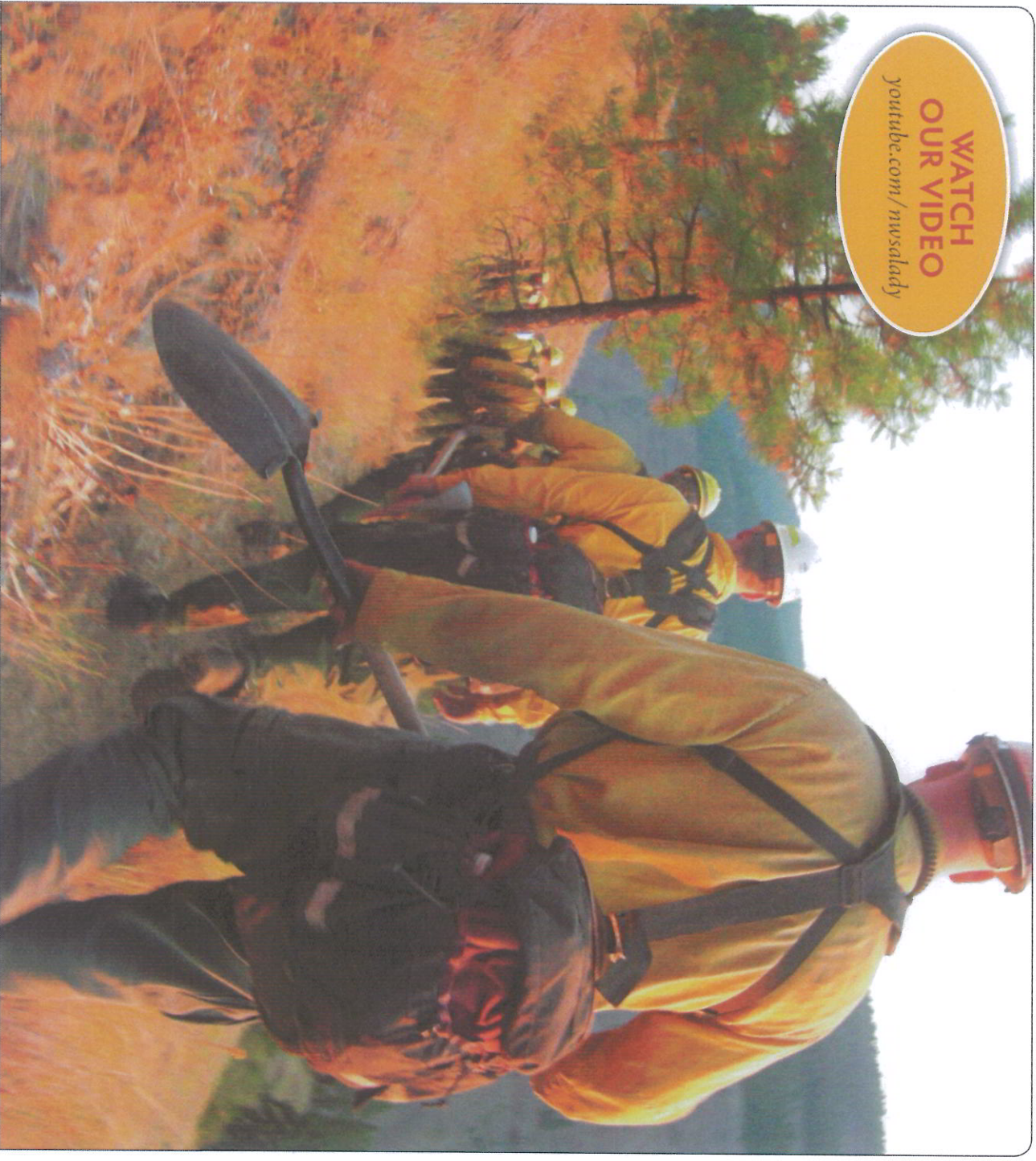


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OUR VIDEO**  
[youtube.com/nwsalady](https://www.youtube.com/nwsalady)



# NWISA

**The National Wildfire Suppression Association**

*preserving and protecting our environment*



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**CHAPTERS**

- Pacific Northwest Chapter
- Great Basin Chapter
- Region 5 Chapter
- National Contract Resources Chapter
- Northern Rockies Chapter
- Timber Faller Chapter

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- Northwest Contract Firefighters Association
- Oregon Firefighting Contractors Assn.
- Western Forest Fire Services Assn.
- Umpqua Community College
- Linn Benton Community College

**STATES REPRESENTED**

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Arizona    | North Carolina |
| California | Oklahoma       |
| Colorado   | Oregon         |
| Georgia    | Utah           |
| Idaho      | Tennessee      |
| Michigan   | Texas          |
| Minnesota  | Washington     |
| Missouri   | Wisconsin      |
| Montana    | Wyoming        |
| Nevada     |                |

