



International Association of Wildland Fire

1418 Washburn Street
Missoula, MT 59801 USA
www.iawfonline.org

Contact: Paula Nelson, Public Affairs Officer
publicaffairs@iawfonline.org or 406-821-0042

NEWS

Global Wildfire Awareness Week: 'Your Home...Your Responsibility'

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The International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) announces Global Wildfire Awareness Week, from May 1-7, 2011 in the Northern Hemisphere, with a theme of “Your Home...Your Responsibility.”

“Wildfire affects residents, businesses and governments on every continent and we are using our resources to link and assist those groups,” said IAWF President Chuck Bushey. “This is a key time to share wildfire prevention information with the world,” he added. The IAWF's full proclamation and a growing body of resources are available on a new website -- wildfireworld.org -- orientated towards homeowners, firefighters, communities and governmental organizations throughout the world.

“We are excited to globally link wildfire professional to share information, research, and practical tools in the effort to reduce wildfire impacts,” said Bushey. This dynamic site allows sharing of community wildfire profiles, fire prevention materials and real-time, global fire occurrence information. “The site will build as time goes on and will become more vibrant with submissions from all parts of the globe,” he continued. The Southern Hemisphere Awareness Week kicks off October 1.

This initiative grows from IAWF's mission to foster leadership and communication for the wildland fire community. This bi-annual campaign seeks to expand IAWF's commitment to wildfire prevention around the globe. As the Proclamation notes, “Our vision is a global society that is not only vigilant but also knowledgeable on how to live in fire-prone environments. We ask for your participation, not only through this week, but throughout the year.”

“Wildfires are a growing problem, globally and locally,” said IAWF Board Member Ron Steffens. “The first year of Global Wildfire Awareness Week we are building a clearinghouse of current, evolving information.” The new site showcases community profiles such as Greece, home to massive wildfires in 2010, and Washington state (USA), with more profiles being added over the coming months. Fire prevention and home safety evaluation resources are available along with links to global wildfire news. Wildland firefighters are encouraged to upload their “Community Profile” as we observe globally how each local community prevents unplanned wildfires.

About the International Association of Wildland Fire. The IAWF is a nonprofit, 501(c) (3) professional association representing members of the global wildland fire community (www.iawfonline.org and <http://wildfireworld.org>) and is uniquely positioned as an independent organization whose membership includes experts in all aspects of wildland fire management. IAWF's independence and breadth of global membership expertise allows it to offer a neutral forum for the consideration of important, at times controversial, wildland fire issues. IAWF produces *Wildfire* magazine, the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, and *FireNet*.