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Members of the Lassen IHC at the end of shift on the 2008 Indians Fire, Los Padres NF. Photo by Nicole Hickok. See page 7 to submit your photo to IAWF's photo contest.



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On the Cover

The incendiary device that an arsonist used to ignite the Esperanza Fire, October 2006. The fire killed five firefighters and is the focus of an upcoming book by John Maclean. *Photo from court records, provided by John Maclean.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dan Bailey



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Letters

Send them to: WILDFIRE Magazine

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Wildfire Safe, Sound and Code Smart Initiative Launched in the United States

This year record-setting wildfires in the United States have been burning deserts, mountains, homes and businesses, leaving behind an extraordinary toll of more than 2,300 homes destroyed — a number that may only increase through an excruciatingly hot and dry fall. The worst part of this year's wildfire trend is that 34 lives have been lost.

With more than 70,000 communities, 46 million homes and 120 million people living in high-risk wildland fire areas, study after study shows that these areas lack proper building, fire and WUI codes. Only 10 percent of WUI communities (about 7,000 communities) have adopted a WUI code or prepared a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); only 1-1/2 percent (about 900) of WUI communities currently implement wildfire prevention programs, such as Firewise, Firefree, Firesmart and Firesafe.

Several public awareness programs effectively work to educate communities about ways to prevent wildfires and/or deal with them once they've started. But there are currently no systemized, wide-spread initiatives to proactively increase adoption and enforcement of WUI building safety codes.

Unquestionably, the WUI fire problem is complex, yet we know what to do. We have the knowledge to keep houses, businesses and infrastructure from burning. Comprehensive research from NIST, NASA, USDA Forest Service and academia has provided the science that has given us the insight to improve our odds of protecting homes, neighborhoods, communities and ecosystems from these fires.

IAWF is pleased to hear about the National Resource, Conservation & Development Council (NRC&D), partnering with the International Code Council, the National Institute of Standards and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to implement this new community effort. Public education and awareness programs such as Firesafe, Fireready, Firesmart, Firewise, Firefree and Ready, Set, Go play a vital role in reducing the risk of WUI fires by educating communities on potential hazards. Adoption and enforcement of a WUI code also plays a critical role in WUI fire mitigation, strategically complementing existing WUI fire prevention programs.

The International Wildland Urban Interface Code utilizes science-based understanding to develop proper construction methods to mitigate WUI fires for the built environment, assisting in design recommendations for architects, builders and homeowners, and providing concepts such as defensible space and fire-resistant landscaping when building or retrofitting homes.

The International Association of Wildland Fire supports and looks forward to working with NRC&D Council, International Code Council (ICC), NIST and FEMA in working with communities in implementing the *Wildfire Safe, Sound & Code Smart* program that provides a multi-faceted approach to WUI mitigation. The program guides and supports community leaders as they develop and adopt the IWUI code, while actively encouraging implementation of existing WUI educational programs.

The primary goal of this effort is increased WUI fire safety, and adoption of the WUI code. The partners will educate local communities about WUI code training, compliance and enforcement. They'll also provide communities with the training and resources to address concerns from individual citizens, and better educate the public about ways to prevent wildfires in and around their homes using existing WUI preventative programs.

When a jurisdiction adopts a model code or standard that correlates with its existing codes and standards, it has the freedom to adopt it verbatim, or to tailor it by adding requirements that address a particular situation or need. As each area works to establish a WUI code for its community, it will be asked to obtain input from affected stakeholders.

As IAWF works here in the United States and around the globe with other groups, this is an excellent example of collaboration and shows the importance of working directly with communities.

Dan W. Bailey

www.wildfiremag.com



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Vision 20/20 Wins Grant for Safety Strategies



Fourth Fire Behavior and **Fuels Management** Conference February 18-22, 2013 Raleigh, North Carolina July 1-4, 2013 St. Petersburg, Russia www.iawfonline.org

For a complete list of events, visit www.iawfonline.org/ conferences.

he Institution of Fire Engineers-USA Branch (www.ife-usa.org) was awarded a \$749,000 grant by the Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety grant program to continue the work of the landmark Vision 20/20 project (www.strategicfire.org). IAWF President Dan Bailey is a member of the Steering Committee for the National Vision 20/20 effort.

Vision 20/20 has played a central role since its inception in 2007 in bringing together the nation's fire safety organizations to develop common strategies for reducing the loss of life and injury from fire, including:

· Increase advocacy for fire prevention

· Conduct a national safety education/social marketing campaign

• Raise the importance of fire prevention within the fire service

· Promote technology to enhance fire and life safety

• Refine and improve the application of codes and standards for public and fire fighter safety

This grant will continue the groundbreaking work of the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) project that Vision 20/20 has helped to spearhead across the nation and will dramatically expand the number of communities that Vision



20/20 will be working with. Virtual training will be done with these communities, and they will be provided with smoke alarms to start them in their home fire safety visits. A key component will be working with partner organizations on pro-

moting home fire safety for people who are deaf or severely hard-of-hearing and advocating the concept of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Vision 20/20 will hold a series of workshops in each FEMA region to train local jurisdictions on how to implement CRR. These workshops will build on the extensive lessons-learned that have emerged from Vision 20/20's collaboration with communities such as Alexandria, Va.; Amherst,

Mass.; Dallas, Texas; Palm Beach County, Fla.; Philadelphia, Penn.; Rosemount, Minn.; Tucson, Ariz.; and Washington, D.C., among others.

"The focus of the next stage of work for Vision 20/20 is spreading the message of the effectiveness of CRR and how it can work in your community," says Jim Crawford, Vision 20/20 project manager. "Clearly, by working together, we are far more effective in reducing the tragic impact of fire."

WILDFIRE SAFE, SOUND AND CODE SMART **INITIATIVE KICKS OFF IN U.S.**

IAWF is excited to be partnering with the National Resource and Conservation Council, the International Code Council, the National Institute of Standards and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in implementing this new effort. Public education and awareness programs such as Firesafe, Firesmart, Firewise, Firefree and Ready, Set, Go play a vital role in reducing the risk of WUI fires by educating communities where potential hazards exist and steps to minimize them. Adoption and enforcement of a WUI code also plays a critical role in WUI fire mitigation, strategically complementing existing WUI fire prevention programs.

