

INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE



Wednesday
July 26
Boston,
Mass.
USA

As Our Conference Ends...

It has been a great conference! I think it exceeded our expectations in terms of participation and presentations. Total attendance is over 400 representing 39 countries from around the world.

The keynote speakers, Bob Grant from NFPA, JeanClaude Mercier, Dr. JeanPaul Lanly, Chuck Lankester, Philippe Boule, and Dale Robertson on Monday set the stage for the rest of the week and each session has built on that foundation bringing us to the close today when Dr. Bob Lee will summarize and bring together all that we have heard this week and John Goodman will provide a futuring view of global wildland fire management and international cooperative efforts.

The Round-Table Issues lunch on Tuesday was tremendous. Each and every one of you are to be commended for the great ideas brought forward. Lunch- on Chairman, Dave Wright, and all the facilitators who agreed to help out did a fantastic job—we all thank you.

I want to especially thank the Session chairs; Jean Claude Mercier, Jesus Cardena, Giancarlo Calabri, Lee Barkow, Bill Sommers, and Bill McCleese for your contributions. And, of course, thanks to all the speakers who committed the time and energy to develop presentations and speak at the Conference.

Planning for the Conference began over 2

years ago, and I can't say enough about efforts of the planning committee, staff and volunteers who have put so much into making this a successful conference. If you have ever been involved in something like this, you know that as smooth as everything appeared to run, there were hundreds of details and problems that had to be dealt with everyday.

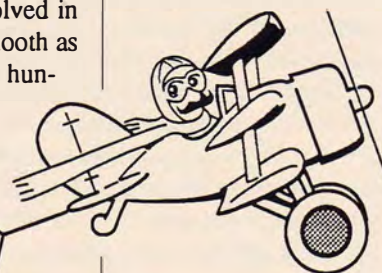
Of this group special mention needs

**Thanks for Your
Participation**

to be made of a small group that have been involved since the beginning, over 2 years ago. Dennis Dube, Paul Weeden, and Bob Mutch, thank you for your perserverance. Aaron Mastache of SARH was the other original member of the Program Committee, and Gay Almquist joined the team in progress.

There are many more: Gary Togle, then Bill Baden at NFPA; John Marker and Bob Swinford from the U.S. Forest Service and John Bethea, National Association of State Foresters who served as Conference Co-Managers. Planning Committee Chairs and Members: Exhibits and Advertising - Roger Erb, BLM; Bill Fishcer,

—continued on page 6





Wednesday



MEETING GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE CHALLENGES

And now, a word from our producer...

Wondering why a video crew is wandering around the Conference? NFPA is preparing another video in its continuing series of programs concerning the wildland-urban interface fire problem. The program will focus on three central issues:

- an update on wildland fires from '87 through '89
- the use of technology in fighting fires, and
- the importance of the international cooperation through this Conference.

The program will be produced this fall and broadcast via satellite to the U.S. and Canada. Copies of the program will be available from NFPA following the broadcast. Thanks to each participant for cooperating with the video crew.

Thanks to the Staff!

I can only echo Al West's thanks to everyone. It has been a great week. I wanted to publicly thank the Conference staff who ran our office, information desk, and supported the program committee. Without them, the Conference would not have been the same. Thanks to those folks from the U.S. Forest Service:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Ray Burnster | Dawn Davis |
| Colleen Finneman | Cathie McClung |
| Lynn Penrod | |

I would also like to extend my appreciation to those who volunteered their time. Your free time was sincerely appreciated. A special thank you to:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| April Bryant | Kyle Bahr (age 9) |
| Ursula Bunstead | Steve Davis |
| Teri Newman | Corbie Newman (age 10) |
| Nancy Wright | Adam Weeden (age 11) |

Thanks to you all!

*Bob Swinford,
Conference Manager*

Notice of Correction

"No man is an island" nor is any U.S. federal agency. Within the U.S. Department of the Interior, four agencies have wildland fire management responsibilities—the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land Management. When the conference program and opening video were produced, the logo for the Bureau of Land Management was used instead of the seal for the Department of the Interior. We would like to recognize the other three Interior agencies who are also sponsors of the conference. Their support of this effort is appreciated and their participation is vital.



Success!

Success! A wonderful word in any language. Few words impart the sense of exhilaration and few aims are more highly sought after. This Conference is no exception. Underlying all the preparation, all the exhibits, even the idea itself - was success. Above all else was the desire for the Conference to succeed in its goals.

