



Press Release

Contact:
Deborah Miley, Executive
Director
Ph: 1-877-676-6972
Email: info@nwsa.us
Website: www.nwsa.us

Fire Budget Issues in Texas allow fire suppression resources to sit idle.

Lyons, OR 97358:

As Texas faces the worst wildfire year on record, many fire suppression resources are unable to assist as a direct result of budget issue in Texas. In Texas there is no contingency fire budget therefore the legislature must approve the bills when in session, and with the next session not until 2013 there is no mechanism to make timely payment for these fire resources. Our members are willing and trained to assist but with no mechanism to utilize them they must sit while Texan's lose their home, land and natural resources. Historically the private fire industry has made up over 40% of the resources utilized by the federal agencies to assist with fire suppression efforts. They provide these services under pre season contracts/agreements with the agencies and must meet identical standards to those required by the agency personnel.

The National Wildfire Suppression Association represents over 200 Professional Private Wildland fire companies across the United States. Our members can field up to 195 - 20 person hand crews, over 300 pieces of water handling equipment, kitchen and shower units, and a cadre of other resources with a workforce of up to 20,000. Private resources are paid for their actual time utilized and those costs are all inclusive to the agency and taxpayer Meaning that the training and capability of the private industry mirrors the agency resources; thereby making a great partnership in helping protect, life, home and the environment from wildfires. As Jim Furlong, Retired USFS Region 6 Assistant Fire & Aviation Director once said, "If it weren't for the markings on the equipment you would not be able to tell the difference."



. You can view a video on the private fire services available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oneGBC6PS4> also visit the NWSA Website for more information at

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