Several public awareness programs effectively work to educate communities about ways to prevent wildfires and/or deal with them once they've started. But there are currently no systemized, widespread initiatives to proactively increase adoption and enforcement of WUI building safety codes, which would serve as a critical element for mitigating the nation's growing WUI fire problem.

WESTERN GOVERNORS TACKLE WILDLAND FIRE ISSUES

Western Governors have identified additional actions needed, under existing policies and authorities, to expedite hazardous fuels reduction and increase forest and range management in high-risk areas of Western forests and rangelands.

 Continue focus on aggressively attacking even small fires in remote areas to ensure they don't escape federal jurisdiction and damage private homes and lands.



• Realign and leverage existing resources, including Good Neighbor principles to identify, coordinate and expedite hazardous fuels reduction in high-risk areas, including areas where there are homes and important habitat for fish and wildlife populations targeted for recovery.

• Expedite contracting procedures and human resources for commercial timber sales and salvage operations.

• Review relationship between grazing regulations and utilization of grazing as a land management tool to reduce large high-intensity range fires.

• Improve federal-state-local coordination and decisionmaking for prescribed fires and fire suppression activities.

• Increase coordination between federal and state forestry agencies to expedite updates to land and resource management plans that build upon priority areas already collaboratively identified for fuels reduction treatment projects in state forest action plans.

• Modify existing grant programs to support the critical wood processing infrastructure necessary for forest health restoration and management to be economically viable.

• Explore ways to effectively apply the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to streamline evaluation, review and appeal

IAWF Member From Bulgaria Visits Missoula Fire Lab

AWF member **Dr. Nina Dobrinkova** (pictured with Dr. Kevin Ryan) from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Information and Communication Technologies



recently completed a month-long scholarly exchange with the Fire, Fuel and Smoke Program at our Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula, Mont. She currently leads a European Union-funded study to build cross-border collaboration between Greek and Bulgarian fire services.

As part of these efforts, she visited the Fire Lab to learn about decision-support tools developed by the Lab's scientists. Dobrinkova hopes to develop fire danger rating and fire behavior modeling systems for Bulgaria, including implementation of the FARSITE fire behavior and growth simulator. During her visit, Dobrinkova presented a seminar on the state-of-fire research and management in Bulgaria and interacted with numerous Lab scientists including Dr. Kevin Ryan, a member of the IAWF Board of Directors.



AWF NEWS

of priority areas to reduce wildfire threats to communities, infrastructure and watersheds, and to promote long-term health of forests, water and wildlife.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

As we told you in the last issue, the IAWF awarded two student scholarships to **Rachel Anne Carter**, a Ph.D. candidate and legal scholar with La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia, and **Dianne Hall**, a master's student in the Department of Meteorology and Climate Science at San Jose State University, Calif. We were pleased to present both students with their scholarships





in person in Australia. In late August, Carter (top photo) received her scholarship award at the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) 2012 Conference in Perth, Australia. Hall (bottom photo) was awarded her scholarship at the 12th International Wildland Fire Safety Summit in Sydney, Australia in October.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WILDIRE FIRE (VOLUME 21, NUMBER 6, 2012)

IAWF members have free online access to all research articles and back issues, a great member benefit. The IAWF member page directs you to the *Journal*, where you can search for your paper, author or fire subject of interest. All papers that have been accepted, even those not yet published in hard copy, can be found on the site.

The sixth issue of the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* in 2012 contains the following papers:

• "Modelling the potential for prescribed burning to mitigate carbon emissions from wildfires in fire-prone forests of Australia," R.A. Bradstock, M.M. Boer, G.J. Cary, O.F. Price, R.J. Williams, D. Barrett, G. Cook, A.M. Gill, L.B.W. Hutley, H. Keith, S.W. Maier, M. Meyer, S.H. Roxburgh and J. Russell-Smith;

• "Climate-fire interactions during the Holocene: a test of the utility of charcoal morphotypes in a sediment core from the boreal region of north-western Ontario (Canada)," Melissa T. Moos and Brian F. Cumming;

• "Does fire regime affect both temporal patterns and drivers of vegetation recovery in a resilient Mediterranean landscape? A remote sensing approach at two observation levels," F. Javier Lozano, Susana Suárez-Seoane and Estanislao de Luis-Calabuig;

• "MODIS time series as a tool for monitoring fires and their effects on savanna bird diversity," Noam Levin, Sarah Legge, Bronwyn Price, Michiala Bowen, Emily Litvack, Martine Maron and Clive McAlpine;

BRIEFING | Photo Contest



Working wildfire professionals from all countries are invited to submit photographs documenting the 2011 and 2012 wildfire seasons. The most compelling photos will be published throughout the coming year

in print and online versions of *Wildfire* magazine, *Wildfire World* and other IAWF-associated publications. In addition, the photograph selected as grand prize winner will be printed and auctioned as a fundraiser at the IAWF 4th Fire and Fuels Conference in February 2013.

Categories include **On the Fireline**, **Offline** (behind the scenes and in communities), **Fire Landscapes/Fire Ecology/Fire Effects**, and **Aviation**. Judges of the contest are Kari Greer, who has documented a range of key wildfires in past years, and Mike McMillan, a firefighter who publishes *Spotfire Images: Wildfire Photojournal*.

To submit photos, simply create a Flickr account, log in, and share your photos with this IAWF Flickr Group: www.flickr.com/groups/iawf-share-photos. Or, you can submit photos at www.wildfireworld.org. The deadline to submit photos is **Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013**. Good luck!