It is appropriate that our final day at the Conference focus on success. Our morning session brings a panel of distinguished gentlemen to discuss how to make programs successful. Based upon their experiences, they will share with us those items they found critical in their successes. The question and answer session that follows the panel presentation will give the entire Conference the opportunity to more fully explore this critical topic.

The afternoon sessions will bring our Con-

ference to a close looking at a critical area in which we must succeed, International Cooperation. The featured speakers will explore how we may overcome the barriers that face us in our attempts to cooperate around the globe and how we might approach the necessary task of overcoming them.

It is fitting to reflect on the successes of the Conference, but that reflection must extend beyond our efforts here in Boston. Each of us must look at our program and efforts to identify our successes and build upon them.

This Conference is simply a beginning for the tasks ahead in forging our international fire community. There is much to do in the areas of information and technology transfer, training, and the sharing of resources. From this beginning, anything is possible. It all depends on us.



Wednesday

Update on the Yucatan Fires

Interview by Larry Bryant, U.S. Forest Service, with Aaron Mastache, Director de Proteccion y Restauracion Forestal

Approximately 10 fires totaling more than 240,000 acres are burning in a sparsely populated area of dense jungle vegetation (selva) in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo on the Yucatan peninsula, near Cancun. The fires have been burning since May 6 in areas of extreme ecological importance.

The cause of the fires is still under investigation, but it is believed that the fires are man-caused through carelessness of farmers and tourists. The farmers frequently use fire to clear agricultural and adjacent forested land.

Fire control efforts have been hampered by difficult access problems, a severe regional drought extending well into the normal rainy season, and a tremendous fuel accumulation of dead and down trees caused by Hurricane Gilbert last year.

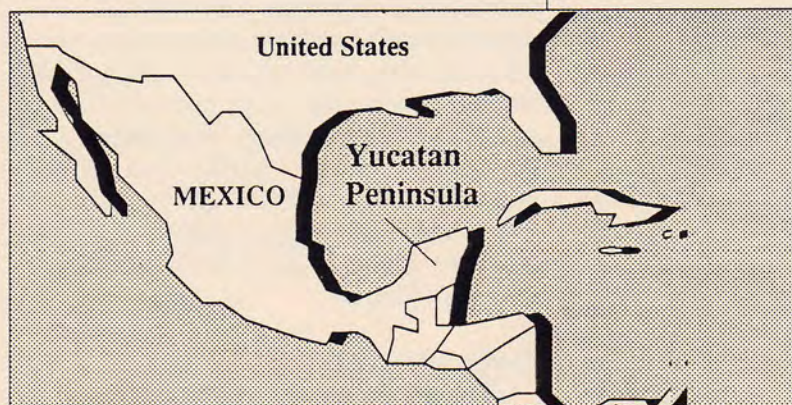
Fire behavior and burning intensity have been variable and cyclical, responding to changes in weather, humidity, etc. During the early days, the fires were spreading at the rate of 3,000 to 6,000 acres per day. In recent days the fire spread has been reduced to 300 to 400 acres per day.

Approximately 4,000 people are involved in

the fire suppression effort, including military personnel, Ministry personnel, and local fire agency personnel. To date, more than 100 miles of fireline and fuel breaks have been constructed by tractors equipped with brush rakes.

Two fire specialists from the United States, Robert Rodriguez and Jim Swanson, are assisting in developing and implementing a control strategy. Cooperative agreements exist with both the United States and Canada for the use of contract aircraft. However, the current severe fire situation in both countries has made such aircraft unavailable for use on the Yucatan fires.

The total cost to date is in excess of \$1.5 million. Financing the suppression effort has come at the expense of other important programs in Mexico.



**Last chance to see:
Educational Displays**

**TODAY'S HOURS:
1630 TO 1900**

Conference Proceedings

The English version of the Conference proceedings are planned to be completed by November 15 of this year. It will be mailed to all registered participants.

Translation of the proceedings into French and Spanish will begin as soon as possible after the completion of the English version. If you would like either a French or Spanish version, drop your name and address or business card with your language preference in the box at the Conference information desk on the fourth floor.

The proceedings will contain the highlights of all the presentations. The entire texts of presentations will not be printed in the proceedings. You can receive complete presentations by requesting them as mentioned in yesterday's paper.

**Wednesday**

The Conference Sponsors

National Fire Protection Association

The National Fire Protection Association, founded in 1896, is dedicated to the protection of mankind from devastating fire through science, technology and education. The Association, with more than 52,000 members in the U.S., Canada and 85 other nations, is best known as the publisher and distributor of the *National Fire Codes* and as sponsor of the *Learn Not to Burn* public education program.

