



Division of Fire and Aviation: National Fire Plan

Two National Park Service Nominees Win National Fire Plan Awards



Photo 1 (L-R): Lynn Scarlett (Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget for the Department of the Interior), David Crary and Corbin Newman (National Fire Plan Coordinator for the USDA Forest Service) at the award ceremony.

Photo 2: National Park Service representatives Michael Johnson and Dave Nugent help accept the award for the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center with representatives from other agencies.

Photo 3: Michael Johnson, Fire Education, Prevention and Information Specialist for the Midwest Region, working at the NPS booth at the conference.

The National Fire Plan Conference was a resounding success. “Wildland Fire 2004,” hosted over 1,000 attendees, 87 exhibitors and 100 poster presenters and was held in Reno, NV March 3-5. This year the conference was the first of a collaborative effort between the International Association of Wildland Fire, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the USDA Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior.

The National Fire Plan Awards recognize the outstanding accomplishments of land managers and community members. These individuals and groups have gone above and beyond the scope of the National Fire Plan goals in one of the six key points to the Plan. Awards were presented at the conference in each of the categories below:

- *Excellence in Implementing the National Fire Plan*
- *Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety and Training*
- *Excellence in Rehabilitation and Restoration*
- *Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment*
- *Excellence in Community Assistance*
- *Improving Accountability*

Two National Park Service nominees were honored with National Fire Plan Awards for Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Training and Safety. The award for an individual in this category went to David Crary, Fire Management Officer of Cape Cod National Seashore, and the group award went to the Indiana Interagency Coordination Center, in which Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is a cooperative partner.



David Crary has organized, taught, and lead many wildland firefighter training courses for federal employees, local citizens and college students at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. Six Minutes for Safety is always included in Crary's classes as well as his day-to-day operations at the Seashore. Through the Rural Fire Assistance Program, more than \$40,000 worth of wildland firefighting equipment was acquired for four lower Cape Cod communities. Crary also supervised a Student Conservation Association Fire Education Corps team that evaluated more than 350 structures, both privately and government owned, and provided suggestions on reducing the wildland fire risk to those structures. Serving as a technical expert, Crary assisted in wildland fire public safety planning in Barnstable County. He also has worked with local community organizations and agencies to safely execute prescribed burns. In addition, he has worked with the University of Massachusetts on one Joint Fire Science project as a co-principal Investigator entitled, "Managing Fuels in Northeastern Barrens."

The Indiana Interagency Coordination Center (IICC) is a collaborative effort of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Indiana Department of National Resources and the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division. This interagency group signed the first ever state-wide interagency cooperative fire management agreement. IICC collects intelligence data such as resource availability, fire danger, staffing levels, potential assessment reports, fire occurrence, fire weather, and coordinates all wildland fire training statewide. The center allows for the fire resources state-wide to be combined and used not only in Indiana, but throughout the country on national-level incidents as well. IICC dispatcher Dave Nugent (the position is jointly funded through NPS and FWS) brings over 25 years of experience in emergency dispatch along with personal contacts to all of the county 911 dispatch offices. The center has been responsible for training over 30 helicopter crewmembers, of which two have become Helicopter Managers, and utilized the exclusive-use helicopter in the region for fire management and national incidents effectively.

The National Park Service was well-represented among the nominees for the 2004 National Fire Plan Awards. The NPS nominees are listed below by category.

Excellence in Collaboration:

- Grand Teton National Park
- Glacier National Park
- Shenandoah Valley Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Education Team
- California Fire Alliance
- Canaveral National Seashore
- Ozark National Scenic Riverways Fire Management Program (Honorable Mention)



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Management Program Center

3833 S. Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

208-387-5200 phone
208-387-5250 fax
www.nps.gov/fire

Excellence in Community Assistance:

- National Park Service Fire Education, Prevention and Information Specialists group
- Southeast Fire Management Program
- Homestead National Monument of America
- “Living with Fire” contributors and Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley Interagency Wildfire Prevention and Education Team

Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety and Training:

- David Crary (FMO, Cape Cod National Seashore)
- Blue Ridge Parkway (Honorable Mention)
- Everglades National Park
- Indiana Interagency Coordination Center

Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment:

- Big Cypress National Preserve
- Cedar Breaks National Monument
- Effigy Mounds National Monument
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Congratulations to all of the outstanding nominees!