-Ron Steffens, Chair, Editorial Advisory Board

• "Fire activity projections in the SRES A2 and B2 climatic scenarios in peninsular Spain," A. Vázquez de la Cueva, José R. Quintana and Isabel Cañellas;

• "Implications of changing climate and atmospheric CO² for grassland fire in south-east Australia: insights using the GRAZPLAN grassland simulation model," Karen J. King, Geoffrey J. Cary, A. Malcolm Gill and Andrew D. Moore;

• "Modelling the effects of surface and crown fire behaviour on serotinous cone opening in jack pine and lodgepole pine forests," M.E. Alexander and M.G. Cruz;

• "Radiant flux density, energy density and fuel consumption in mixed-oak forest surface fires," R.L. Kremens, M.B. Dickinson and A.S. Bova;

• "Simulating effects of climate change and ecological restoration on fire behaviour in a south-western USA ponderosa pine forest," Kristen A. Honig and Peter Z. Fulé;

• "Forecasting intentional wildfires using temporal and spatiotemporal autocorrelations," Jeffrey P. Prestemon, María L. Chas-Amil, Julia M. Touza and Scott L. Goodrick;

• "A comparison of bushfire fuel hazard assessors and assessment methods in dry sclerophyll forest near Sydney, Australia," Penny J. Watson, Sandra H. Penman and Ross A. Bradstock;

• "The adaptive capacity of New Zealand communities to wildfire," Pamela J. Jakes and E.R. (Lisa) Langer;

• "Mid-season physical fitness profile of interagency hotshot firefighters," Katie M. Sell and Bequi Livingston;

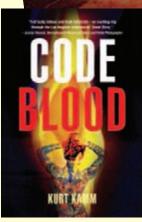
• "Corrigendum to: Estimating the amount of water required to extinguish wildfires under different conditions and in various fuel types," Rickard Hansen. **W**

A NEW EDITION OF ONE FOOT IN THE BLACK: A Wildland Firefighter's Story

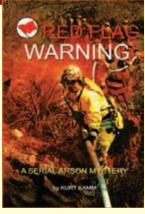
-Kurl Kamm puts you right there in the middle of the firestorm." -Dennis Smith, author of Report from Engine Co. 82 and A Decade of Hope Dedicated to Tedmund Hall and Arnie Quinones, who lost their lives in the 2009 Station Fire

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Mike DeGrosky is chief executive officer of the Guidance Group, a consulting organization specializing in the human and organizational aspects of the fire service, and an adjunct instructor in leadership studies for Fort Hays State University. Follow him on Twitter @guidegroup or via LinkedIn.

Presence

client recently referred to me as "refreshingly unpolished." People have previously called me "unpolished," or words to that effect. Others have found my approach refreshing. However, I think this person was the first to put the two together. I got a chuckle out of it, and I think he meant it as a compliment. However, it caused me to reflect on my presence. Do I want people to think of me as unpolished, even if some people do find my lack of refinement endearing? What does that assessment say about my ability to influence and lead others? A person's presence matters when it comes down to both influence and leadership, and my client's off-hand remark caused me to reflect on mine. Not that reflection is a bad thing; in fact, I encourage anyone who hopes to lead others to regularly take time to reflect on the impression they make on people.

My many wildland firefighter friends and colleagues tend to think of presence only as "command presence." The command presence concept emanates from the military and focuses on both authority and image management. From this perspective, bearing, physical appearance, confidence, resilience and the manner in which leaders carry themselves go a long way

> toward projecting command presence. Like professionals in other emergency services, wildland fire personnel have largely adopted the command presence concept.

I have been reviewing articles in which authors describe characteristics of command presence including, among others, strong eye contact, personal hygiene, a lack of nervous or restless movement, good grooming, a clean and

well-presented uniform, animated movement including effective hand gestures, showing competence and confidence without intimidating people, and demonstrating an ability to take charge. Few people I know would argue against those aspects of command presence. After all, we want respectable, credible, authoritative, take-charge people commanding in emergency situations. In fact, those situations often demand authoritative command presence if we are to achieve effective incident management.

However, emergency situations tend to require a kind of presence that differs from what people might expect, want or need from their leaders in the day-to-day workplace. Consequently, traditional notions of command presence probably fail to tell the whole story of presence. I've worked for managers and supervisors who were in traditional command presence mode all day, every day; I cannot say that I enjoyed the experience or that they were particularly effective. My experience corresponds with both anecdotal and research evidence that suggests that a constant command-and-control approach is a factor contributing to a leadership crisis in the fire service.

In the modern organization, people tend to expect leaders to strive for a type of presence that connects them to would-be followers. That's important. Even though many *Wildfire* readers work for fire agencies, when outside the emergency response or high-risk work environment, most work in pretty typical organizations.

From another perspective, research conducted in the business environment tends to associate presence with the ability to connect with people. With more emphasis on connecting, and less emphasis on authority, this perspective provides an additional dimension to the concept of presence. That additional dimension takes us beyond the traditional command presence concept to a broader one that we can call leadership presence. While reviewing recent articles on leadership presence, I noticed that the authors described it with terms such as compelling, confident, energized, inspiring, motivating, focused and the ability to connect with the feelings of others.

I am not suggesting that one perspective is better than the other. Neither perspective provides a complete approach to leadership presence for the wildland fire community. For incident commanders and other leaders performing in an incident-management team role, a more traditional command presence can prove essential. However, for leaders in their "day jobs," developing connections with employees and coworkers typically fosters productivity and organizational effectiveness. In fact, back at the office, too much command presence can prove downright corrosive.

For incident commanders and other leaders performing in an incident-management team role, a more traditional command presence can prove essential. As a leader, it is up to you to connect with would-be followers and respond to their efforts to reach out to you. Connect with people, and you are on your way to demonstrating leadership presence. Leadership is an influence relationship; effective leaders take the responsibility for fostering and maintaining that relationship. That requires showing empathy, listening to people and sharing experiences.

Showing empathy, or seeing the world through the eyes of another person, provides the would-be leader with insight into the hurdles that their potential followers face; that opens the door to further insight into their values, their emotions, what motivates them and why, their behavior and their thinking. By listening to people, we tap an incredible power to develop a connection to them, simply by showing that we care about one another as individuals and value each other's thoughts and concerns.