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has the federal responsibility for national leadership in forestry in the United States. Its mission is to provide a continuing flow of natural resource goods and services to help meet the needs of the nation and to contribute to the needs of the international community. This mission is implemented through three programs — management, protection, and use of the National Forest System; assistance to private forest and woodland owners through cooperation with State Foresters; and research in forestry and forest products utilization.

Forestry Canada

Forestry Canada is the principal source of federal expertise in forestry for Canada. Its mission is to provide scientific and technological leadership in forestry through research and development, with the objective of promoting the wise management and use of Canada's forest resources for the economic, social, and environmental benefit of Canadians. Forestry Canada is responsible for forest fire research aimed at discovering and demonstrating practical means of controlling and using fire to meet resource management objectives.

U.S. Department of the Interior

The U.S. Department of the Interior manages most of the public lands in the United States. Its management objectives include fostering wise use of land and water resources, protecting fish and wildlife, preserving environmental and cultural values, assuring development of mineral resources in an environmentally sound way, and encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility

for public lands. Agencies with fire management responsibilities under the Department of the Interior are the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Mexican Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos

The Subsecretaria Forestal within the Secretaria de Agricultura has national authority for forestry in Mexico. The federal government has a representative in each of the 32 states in Mexico, and each state has its own agency responsible for implementation of the forestry program. Agency goals include timber production, reforestation, silviculture, forestry research, and forest protection on approximately 18-19 million hectares of timber land. Fire management and fire-fighting are currently very significant programs and growing. Other agency programs are coordination with private timber and woodland owners and enforcement of forest laws.

National Association of State Foresters

The National Association of State Foresters is comprised of the director of the state forestry agency in each state and U.S. territory. State Foresters administer programs for protecting forests from fire and pests and for promoting forest management, reforestation, multiple use benefits, and industrial development. They work with private landowners, who own 58% of the commercial forest land in the United States.

U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance

AID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) coordinates the U.S. Government's response to international disasters. When disaster strikes, OFDA mobilizes federal resources and coordinates the U.S. government response with that of voluntary agencies, international organizations, and other donors. As mandated by Congress, OFDA provides assistance not only for disaster relief and rehabilitation, but also for disaster preparedness, early warning, and mitigation. OFDA responds annually to requests for emergency assistance on an average of 37 disasters and monitors another 40 situations which could become disasters.



FAO: International Program of Fire Protection

During the last 18 years, FAO has organized or co-sponsored three major meetings and several seminars and technical consultations dealing with forest fires. Some of the recommendations made during these events have led to the publication of the ECE/FAO forest fire statistics bulletin issued bi-yearly, the constitution of a Mediterranean fire research network and, recently, the establishment of a yearly international training course for professional forest fire managers.

Through FAO's Field Programme, assistance has, for the same period, been given to 36 developing countries through 66 projects; 24 in Africa, 20 in Asia, 17 in Latin America, and 5 in Europe and the near East. The total direct expenditure has been \$11 million, of which 61 percent supported full scale projects that provided an average of 31 man/months of



expert consultancies and 40 fellowships. Most of the projects have been funded by UNDP while FAO's own resources have supported 19 projects, most of them in the form of short term consultancies covering emergency situations or leading up to larger programs or investments.

In 1986, FAO issued the Wild-fire Terminology in 5 languages. Other valuable publications include the Global Programme (1975), Regional Studies of the Mediterranean and Central American/Caribbean regions and 106 technical field documents.

The experience acquired by the Organization during the execution of its Regular and Field Programs under a wide range of socioeconomic and ecological conditions is at the disposal of all countries and institutions who face the problems of forest fires.



Wednesday

By Jan Troensgaard

Forest Fire Newsletter

The *Forest Fire Newsletter* is an activity of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire. The newsletter also serves as a news bulletin for the IUFRO Subject Group S 1.09 (Forest Fire Research).

A trial issue of the newsletter with a questionnaire was circulated in 1988. Scientists and forest fire managers as well as government bodies from 21 countries responded to the questionnaire and largely agreed with the idea and the format of this international newsletter. In late 1988 it was decided to issue the newsletter on a regular basis; if possible, bi-annually.

In order to ensure regular and timely flow of information to the editor, countries were invited through the ECE/FAO secretariat to appoint correspondents to provide the editor with relevant information. Correspondents and others wishing to submit material for the newsletter should send it directly to the editor at any time, starting immediately. In the future, the deadlines for receiving material for the biannual issues would be May 15 and October 15.

