



DEVELOPING A NEW WILDFIRE TRAINING RESOURCE FOR EUROPE

# EUROFIRE UPDATE

Michael Bruce

Eurofire Project Manager

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# Introduction

- Eurofire Aims & Objectives
- European Qualifications Framework
- Draft Eurofire Competency Standards
- Training materials & knowledge transfer

# The Target Groups



EuroFire has been developed to support:

- Fire-fighters
- The rural and land-based sector
- Sectoral organisations
- Education and training institutions

# Limitations of “normal” fire service equipment



# Eurofire Aims

- Produce training material at a basic level to support:
  - Fire prevention
  - Fire management
  - Fire suppression

# Issues risks and solutions

- Operating in a multi-lingual environment, where English is a second language
  - Base the work on the developing European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
  - Emphasise visual training materials to minimise translation
  - Translation of key documents

# European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

- Reference tool to compare qualification levels across national systems in EU
- National qualification systems must be related to EQF by 2009
- Qualifications put into a level: 1 - 8

# Uses in Fire Management

- Supports “mutual assistance”
- Supports process of matching employers needs with qualifications across Europe
- It is a flexible modular framework



# Websites

- Research into developing EU training & qualification systems - the EQF

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html)

- Research training principles in UN FAO Fire Management: Voluntary Guidelines

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/programmes/un/fao/FAO-Fire-Management-Voluntary-Guidelines-2007.pdf>

# Outline of a Competency Based Training System

- Levels
- Competency standards
- Assessment of learning outcomes
- Training
- Qualifications
- Quality assurance

# Levels 1 – 5 (simplified)

1	Introduction	Assist
2	Basic	Do / Support
3	Advanced	Supervise
4	Commander	Manage
5	Director	Decide

# Progression of Learning

- Induction
- Learning
- Development
- Competent practise

-----Assessment-----

- Excellence / professionalism

# Competency Standards

- International material reviewed
- Decided on New Zealand approach focussing on skills (tasks & tools) rather than overall operation
- This approach suits the diverse target audiences better

# Eurofire Level 2 Competency Standard

- Title:
  - Level 2 in vegetation fire management
- Split into 9 units

# Level 2 vegetation fire management

- Each unit splits into 5 parts:
  - About this unit
  - Key words and phrases
  - What you must do
  - What this standard covers (range statement)
  - What you must know and understand

# Draft Unit Titles

- Ensure that your actions in the vegetation fire workplace reduce the risks to yourself and others:
- Apply techniques and tactics to control vegetation fire.
- Communicate within a team and with supervisors at vegetation fires
- Apply hand tools to control vegetation fires.
- Control vegetation fires using pumped water
- Apply vegetation ignition techniques



# Potential Additional Unit Titles

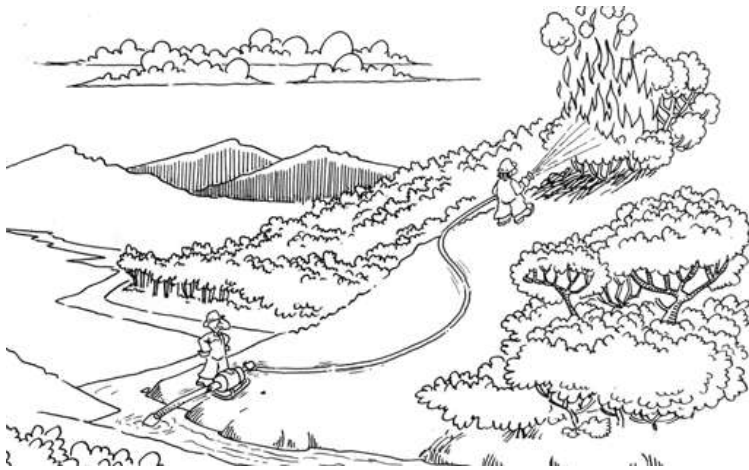
- Map reading/ orientation
- Chain saw & brushcutter use
- Working with aircraft in fire management