Finally, would-be leaders and potential followers connect when they share their stories and experiences. In my experience, effective leaders always take responsibility for the relationship. Taking responsibility for the relationship includes taking the initiative to share something about yourself, exposing your vulnerability, your mortality, and therefore, telegraphing your trust. Sharing experiences and connecting on a personal level facilitates trusting relationships. Trusting relationships enable mutual influence, collaboration and teamwork. Mutual influence, collaboration and teamwork represent fundamental aspects of leadership within effective, modern organizations.

I recommend a comprehensive view of leadership presence — one that acknowledges both the value of command presence in the incident environment as well as the need to connect with employees and coworkers to foster productivity and organizational effectiveness in the daily work environment. By integrating two perspectives of presence, would-be leaders in the wildland fire community can develop a comprehensive approach, making them effective across the spectrum of their job responsibilities.

I am still unsure as to whether "refreshingly unpolished" is how I want to be perceived, and I am still reflecting on my client's assessment of my presence. I encourage all would-be leaders to similarly take stock from time-to-time. You might just conclude that you would like to project a different leadership presence.



Evolving Aviation Program Puts Firefighter Safety First

Since its inception in 1927, the Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) in California has been a wildland fire department. Kern is one of six "contract" counties that provide protection to state responsibility watershed lands. In addition, Kern has developed a working agreement with federal counterparts whose lands border and often crisscross the county.

Kern saw its first use of aircraft for firefighting purposes in 1934 when Ranger Harold Boway enlisted the superintendent of Kern Airports to assist him in checking a reported fire. Over the years, the aviation program has steadily grown, thanks to an initial agreement between the Bakersfield Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Kern County Fire calling for the BLM to supply a helicopter and the KCFD to supply the overhead and crew.

In 2003, for example, the KCFD added external rescue hoist capabilities to its helicopter program. Night Vision



The Kern County Fire Department staffs two helicopters with two full-time pilots and three part-time pilots.

Goggle (NVG) capabilities were added in 2006, allowing for 24-hour operations in fire suppression and rescue.

Today, the KCFD staffs two helicopters with two full-time pilots and three part-time pilots. A helicopter



superintendent, assistant and 14 seasonal firefighters make up the crew, giving the helicopter a daily staff of 10. Along with the two helicopters, a full ground-support module is maintained with two mechanics, two mechanic trucks, two fuel trucks, two helitenders, two crew buggies and two superintendent utility trucks.

With firefighters assigned to fires day and night, providing for firefighters' safety was foremost on agency supervisors' minds. They identified four types of hoist rescue procedures used to extract those in need of rescue.

To learn more about the KCFD program, and how helicopters equipped with external rescue hoist capabilities were used to fight fires in 2012, check out this article from KCFD's Shawn Whittington, battalion chief; Danny Solis, helicopter superintendent; and pilots Scott Beck and Pat Williams.

*O For access to the full articles featured in Wildfire magazine, as well as news, commentary and research on important fire service topics, go to www.wildfireworld.org and www.wildfiremag.com.



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A Time for

The incendiary device that an arsonist used to ignite the Esperanza Fire, October 2006. The fire killed five firefighters and is the focus of an upcoming book by John Maclean. Photo from court records, provided by John Maclean.



A writer's reflection on the stories of fatal fire and why we must remember. | By John N. Maclean

I was attending a fire conference in Reno, Nev., a few years ago when a Forest Service engine captain I knew, Richard Gearhart, strode up and asked in a bold manner, 'Are you going to do a book on the Esperanza Fire?'

At that time, almost a year after the fire, I had a new book out, The Thirtymile Fire, the story of a horrific fatal fire in north-central Washington. Though I had visited the site of the Esperanza Fire in Southern California not long after it burned in October 2006, I had decided not to pursue the story. For one thing, I was battle-weary after finishing The Thirtymile Fire, my third book on fatal wildland fires. For another, CalFire, the state firefighting agency, was anxious not to upset the pending arson-murder trial of Raymond Oyler, who was charged with setting the Esperanza Fire; someone in the agency had sent out an email telling agency personnel not to talk about the fire, and specifically not to talk to me. "Esperanza is a CalFire fire," I told Gearhart, "and the powers that be at CalFire have shut off my access."

"No, you're wrong, it's a Forest Service story," replied Gearhart, whose engine had been stationed only a couple of hundred yards from Forest Service Engine 57 when it was burned over, killing its captain and four-man crew. "And we can tell it to you."

COURT OF LAST RESORT

Gearhart then brought over Norm Walker, the division chief in charge of the Forest Service engines that day; Engine 57 was one of five engines from the San Jacinto District of the San Bernardino National Forest assigned to the fire. Walker, who has a quiet but determined manner, described for me the story of the fire and its aftermath.

The San Jacinto District engine crews were a closely knit group; many of them lived in the mountain town of Idyllwild, about an hour's drive up from the floor of the Banning Pass, the main east-west artery that links the Los Angeles basin and the desert communities to the east. Engine 57's captain Mark Allen "Lotzy" Loutzenhiser was the group's guiding spirit. The 43-year-old had long experience and a reputation as a careful and reliable man. The loss of Loutzenhiser and his entire crew had been heartbreaking. More than that, Walker said, he and others were

John N. Maclean

Writing Fire

deeply unsettled at the way the fire investigation had been carried out. In their view, facts had been distorted or omitted and reputations had been unfairly blemished. Their side of the story needed telling, Walker said, and they were prepared to tell it to me.

That episode started me on a five-year-long mission to recapture the horror of the Esperanza Fire, to look into the way it was handled afterward, and to cover the lengthy trial and death-penalty hearing of Raymond Oyler, the first-ever wildfire arsonist to be convicted of murder. During those years — from that first encounter in Reno to the present — Gearhart, Walker and the three other Forest Service captains (Anna Dinkel, Freddie Espinoza and Chris Fogle) kept faith with that initial promise of cooperation — and with the memory of their fallen comrades.

Over the last couple of decades I suppose I have become a kind of court

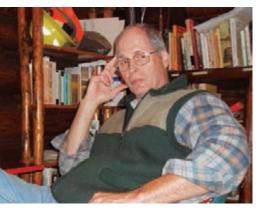
of last resort regarding fatal wildland fires, the outsider who is called upon after the official reports are written to go back and look again, to walk the ground, to listen sometimes over and over as survivors tell their stories, to solicit the views of others knowledgeable about fire, and to try to explain in detail how anything so terrible could have happened. Invariably, I am asked to look into the official investigations and reports about the fires and, if warranted, to correct the record and right the wrongs inflicted upon the dead.