The address of the editor is: Johann G.

Goldammer, Department of Forestry, Freiburg University, Bertoldstr. 17, D-7800 Freiburg, West Germany.

Telex 77 27 40 50 ufd, Fax (0761) 203 4369

Those interested to be put on the mailing list should write directly to the issuing and distributing agency:

ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division
Palais des Nations CH-1211
Geneva 10, Switzerland

Free Posters Still Available

Marty Alexander of Forestry Canada reports that copies of the 5-poster set dealing with fire behavior/danger research are still available at Booth 48 in the Educational Display area. The posters have been encased in a mailing tube to facilitate mailing or transportation.



Don't leave without picking up your Cornerstone Document...



Wednesday

MEETING GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE CHALLENGES

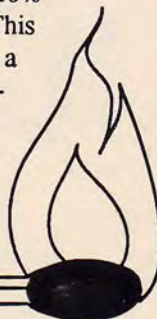
Arson! It's International

Arson-it's a foul word to wildland fire managers around the world, according to Jacob Markovitch, Deputy Minister of the Interior in Israel.

Last year was a devastating year in Israel for arson fires. "During the height of last year's drought," according to Markovitch, "we lost 10% of our total forested lands in Israel to arson. This loss was particularly heartbreaking because a large majority of the trees lost had been established by planting." Israel only has approximately 300,000 acres of forest.

The damage caused by arson to the environment, valuable resources, and

stitutional to the governmental level. The Israeli government set up an interdepartmental steering committee chaired by the Head of the Emergency Services Administration of the Ministry of Interior. The members were representatives of the Fire Brigades, Police, Army, Forest Department, Nature Reserves Authority and the National Park Authority. The committee was in charge of coordinating the cooperation of the different organizations from prevention of arson to developing fire-fighting and fire prevention techniques, in agricultural land, forests, and all open areas.



people has been enormous in Israel. "The outrage in the people of Israel moved us to action," said Markovitch.

After analyzing the problem, the Ministry of Interior realized that they must elevate the issue of wildfires in forests and open areas from the in-

stitutional to the governmental level. The Israeli government set up an interdepartmental steering committee chaired by the Head of the Emergency Services Administration of the Ministry of Interior. The members were representatives of the Fire Brigades, Police, Army, Forest Department, Nature Reserves Authority and the National Park Authority. The committee was in charge of coordinating the cooperation of the different organizations from prevention of arson to developing fire-fighting and fire prevention techniques, in agricultural land, forests, and all open areas.

One of the elemental building blocks in forging a coalition to battle arson was to increase public awareness, in an effort to minimize negligence and carelessness and to ensure immediate reporting of every fire, through use of the media (newspaper, radio, TV) for information and education.

After a year of intensive work with all agencies and individuals involved, the program is a proven success. Said Markovitch: "To date, we have realized 50% reduction in damage due to arson from last year."

Mr. Markovitch's parting words certainly echo everyone's thoughts. "Let us all have the strength and singleness of purpose to fight forest fires, be they the acts of nature, or due to human negligence, or caused by the evil hand of arson. Let us hope that our joint efforts, from each in his own way, can make an impact in reducing the magnitude of this world problem."

The Conference Ends...

—continued from Page 1

USFS; Dan Bailey, USFS; Patty Garrity, NFPA: Publicity - Jamie Haines, NFPA; Al Jeffrey, CIFCC; Marta Witt, BLM; Ken Strauss, USFS: Arrangements and Logistics - Anna Thompson and Al Sears, NFPA: Post-Conference Tours - Gay Almquist, USFS (also served on Program Committee); Dave Sandberg and Faye Dalton, USFS; Al Jeffrey, Aaron Mastache, and Dr. Andi Koonce, USFS: Participant Funding - Bob Gale, USFS: Awards and Recognition - John Marker, USFS: Presiding Officer's Guide - Brenda Jenkins, USFS: Conference Office Manager - Susan Wilkinson, USFS, and Special Assistant to the Program Committee - C. Bentley Lyon. A special thanks to Corbin Newman and Jerry Laughlin for preparation of our daily newspaper, and Larry Bryant for his work on the cornerstone document.

Also, we owe a debt of gratitude to Tony O'Neill, NFPA, and Mic Amicarella, USFS, for providing the commitment and leadership from their respective organizations to make all this happen.

Thanks for reading... from the news- paper staff



Daily deadline? No problem, we said.