, hand sign the letter and give them contact info.
 - Ask for their support.



Chapter News

Region 6 News

Crew News: Oregon Department of Forestry is going to renew the Interagency Crew agreement for another year. Beyond that the Oregon Department of Forestry is researching options for upcoming agreements. The Region 6 Crew Chapter is planning to hold a meeting toward the end of November. The date, time and location will be emailed when confirmed.

CMS Online Disclosure Requirement

By Laura Wilson, Benefits Administrator, CFP, Inc.



Specializing in
Life, Health & Disability
Insurance

625 Hawthorne Ave. SE, STE 100 Salem OR 97301 866-532-0417
825 NE 20th Ave. #320, Portland OR 97232 503-595-5948

Employers who have Medicare eligible participants (either employees, COBRA members or dependents) on their health plans are required to provide two CMS disclosures.

The first disclosure is the written creditable coverage notice discussed in the September Mainline. These notices must be provided to all Medicare eligible health plan members prior to October 15th each year.

The second disclosure requirement is for employer to complete the Online Disclosure to CMS Form at www.cms.gov/CreditableCoverage/45_CCdisclosureform.asp. This notice reports the status of the prescription drug plan directly CMS. The disclosure must be made online, there are no alternative methods.

The disclosure is very straight forward, questions include the employer name, FEIN, physical location, number of eligible individuals expected to be covered by the plan and date the part D notice was distributed.

The Disclosure must be completed annually, no later than 60 days after the beginning of the plan year. If the plan terminates or changes from creditable to non-creditable it must be made within 30 days of the change/termination.

The employer is only required to provide the disclosures if the health plan provides prescription drug coverage to a Medicare eligible member.

If you would like further information or assistance with Medicare Part D notices or the online disclosure please contact CFP at **(866-532-0417)** or by email at **benefitshelp@cfpinc.net** and we will be glad to work with you. **CFP, Inc.**, is the endorsed benefits agent of the NWSA and appreciates any opportunity to help you with your benefits questions or planning. Call today for a quote or review of your benefits plans.

Note: CFP Inc. has designed a plan that works with both full time and part time employees and lets the employer build the plan. Call them for more info.

Your 2012 Board of Director

NWSA President Rick Dice
NWSA Vice President Don Moss
NWSA Sec. – Treasurer Lee Miller

General Members: John Timmerman
Tom Wesley

Specialized Resource: Mike Edrington
Jeff Hammond

Crews: Karyn McNeil
Jess Wills
Mike Sulffridge

Waterhandling: Don Pollard
Aaron Verkist
Dale Jenner

Region 6 Chapter: Bruce Ferguson, Chapter Chair

Region 5 Chapter: Claren Nilsson – Chapter Chair

Region 1 Chapter: Leonard Oftedahl – Chapter Chair

Region 8 Chapter Kevin Carter – Chapter Chair

National Resource Chapter: Mike Wheelock – Chapter Chair

Great Basin Chapter: Dave Bergette - Chapter Chair

Associate Member Organizations:

Oregon Firefighter Contractors Association: Steve Clarke
NW Contract Firefighters Association: Warren Giles
National Caterers & Showers: Steve Nelson
Three Sisters Wildfire Training Assn. Paul Asher

Educational Partners:

Blue Mountain Community College
Linn Benton Community College
Central Oregon Community College
Umpqua Community College

Other NWSA Info

Links to Useful Resources

Memorandum of Understands for Training

NWSA Instructor's Guide

<http://www.nwsa.us/memorandums-of-understanding>

NWSA Database Training Manual for Instructor/Company Owners

<http://www.nwsa.us/memorandums-of-understanding>

NWSA Database Transfer Form

<http://www.nwsa.us/Websites/nwsa/Images/Company%20Data%20Transfer%20Request.pdf>

NWSA on Facebook – We post lots of relevant information through Facebook so sign up and Like our page for updates in your email box.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/National-Wildfire-Suppression-Association/185416658920>

NWSA Home Page (Member Only Page) If you have forgotten the login to this page, email info@nwsa.us. Remember this login is not the same as the login to the NWSA Database Base Storage System.

<http://www.nwsa.us/>

You can find the Power Point Presentation from our Reno Conference on the NWSA home page under Members Only Section <http://www.nwsa.us>

If you are looking for training classes, we have a training schedule of classes that have been submitted by our trainers on the NWSA Home page under the Training Tab. <http://www.nwsa.us/class-schedule>

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors

Click on the ad to take you to their links



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When the Bank says "NO!" *we help you GROW!*

Unlimited funding for fire and reforestation contractors.