My books aim to appeal to the general reader as well as to the fire community. The general reader gets an inside look at the who and the how of fighting wildland fire, which has become more dangerous and more scrutinized by the public with the expansion of the wildland-urban interface into previously wild areas. And the reader is asked to consider why some of these fires are fought. The books provide the fire community an intimate look at how things went fatally wrong for people just like them. More than one firefighter has told me my books save lives by providing cautionary tales and lessons for the future; I hope this is true.

CURRENTS RUN DEEP

I began working on fire stories more than two decades ago when my father, Norman Maclean, died without having completed Young Men and Fire, his account of the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire that claimed the lives of 12 smokejumpers and one ex-smokejumper who had become a wilderness guard. Many careful readers believe, as I do, that the unifying power of *Young Men and Fire* comes from my father's lifelong connection to fire, which began when he fought fire as a teenager in Montana. He started work on his Mann Gulch book in high spirits when he was 73 years old, just





Author John Maclean at his family's cabin

after publication of his first book, the autobiographical *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories.*

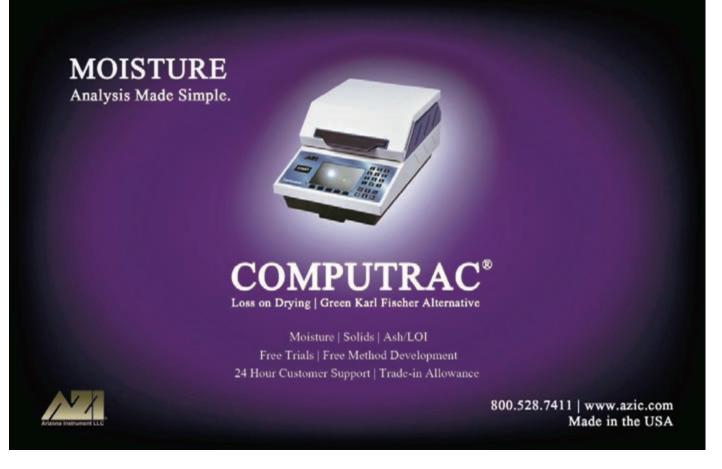
Young Men and Fire started out as a straightforward fire story. Buoyed by the growing acclaim for A River Runs Through It, my father expected to wrap up the fire book in a few years and move on to other writing projects. As the years went by, however, the story grew in scope into something with

deeper currents — much deeper than a tale of misadventure in the woods. It became the story of my father as an old man looking back on a life he might have lived as a young smokejumper, imbuing that world with a heightened spiritual awareness. The jumpers had fulfilled the desire of youth for adventure undertaken with fiery passion, but in doing so had been denied the long perspective granted to my father. Looking ahead to his own approaching end, he found a way to join in spirit and to memorialize the men he might have been. He spent the rest of his days working on that story and died, at the age of 87, with the book unfinished.

That's where I enter the story.

Popular notions to the contrary, I did not pull *Young Men and Fire* into shape. I helped edit and fact-check the book, as did several others. For the record, I had slightly more than 100 comments and corrections and scored above 90 percent in getting them accepted by the publisher, the University of Chicago Press. Alan Thomas, a senior editor at the Press, did the true editing of the text, arranging it into a flowing narrative without disturbing my father's words.

Once Young Men and Fire came out, however, I did undertake a major project regarding the book. I wrote to people with connections to the Mann Gulch story — the last living survivor Robert Sallee; Lois Jansson, the widow of Ranger John Robert Jansson, who had been in charge of the fire; Pat Dodge Wilson, the widow of Wag Dodge, the foreman in charge of the fire crew, and others — and solicited their comments and reactions to the book: good, bad or indifferent. Through correspondence and visits with these people over several years, I learned firsthand that fatal fires do not die out when the embers go cold: they burn down through the generations. I also learned that a book can help by



Writing Fire

opening discussion of matters long bottled up and by providing a public, easily available record of events that otherwise might fade from memory.

A CLOUD OF DESTINY

After many letters and visits, I thought I had done my duty and was through with fire. But fire has a mind of its own. In the summer of 1994, two years after publication of Young Men and Fire, the South Canyon Fire on Storm King Mountain in Colorado took the lives of 14 firefighters, three of them smokejumpers, the first time smokejumpers had been fatally overcome by flames since Mann Gulch. The fire was a mirror of events in Mann Gulch - topography, time of day, fire behavior, the involvement of smokejumpers, the number of fatalities. It appeared like a cloud of destiny on my horizon.

My editor at the Chicago Tribune, where I had worked for nearly 30 years, mostly in the Washington Bureau, came over and waved a piece of Associated Press copy in front of me. "You need to do this story," he said. When I suggested that instead of trying to compete with the army of reporters at the site in Colorado I should go to Mann Gulch on its upcoming anniversary in August and write about the similarities between the two fires, he told me to do it. I enlisted, among others, my father's research partner, Laird Robinson, a onetime smokejumper foreman, and we visited Mann Gulch on the anniversary date. The result was a long piece for the Tribune comparing the two fires. And once again, I thought I had done my duty and was finished with fire.

Then I telephoned the family of Don Mackey, the smokejumper-in-charge on Storm King who was among the fallen. Bob and Nadine Mackey, Don's parents, lived in the Bitterroot Valley near Hamilton, an easy drive from my family cabin at Seeley Lake. Don's reputation had come under a cloud; he had made serious mistakes, it was said, that led to the fatalities — including his own. The fire investigation report, though, left that and many other

Preview: The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57

John Maclean's latest book in a series that explore the defining wildfires of our time will be published in February 2013 by Counterpoint Press. For more information see http://www.johnmacleanbooks.com.