# Health & Safety



- A) Identify the hazards and evaluate the risks that are likely to be found in the workplace
- B) Reduce the risks likely to be found in the workplace
- C) Respond to health emergencies in the workplace

# Apply Techniques & Tactics



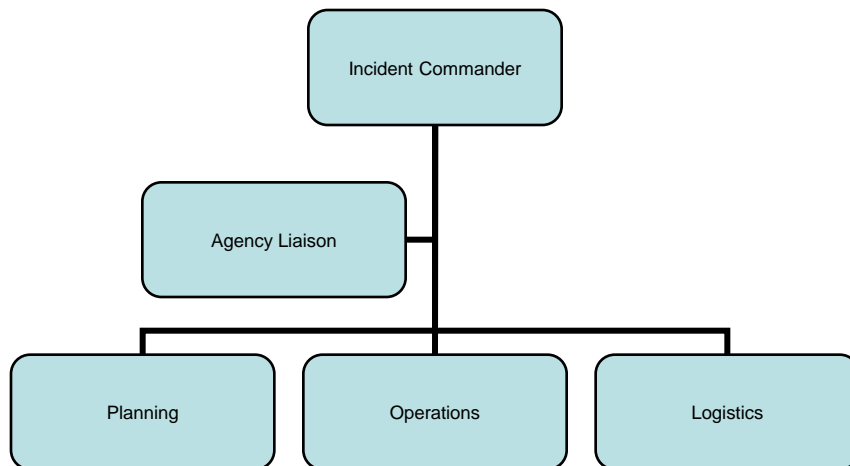
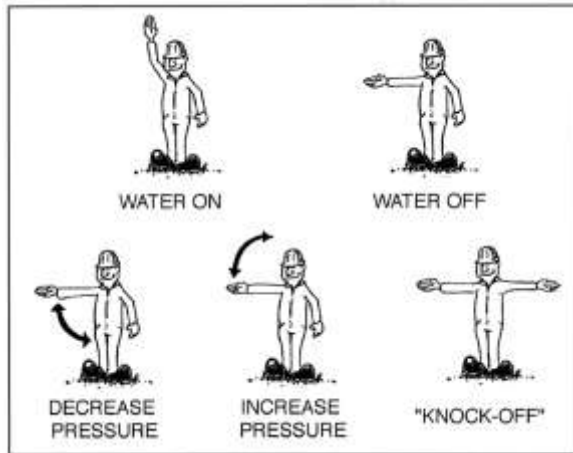
A) Prepare for  
vegetation fire  
suppression

B) Control vegetation  
fires

- Focus on fire  
behaviour  
knowledge



# Communication in teams



A) Use hand held radios and cellphones to communicate effectively at vegetation fires

B) Operate successfully within an organisational structure at vegetation fires

# Use pumped water



- A) Prepare portable pumps, hoses and other ancillary equipment for use at vegetation fires
- B) Set up and operate a light portable pump in a vegetation fire situation
- C) Deliver water through hoses and nozzles to suppress vegetation fire

# Apply Hand Tools



A) Prepare hand tools for vegetation fire suppression operations



B) Use hand tools to suppress vegetation fires

# Re-learn how to use hand tools?



# Carry Out Ignition



A) Prepare ignition devices and ancillary equipment for use at vegetation fires



B) Apply ignition devices following specified firing plans



# Units in development

- Map reading
- Chainsaws & brushcutters
- Working with helicopters & other aircraft

# Conclusions

- Competency based training, standards & qualifications are part of a balanced system.
- The context of the organisations working together to create standards is important
- Language, definitions and translation will be key issues affecting success!

# Questions?



**Michael Bruce**  
**Eurofire Project Manager**

[eurofire@gfmc.org](mailto:eurofire@gfmc.org)

[www.euro-fire.eu](http://www.euro-fire.eu)