

Intermediate Incident Command System



Intermediate and Advanced Incident Command System courses, 7 March – 17 March 2005 at Charters Creek, South Africa

Report

The excellent relationship in the Regional Sub Sahara Wildland Fire Network (AfriFirenet) made the cooperation possible that resulted in the ICS training courses in early 2005.

Working on Fire (WoF) is one of the official partner organisations within Afrifirenet aiming at implementing Integrated Fire Management in South Africa. The WoF programme and its overall programme are in line with the scope of Afrifirenet. For more details see:

<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/Africa/Afrifirenet.html>

Following the international Wildland Fire Summit (8 October 2003, Sydney, Australia) which recommended ICS to become the international standard for all wildland incident management participating in international or interagency agreements and exchanges WoF has adopted ICS.

Based on personal friendship WoF managed to bring ICS experts from the United States to serve as instructors for the courses. The ICS training 2005 was the second training course of that kind. The involvement of ICS specialists ensured the proper outline and implementation of ICS in Southern Africa.

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) was supporting WoF since its foundation to implement the summit outcomes and to act as a role model for the SADC region.

For more information on WoF visit their website at: www.workingonfire.org

The German Foreign Office supported the GFMC to finance the participation of delegates from Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Namibia. The

South African Department of Water and Forestry sponsored the additional costs for the SADC delegates (course fees and transport on site). A prime example of sharing resources!

The courses had a duration of two weeks and dealt with all aspects of intermediate and advanced Incident Command. Training was partly in the classroom, partly outside on sand tables where fire situations were simulated and a two day live exercise.

The participation of the SADC delegates was an enrichment for the student group and exchange of experiences was very fruitful, also for the South Africans. The course took place in Charters Creek, Zululand, in a very remote venue, which ensured team building and evening discussions.

After two weeks of living together in a simulated fire camp, the basis for future cooperation and exchange in the region was created successfully.

The ICS training courses had a good media coverage and a number of articles were published in South African newspapers.

Note:

As only a small portion of the costs for that activity was sponsored, the course fee was considerably high.

In addition one has to state that the US instructors used their annual leave to make their participation possible. This is personal and enthusiastic commitment!
Thank you!

The Southern African ICS Summit took place on 17 March 2005.

The delegates, students and members of the SA ICS Working Team discussed the plan for the coming years and defined actions and tasks for the team members to ensure the active implementation of ICS in South Africa.

In the discussion it became obvious that most SADC countries are experiencing severe fire problems but have only limited capacities in fire management, if at all. The SADC delegates and the ICS Working Team agreed, that AfriFirenet should support the development of integrated fire management systems in these countries, with community involvement and capacity-building as most important aspects. All parties agreed that AfriFirenet should ensure actively that all activities and planned systems in the SADC region should be compatible to facilitate an uncomplicated exchange of information and resources. Bilateral agreements are a first important step in that direction.

The minutes of the summit are attached.

Further Information:

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