The wildland fire community is lucky to have the Macleans. With four poetic and impeccably researched books, they've helped us mourn the dead and think about how to do our jobs better, more safely. Like his earlier books, John Maclean's forthcoming The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57 provokes meditation on mortality. However, while those earlier books forced us to examine tactical and organizational errors, the lessons of Engine 57 should prompt discussion of the bigger picture: Fires are growing larger, more expensive, more destructive. What do we do about it? Who is to blame?

questions unsettled, and survivors as well as families were upset. Two of the investigators had refused to sign the final report, though one relented in the end; the Forest Service wound up reinvestigating the fire's behavior, but not until years later. The fire, in short, had become a story in search of an author. Over the next several months, I put together a book proposal and found an agent, Jennifer Lyons, who is my agent to this day. She found a publisher.

In the spring of the year following the fire, after three decades at the *Tribune*, I quit and headed west to write a book on the South Canyon Fire. This sounds like a natural thing for me to do. But consider: I was in my early 50s and too young to retire from the *Tribune* and take a pension. I had many working years ahead, and I had a wife and two sons. So on April 1, 1995, hoping it all wasn't a big April Fool's joke on me, I stepped into my Jeep Cherokee and headed west to meet Mackey's parents on Storm King Part tragedy and part murder mystery, The Esperanza Fire is the story of the burnover of San Bernardino National Forest Engine 57, including the capital murder trial of arsonist Raymond Lee Oyler. It is also the story of firefighters who did most things right. Sure, from the comfort of our armchairs, we can see watch-out situations transgressed. Yet Engine 57 was as qualified as they come, and the mistakes they made were not so different from those that many luckier firefighters have made.

They died in the context of an ever more aggressive fire behavior triangle. So long as our fuels grow thicker, extremes of weather become more frequent, we build our homes in increasingly tortuous topography, and there are men among us as disturbed as Raymond Lee Oyler, we will have a hard time avoiding future tragedies. This is what The Esperanza Fire demands we address.

-Zev Balsen

Mountain, where they were going to help place memorial markers for the fallen firefighters.

When *Fire on the Mountain* came out five years later, I made my first promotional appearance for the book at a wildland fire and mitigation conference in Colorado. To say the large audience was knowledgeable about the fire would be an understatement: everyone there knew the South Canyon Fire in detail, and many had played a role in it.

I had kept my feelings about the story on paper or bottled up for five years, but on this occasion I poured it all out: the challenge of writing a book everyone would compare with *Young Men and Fire*, already hailed as a classic, and the years of dealing with families of the fallen. I spoke of the slow gathering of the story until it began to come together and told the story of the final moments of the fire crew in grim detail. I talked for more than two hours and left the audience and me physically and emotionally drained.



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A REALITY SHOW

Since then, appearing before fire groups has been an important part of my work. It exposes me to the people I write about, giving them a chance to have a say, and forces me to take into account expert opinion and different points of view. The interaction provides fresh material and contacts that contribute to future books, as it did when Capt. Gearhart braced me about the Esperanza Fire. Presentations are a reality show, however, and the experience can be unnerving.

After I wrote *The Thirtymile Fire* about the blaze in Washington State that took the lives of four young Forest Service firefighters, I appeared at Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane, Wash., with Kathie FitzPatrick, the mother of one of the victims, Karen Lee FitzPatrick. Kathie had written her own book, *Angel Promises*, about Karen, who was a lovely, physically strong, deeply religious 18-year-old at the time of her death.

Kathie and I had become friends, but we differed on one major point. After the fire, Kathie and several others had been deeply offended by the official fire report, which initially blamed the victims for ignoring a direct order to retreat — a charge immediately denied by survivors and later revised. They had worked successfully with Congress to pass legislation requiring oversight of all future Forest Service fatality reports. It wasn't a bad thing in itself, but I disagreed completely with the way it was being implemented.



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Firequick Products, Inc. 760-377-5766 Now Selling Direct - www.firequick.com The legislation had resulted in the indictment of Ellreese Daniels, the incident commander, for negligent manslaughter. Those charges had just been dismissed, however, and Daniels had pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges, for which he eventually was given probation. Daniels' public defender Tina Hunt was in the audience. As I described in detail my objections to the legislation and its effects, being careful to respect Kathie's position, Hunt arose from her seat.

"I think everybody should know that U.S. Attorney Jim McDevitt just walked in," Hunt announced in her courtroom voice. Indeed, McDevitt, who had brought the case against Daniels, had come in late and taken a seat toward the rear, just as I was launching into my opinions about why those charges were a travesty of justice and why justice was served when the most serious ones were tossed out.

It made for an interesting evening. At one point, I gave McDevitt the opportunity to defend his actions in front of the audience. He was constrained because Daniels hadn't been sentenced yet. But he came up to me afterward and asked to talk in more detail once the case was over, to explain his side of things. Though he and I were on opposite ends of the argument, he behaved like a gentleman and we did have a long talk some time later. He failed to win me over, but he had the opportunity to make his case.

NEXT CHAPTER

I'm often asked what I'm gong to write about next. I don't know exactly yet, but I will write something more; my father, after all, didn't start work on *A River Runs Through It* until he was 70, which is older than I am today. There are several fires from recent years I'd like to dig into, a couple of them in California. That should be possible: the CalFire gag order against me was lifted, thanks to the intervention of CalFire's chief public information officer, Julie Hutchinson. When Hutchinson found out about the order, in a chance encounter with me on the fifth anniversary of the Esperanza Fire, she quickly got clearance from Ken Pimlott, director of CalFire, to open the agency's doors.

It is an honor to serve and be a part of the fire community. I hope, though, that never again in my lifetime is there a fire like South Canyon, Thirtymile or Esperanza. I hope that never again do the echoes of Mann Gulch reverberate on another steep dry slope, in another time of extreme heat and high wind, with another fire crew caught in the path of flames. I hope that no one ever again calls on me with one of those offers that simply cannot be turned down.



John N. Maclean has become well known to firefighters since the publication of his first book, Fire on the Mountain, the story of the 1994 South Canyon Fire. He is also the author of two other books about wildland fires, Fire and Ashes and The Thirtymile Fire. Maclean spent much of a 30-year newspaper career in Washington, D.C., as a

Chicago Tribune correspondent covering national and international news. He is a frequent speaker at wildfire academies and other gatherings, and is a member of the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department in Montana.