888-652-8298

www.millenniumfunding.com



Chemguard





National Wildfire Suppression Association's

"Protecting and Preserving Our Environment"

2012 NWSA Conference

Peppermill ~ Reno, Nevada ~ February 27-28, 2012

To reserve rooms at the **Discounted Room Rates** Call: **1-800-282-2444**,
Online reservation website: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3538556&utm_source=7268&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5211930
Use this code for discounted rooms: ANWS212
 Room rates are: **Peppermill North Tower Rooms - \$55 (Sun.-Wed.)**
Peppermill Tower Rooms - \$65 (Sun.-Wed.)
Tuscany Tower Suites - \$105 (Sun.-Wed.)
Reservations must be made by February 1, 2012 to insure the discounted rate.

REGISTRATION FORM

Company Name: _____

Names of Attendees: _____ (Please check boxes)

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Meeting	Certification
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_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All Monies Are
Non-Refundable

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

- Complimentary Breakfast & Coffee each morning of conference
- 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)
- Cost for Professional Contractor Certification: 1st Time **\$100.00**; Returning: **\$30.00**.

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: _____

Name on Card: _____ Ph. No. _____

Billing Address: _____

For more information call: Deborah Miley ~ 1-877-676-6972
Fax: 1-866-854-8186 or Email: info@nwsa.us



2012 Auction Donation

Pledge Form

National Wildfire Suppression Association

The National Wildfire Suppression Association will be holding a Benefit Auction at our Conference in March 2012. 50% of the proceeds from this auction will be donated to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation (www.wffoundation.org).

If the item is large please provide a gift certificate to be redeemed by the winning bidder and information on how they can do that. We must have all donations by January 15th! Or let us know if you will be bringing it with you to the conference February 27, 2012.

Please mail your donation to: NWSA C/O Stephanie Foxx, PO Box 1508, Springfield, OR 97478 OR if FEDX or UPS 1322 N. 30th Street, Springfield, OR 97478 Questions about shipping call Steph at 541-746-7528.

We want to thank you in advance for your support for our industry, if you have any questions, please contact Debbie Miley, Executive Director for the National Wildfire Suppression Association at 1-877-676-6972 or email at info@nwsa.us

Donor Information (please print or type)

Company Name	
Owner	
Billing Address	
City	
State / Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Pledge Information - We would like to make a donation of the following:

Item Description	
Gift Cert: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Items to be Delivered to Auction site: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Item Value	

Acknowledgement

Signature(s)	Date:
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Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:

Wildland Firefighter Foundation c/o NWSA P.O. Box 330, Lyons, OR 97358

The Wildland Firefighter Foundation will be issuing receipts for your donation following the auction to the address you have listed above. Thank you for your support!



2012 Vendor Registration Form

Company Name

Contact Name

Address

Phone

City State Zip

Fax

Type of Business

Email

List of Attendees (For Name Badges) First & Last Names

\$699.00 Vendor Fee Includes:

- ✓ One Skirted Table at Vendor Show in 10X10 spaces.
- ✓ Vendors will host a Welcome Reception 5pm-7pm February 27th.
- ✓ Three minute presentation at Vendor Sponsored Lunch February 28th.
- ✓ **TWO FREE Lunches** for Vendor Sponsored Luncheon.
- ✓ Coffee Service WITHIN the Vendor Area (Increase that foot traffic!)
- ✓ **TWO FREE dinners** for the Dinner/Auction Event within the Vendor Area.
- ✓ FREE business card size AD in the NWSA Conference Program.
- ✓ **Artwork for ad DUE JANUARY 10, 2012!!**
- ✓ FREE insertion into Goodie bags handed out to each person at registration.

Extras that are available: (Please Mark if Needed)

- \$699 Base Fee**
- Extra Table (\$30)**
- Electricity (\$70 per Table)**
- FULL Page Ad (\$200)**
- Half Page Ad (\$125)**
- Additional Lunch Tickets (\$20ea)**
- Additional Dinner Tickets (\$35ea)**

Questions, Please contact:
 Stephanie Foxx, NWSA Vendor Committee
 PatRick Corp. (541) 746-7528
 steph@patrickfire.com

****\$100 Discount for FULL Corporate Sponsors! Email me for more info how to become a sponsor and the benefits for you!**

_____ Total submitted in check payable to NWSA or Credit Card info below!
 Mail to PO Box 330, Lyons, OR 97358 OR Fax to 1-866-854-8186

Credit Card Info: Visa MC Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name On Card: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State _____
 Zip _____