



International Association of Wildland Fire

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Facilitating *communication* and providing *leadership* to the wildland fire community.

Accomplishments in 2005

(revised January 26, 2006)

The IAWF had a great year in 2005. Here are a few of the things our organization accomplished:

- **Safety Summit.** We put on a very successful Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Missoula, Montana, with the cooperation of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and the U.S. Forest Service. The attendees were treated to three days of presentations from the finest experts in wildland fire safety and human factors. The proceedings were posted on our web site. The conference attendees received a CD that contained all of the proceedings that are available for all of the Safety Summits since 1997
- **Contribution to WFF.** At the Safety Summit we passed the hard hat to collect funds for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. The conference attendees contributed \$719, which the IAWF matched, resulting in a total donation of \$1,438. The IAWF believes in the mission of the WFF, which is to "honor past, present, and future members of the wildland firefighting family". The WFF provides emergency support services to the families of injured and fallen firefighters.
- **Wildland Fire Safety Award.** The IAWF inaugurated the IAWF Wildland Fire Safety Award in 1997 at the first Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Rossland, British Columbia. The 2005 award was presented to Dr. Ted Putnam who has demonstrated a long-term passion for wildland firefighter safety. Previous Safety Award winners include Marty Alexander, Dick Rothermel, Alan Beaver, Harry Luke, Paul Gleason, and Chuck Hartley.
- **Executive Director.** The IAWF hired Bill Gabbert as our new Executive Director in January, who, after a reorganization, replaced the previous Executive Director who was also a part time employee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Prior to accepting the position of Executive Director, Gabbert served on the IAWF Board of Directors, was Fire Management Officer for a group of seven U.S. National Parks in the northern Great Plains, held wildland fire management positions for the U. S. Forest Service and the National Park Service in southern California and the Midwest, and served on Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams.

- **Wildland Fire Fatalities in Spain.** After 11 Spanish firefighters were killed on a fire in Catalonia Province, IAWF President Dick Mangan established contact with the Minister of Forestry offering our services as needed to assist in the review of the events.
- **Wildfire magazine**, an official publication of the IAWF, had another successful year. Major issues addressed in 2005 by “Wildfire Magazine” included the wildland-urban interface, personal protective equipment ideas from overseas, radio communications on emergency incidents, the use of Incident Meteorologists, GIS & GPS technology, and aviation on wildfires.
- **The International Journal of Wildland Fire**, the scientific journal of the IAWF, continues to grow. Gaining in popularity is the free Early Alert Service, which alerts those enrolled by email as each issue is loaded on the web. Non-subscribers have access without charge to Tables of Contents of all issues and abstracts of all papers. Subscribers have access to full text PDF and html. The Journal has a very high “impact factor”, which is a measure of how often papers in the Journal are cited.
- **FireNet** is an email-based discussion and information distribution system, or listserv, specifically serving the wildland fire global community. The IAWF a couple of years ago took over the operation of FireNet, after the previous hosts in Australia discontinued operation due to time constraints. Now it is hosted through our site and Chuck Bushey does yeoman’s work in helping to sign up new subscribers as well and filtering (making sure there is no spam) and distributing the content. The subscription base hovers around 900. A large number of people have commented that FireNet is a wonderful service that the IAWF is providing.
- **Internet Site.** The Internet site, www.iawfonline.org , continues to grow and improve. New features include:
 - The ability for members to join, change their mailing address, and pay dues online,
 - A forum-type bulletin board,
 - Expanded News items on the front page,
 - A map where members and others can plot their location along with a photo if desired,
 - A Wildland Fire Event Calendar, that displays important future and past historical events of interest to wildland firefighters.
 - A Wildland Fire Book section.
- **President’s Column.** The President of the Board of Directors, Dick Mangan, continues to write a monthly editorial for Wildfire Magazine, called from the “President’s Desk” which addresses pertinent topics of the day. In addition to appearing the *Wildfire*, the columns are posted on our web site on the Documents and Reports page.
- **Infamous Fires.** We began compiling a list, by date of the year, of some of the more famous, or infamous, multiple fatality wildland fires around the world over the last 150 years. It is not intended to be a complete list of every fatality fire. There are several purposes of doing the research and compiling this list by calendar date. It is hoped that individuals and organizations involved in fire, especially wildland fire, will mark these dates on a calendar, or refer to the IAWF’s Wildland Fire Event Calendar on the Internet at www.iawfonline.org. By having these wildland fires on a calendar, the lessons learned from even a 130 year old fire will be less likely to be forgotten. An unforgotten lesson learned may save the life of a current or future firefighter.
- **Assistance to Foreign Visitors.** We have assisted and provided information to wildland firefighters in other countries, i.e., Turkey and Chad, who need help with wildfire issues in their countries or have asked for help in visiting fire facilities in our country.

- **WGA Meeting.** A representative of the IAWF participated in a Western Governors Association meeting in Casper, Wyoming.
- **Australian Fire Conferences.** IAWF Board members participated in the Australasian Fire Authority Council (AFAC) conference as well as the Fire Management Officer's Group (FMOG). An Australian IAWF Board member also serves on the IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee.
- **Newsletter.** The IAWF began an electronic newsletter that is being distributed by email to our members and web site visitors who "sign" our guest book.

What's in store for 2006 and Beyond?

- **1st Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference.** The conference, titled "Fuels Management—How to Measure Success", is being planned in association with the National Interagency Fuels Coordinating Group, the Joint Fire Science Program, the U.S. Forest Service, the Canadian Forest Service, the British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range Protection Program, and the University of Montana. It will be held in Portland, Oregon March 27-30.
- **The Ninth Wildland Fire Safety Summit** will be held in Pasadena, California, April 25-28, 2006. The IAWF is collaborating with Los Angeles County Fire Department and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Safety and Health Working Team to produce this premier event in the heart of the busiest wildland fire area in the country.
- **Second Wildland Fire Policy Summit.** On February 9, 2006, the IAWF will convene the second meeting of major U.S. wildland fire organizations in Washington, D.C. to discuss ways the organizations can work together more effectively to address the wildland fire problem.
- **2nd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference**—planning has already begun for this 2007 conference.
- **Other conferences** are in the planning stages for 2007 and 2008. We will distribute more information as details are developed.

The International Association of Wildland Fire looks for collaborative efforts and partnering possibilities to engage the great variety of disciplines and concerns in the wildland fire arena. In doing so, we will be meeting the needs of our members and advancing the interests of the wildland fire community: to facilitate communication and provide leadership for the wildland fire community. We encourage all people working or interested in wildland fire to support the profession by joining the IAWF, and actively participating in the activities of the Association. There are numerous activities and committees that can use your help. Let us know your interest by email or by calling Bill Gabbert at 605-890-2348 or Dick Mangan at 406-543-0013.