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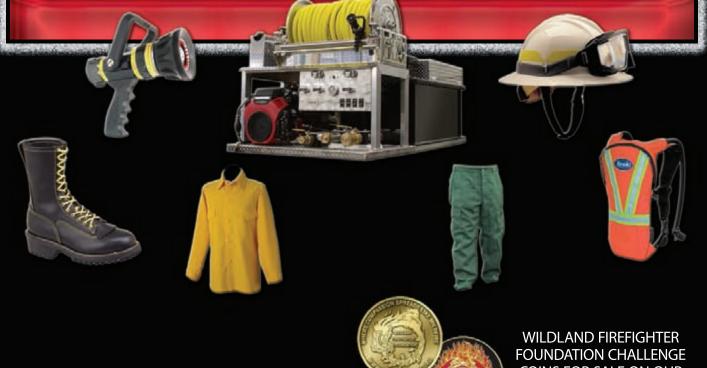


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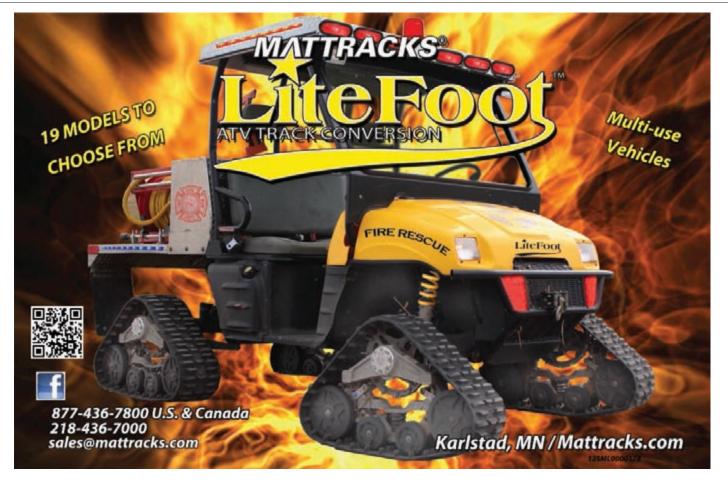
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3375 N Delaware St Chandler, AZ 85225 602-470-1414; 800-528-7411 Fax: 602-281-1745 www.azic.com See ad on page 17

AS Roach Fire Services Ltd Site 8, RR 2, PO Box 59 Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X2 780-719-9584 Fax: 780-963-9722 www.asroachfire.com

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Ben Meadows PO Box 5277 Janesville, WI 53547 1-800-241-6401 Fax: 1-800-628-2068 www.benmeadows.com See ad on page 13

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C

CAT Pumps- Ultra-High Pressure Pumps & Systems 1681 94th Ln NE Minneapolis, MN 55449 763-780-5440 Fax: 763-780-2958 www.catpumps.com

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Μ

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Mattracks Inc

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Ν

National Fire Fighter Wildland Corp 1574 W 6th Ave, PO Box 21107 Eugene, OR 97402 800-423-8347 Fax: 800-891-1982 www.nationalfirefighter.com See ad on page 25 NFPA Firewise Communities

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R

Ratchet Rake LLC 405 N East St Carlisle, PA 17013 888-850-6070 www.ratchetrake.com

Reelcraft Industries Inc 2842 E Business Hwy 30 Columbia City, IN 46725 260-248-8188; 800-444-3134 Fax: 260-248-2605 www.reelcraft.com Rosenbauer 100 Third St, PO Box 57 Lyons, SD 57041 605-543-5591 Fax: 605-543-5593 www.rosenbaueramerica.com

S

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T

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4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

he 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference will provide government and non-government professionals a valuable opportunity to share information globally about wildland fire behavior and fuels, especially as it pertains to physical, biological, economic and social sciences.

Wildland fire management is at a crossroads facing choices that can lead to vastly different outcomes:



One will promote continuation of what has taken place over recent decades and incorporate incremental changes to improve existing program function and efficiency; another will embark on a more innovative path to expand programs that better respond to changing complexities in fire environments, societal focus, population growth, and science and technological capability.

The Conference offers a forum where past experience and lessons learned are documented, current work showcased, and emerging ideas/technology presented to provide a strong foundation that will facilitate setting a course for the future that addresses and responds to developing challenges locally, regionally and globally.

Field Trip

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune Friday, February 22

The Fire & Fuels Management Program at Marine Corps Base - Camp Lejeune, North Carolina is progressive, forward thinking and is not shy to address complex issues that challenge fire management. Fieldtrip participants will have a first-hand opportunity to see how fire science and fire managers merge new knowledge and experience on such issues as burning on organic soils, managing smoke from prescribed fire with abundant smoke sensitive areas and managing masticated sites

The first stop will be an organic soil discussion led by Jim Reardon. This stop is at the site of a successful prescribed burn of pocosin fuels on organic soil. This burn resulted in high surface fuel consumption with no significant soil consumption or residual smoldering. Fire management of sites with organic soils is a serious challenge due to the effects on flora and fauna habitat and to the emissions that can affect public health and serve as a contributing factor for super-fog events in smoke sensitive areas miles downwind. Our onsite discussion will focus on current research to develop and field test a model to estimate smoldering potential and the use of new remote site monitoring tools.

The second stop of the field trip will be weather dependent with a stop at a prescribed burn being conducted by Danny Becker's staff. We will hear about



fire management on Lejune from Danny and Gary Achtemeier will discuss smoke management and new smoke tools.

Option 2 - In the event it is too wet to conduct a prescribed fire, Susan Cohen (Research coordinator for Lejune) and Danny will have another location where we will hear about fire management on Lejune.

The third stop of the field trip will be the fuel mastication site. Norm Christensen and Karsten Baumann will talk about longleaf ecosystem restoration and smoke. We also hope to have a couple of individuals at this stop to discuss the Rabbit Rules for smoke and super fog, and the tools they use on Eglin AFB where they burn over 100,000 acres/year.

