

# National Fire Plan

USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior  
[www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)



## Fire Preparedness and Facilities

### Preparedness Resources

Fire preparedness, a key element of the National Fire Plan, incorporates all components necessary to prepare for and fight wildland fires, including workforce planning, training, equipment availability, and facilities maintenance. All of this enables Federal wildland fire management agencies to strengthen and enhance initial attack and fire suppression efforts.

Initial attack activities were highly successful in FY 2003, with 98% of all unwanted fires contained within 24 hours. NFP funding contributed to these successes by funding a highly trained, responsive firefighting workforce of 18,669 firefighters. The workforce and equipment on hand to achieve this objective are displayed in the table below.

### 2003 Firefighting Resources

Resources	BIA	BLM	FW	NPS	DOI Total	FS	Combined Total
Firefighters	1,200	2,201	290	438	4,129	10,480	14,609
Management, Overhead, & Support Personnel	374	761	90	213	1,438		1,438
Engines	231	318	72	160	781	995	1,776
Prevention					n/a	397	397
Helicopters	13	27	2	9	51	87	138
Water/Foam Tenders	17	33	28	14	92	52	144
Dozers	28	15	26	0	69	95	164
Tractor Plows	0	0	37	0	37	70	107
Boats	0	2	5	0	7	8	15
Type 1 or Hotshot Crews	11	12	0	2	25	65	90
Smokejumpers	0	147	0	1	148	277	425
Airtankers	5	32	0	0	37	33	70
National Helicopters	0	3	0	0	3	8	11
Other Aircraft	0	29	0	1	30	0	30

\*Frontline Firefighters.

\*\*Fire Management and individual measures other than frontline firefighters.

\*\*\*Other aircraft numbers include smokejumper aircraft, lead planes, etc.

### Workforce Development and Training

In addition to recruiting and retaining a highly qualified firefighting workforce, the agencies are pursuing an aggressive program of firefighter training and development. In FY 2003, with support from NFP funding, the agencies accomplished the following:

- The agencies made progress on an agreement entered into in FY 2002 with the University of Arizona to create a training center that will replace the existing National Advanced Resource Technology Training Center. Construction is under way with an opening date planned for June 2004.

- The Incident Qualifications and Certification System began implementation in FY 2003. This system enables incident managers to consistently analyze training and workforce needs, design training programs, and find common solutions to workforce-related issues. The system serves as an interface between qualified individual resource needs for fire or other incident management needs, while improving the efficiency of identifying appropriate personnel in the resource ordering system.
- The increasing importance of a workforce qualified in safe and effective hazardous fuels reduction techniques led to the beginning of a multiyear program to improve the infrastructure and curricula of the prescribed Fire Training Center and Fire Use Training Academy.
- The five Federal wildland fire management agencies, with support from the U.S. Department of Labor, continued to operate the Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program in California. In FY 2003, 660 firefighters graduated from the academy. Additionally, 110 participants completed training at the National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center, and 35 participants completed training at the Fire Use Training Academy.
- Interagency Federal wildland fire management specialists provided two training sessions for members of the New York City Fire Department. Following their initial training, the participants were assigned to a western wildland fire in August 2003.
- The Wildland Fire Lessons-Learned Center has made available an online navigable library of information directed at safety, training, and workforce development from after-action reviews and studies. This Web site provides real-time information and answers to questions on issues facing fire managers and firefighters.

### **Facilities, Construction, and Maintenance**

- In FY 2003, the agencies accomplished work on 171 facilities totaling \$43.8 million in expenditures. Projects ranged from crew quarters and offices to equipment facilities, fire stations, airtanker bases, helibases, water systems, and lookouts.