Featured Presenters:

Keynote Presentation: Fire Behavior Science and Experience: Framing Successful Megafire Solutions for Policy Makers, Politicians, and the Public



Bob Mutch, Fire Management Applications

Darby, Montana, USA

Closing Presentation Tom Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service

Washington, DC, USA



A Century Of Fire Ecology And Management: Lessons For An Uncertain Future

Norman L. Christensen, Ph.D., Research Professor and Founding Dean of the Nicholas School Environmental Sciences & Policy

Durham, North Carolina, USA

Public Response to Fire and Fuels Management: Understanding Current Dynamics to Improve Future Decisions

Sarah McCaffrey, Ph.D., Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station



Can Risk Assessment Disentangle Us From Our Wildfire Paradox?

Dave Calkin, Ph.D., Research Forester, Economic Aspects of Forest Management on Public Lands Rocky Mountain Research Station

Missoula, Montana, USA

Burning In Their Backyards And Having Them Say Thank You

Steven R. "Torch" Miller, Chief, Bureau of Land Management, St. Johns River Water Management District

Florida, USA

A Decade Of Coordinated Fire Research In Australia – Hits, Misses And New Opportunities

Richard Thornton, Ph.D., Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

S.

The Problem of Wildland Fires in Russia and the Ways of its Solution

Tatiana M. Sofronova, Ph.D., Asst Prof, Dept of Physical Geography & GeoEcology & Department of English Philology, Astafiev Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University

Krasnovarsk, Russia



Evanston, Illinois, USA

Venue and Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center, a bustling hub for the culture, commerce and technologies that make the Triangle one of the most admired and sought after regions in the United States. The modern, 500,000 square foot facility includes a soaring street-level lobby, an elegant ballroom and a massive exhibit hall as well as cutting edge tech amenities and award-winning culinary delights.

Room blocks have been secured at Sheraton Raleigh Hotel and Marriott Raleigh City Center. Both hotels are adjacent to the convention center. Rooms rate range from \$149 to \$159 + tax per night. To make your room reservations visit the conference webpage/hotel and travel.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Monday, February 18

Check out some of the workshops and classes offered before the Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference officially starts.

- Using the BehavePlus fire modeling system for prescribed fire planning;
- Strategic, multi-scale decision support for forest-fuels management with the EMDS system;
- Assessing Residential Wildfire Hazards;
- Introduction to fuel treatment planning and fire behavior modeling with ArcFuels10;
- RX 310 Introduction to Fire Effects Course;
- Introduction to the Interagency Fuels Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS);
- Advanced Fire Behavior Analysis Through Lessons Learned;
- Fire Practitioner Tools for Assessing Wildland Smoke;
- Crown Fire Behavior in Conifer Forests;
- Fire, Fuels, and Climate: Science Resources to Keep Pace with a Changing World;
- Wildfire Analyst: Fire Behavior Analysis & Simulation Tools for Operational Decision Making;
- Fire Monitoring and the Application of Adaptive Management for Public Lands Management;
- The Wildland Fire Assessment Tool (WFAT) A Spatial Model for Wildland Fire Behavior and Fire Effects;
- Fire Regime Condition Class: Concepts, Applications, and Mapping Tool;
- ...and more.



iawfonline.org/2013FuelsConference

Russian Edition

St. Petersburg, Russia July 1-4, 2013 The Call for Workshops and Papers is open now.



Conference Trade Show

February 20-21, 2013 An ideal venue to share your expertise

The 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference can provide your organization or company with an outstanding opportunity to meet a wide range of people involved in Fire Behavior and Fuels management. We welcome agencies, organizations and companies working in biofuels, fuels management, GIS, software technology, fire prevention, aviation, technology, gear, clothing, tools, equipment, and more. We also welcome nonprofit and educational facilities to showcase their projects and programs.

Registration

IAWF membership is not required to register.

Non-members will receive a free 1 year membership with registration, a \$60 value that includes a subscription to "Wildfire Magazine".

The following registration rates apply:

- Student Member Registration \$200
- Student Non-member Registration \$225
- IAWF Member Registration \$440
- Non-member Registration \$500
- One-day Member Registration \$170
- One-day Non-member Registration \$200
- Virtual Conference, IAWF Member -\$125
- Virtual Conference, IAWF Non-member \$185

Early registration ends January 18, 2013

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The Firestore.com	19	800-852-6088	www.thefirestore.com
The Supply Cache	11	800-839-0821	www.firecache.com
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Coaxsher FS-1 Ranger Wildland Fire Pack

Coaxsher's FS-1 Ranger is a comfortable, lightweight, durable fire pack that can be customized to meet firefighters' needs. With its ergonomic harness system, adjustable waist belt and Dual Action Stabilizer,

this modular fire pack is suited for long shifts in rugged conditions, allowing users to carry everything they need without pain or strain. | *www.coaxsher.com*



The Firestore Emergency Care Packs

EMS and rescue gear by Conterra Technical Systems are offered by The Firestore, a division of Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. The Longbow Ranger Mountain Pack is a mid-sized pack for use in search and rescue operations. A large zippered medical

supplies compartment is separate from the main and probe pockets; the pack, built out of Conterra's super-light diamond plate pack cloth, is large enough to accommodate wilderness gear. | *www.thefirestore.com*

Advanced Fire Technologies The Attack Pack



The Attack Pack was created specifically for packing and deploying the Travis Pack, which is used to deploy hose on wildland incidents. The pack holds 100 feet of 1-1/2-inch hose, 100 feet of 1-inch hose and a gated wye. It has padded,

reversible straps for deployment of any type of progressive hose lay configuration and includes a padded back and zippered pouch on the top pane. | *www.aftmonsoon.com*



The Nargear Engine-1

Engine-1 is modular web gear designed for professionals performing wildland firefighting tactics via the fire engine. It features multiple configurations

so users can create unique setups personalized to state, county or federal guidelines. Users can arrange Engine-1 so that they can enter and exit their engines without having to take off the fire-shelter. It is suited to initial attack and extended attack fire scenarios. | *www.nargear.com*

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