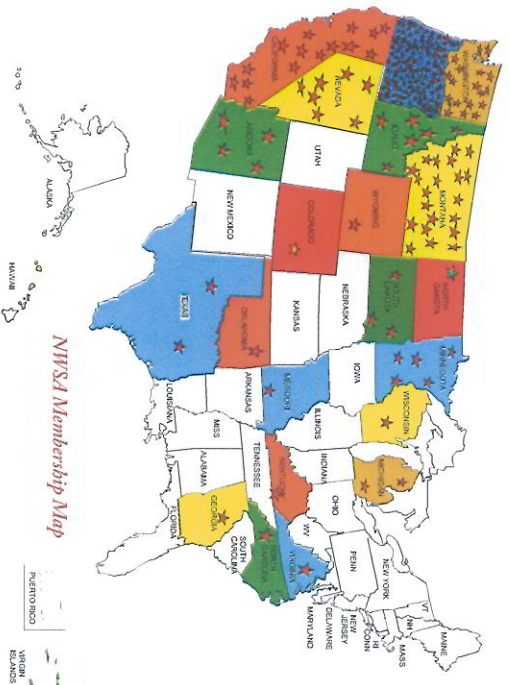
**CONTACT**

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## THE ROLE OF NWSA IN WILDLAND FIRE/EMERGENCY INCIDENT SUPPORT

The National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) represents over 250 private wildland fire services contractors who operate on an as-needed basis to provide federal/state and local agencies with a variety of resources for wildland fire and other emergency incidents. Resources include twenty-person firefighting crews, timber faller modules, engines, tenders, dozers and other specialized fire equipment as well as a full complement of fire/emergency incident camp services. NWSA provides training certification, advocacy and support to help its member companies field experienced, highly trained, safety-focused resources that meet or exceed all federal standards, including all requirements of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWSA).



When lives are on the line, the agencies must have confidence in any resources that are a part of the fire community. Since 1991, the mission of NWSA is to insure that its members earn that confidence. Because safety and skill is paramount, certifying instructors is a vital part of NWSA services to its member companies. In 2009, NWSA certified instructors held 800 classes and trained 8,500 private wildland, agency and rural structure fire department firefighters. NWSA's annual national conference, newsletters and website promote professionalism and excellent performance through the exchange of information about issues related to the industry.



NWSA advocacy includes working as a cooperator in the wildland fire services to build positive relationships with agencies and to advocate for programs like Best Value Contracting that provide agencies with the most professional private resources.



## WHY THE NEED FOR PRIVATE CONTRACT RESOURCES?



The relationship between federal and state fire organizations and the private wildland firefighter contract industry began in the early 1980s—an era of shrinking agency budgets and a growing incidence of wildland fires. Prior to that, almost 30 years of the wettest and coolest period in the last 100 years led the U.S. Forest Service to reduce its firefighting capacity from 1,200 to 500 crews.

However, since 1980, drought, altered fuel complexes, and the expansion of the urban wildland interface have dramatically affected fire frequency, size and intensity. This situation is further exacerbated by a budget-driven reduction in agency forces over the last 18 years. By the end of the 1990s, these events led to the first crew agreement between private wildland fire services and the agencies.

The emergence of private contract resources--national and regional 20- person firefighting crews, engines, dozers, tenders and other specialized equipment, and support services such as caterers and shower/handwashing units--gives agencies the flexibility they need to increase or decrease support with the most cost effective solution. Training, insurance costs, benefits, gear and transportation are all borne by the contractor.

Today, approximately 40 percent of the resources across the United States are provided by private wildland fire services. NWSA represents more than 200 private sector contract companies in 18 states that can field a work force of around 12,000 during the height of fire season.

NWSA emphasizes that the role of the private sector is to complement, rather than compete with existing agency resources when fire activity and other emergency incidents, such as Hurricane Katrina and the Shurtle recovery operation, exceed organizational capacity.



## QUALITY RESOURCES THROUGH RIGOROUS TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION



Wildfire destroys everything in its path. With a mere shift of the wind, it can become a monster endangering those who don't understand its nature. Federal, state and local government firefighter skills are honed by arduous and constant training required to fight wildland fires and survive. Anyone who doesn't have that level of training jeopardizes everyone on the fireline

The National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) is recognized by federal/state and local agencies for the quality of our instructor certification programs. They are designed to provide resources that meet or exceed all training, safety, experience, and physical fitness standards identified in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCWG) Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualifications System Guide (PMS 310-1). More than 8900 private wildland firefighters received training by NWSA certified instructors last year. NWSA was the first to hold a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agencies to certify instructors to train private sector, agencies and interested parties.

NWSA has a nationally recognized database for tracking all training by NWSA Certified Instructors and is open to other users by affiliation. The system tracks training can be utilized to track event history for firefighters as well as producing a recognized Incident Qualification Card and photo ID. The system is designed to safeguard all information.



### GOOD CAUSE FOR CONFIDENCE

- Nationally recognized database for tracking training
- Excellent training/tracking system ensures firefighter skill/safety
- Most NWSA certified instructors/trainers former state/federal wildland fire employees - combined 800 years fire experience.
- NWSA Code of Ethics and monitoring program govern instructors
- Annual Mandatory Training Sessions update NWSA instructors on changes/requirements
- NWSA standards set by the training committee based on the 310-INWCG Training Guide.



*NWSA Board Members and Viki Minor at the Wildland Firefighter Memorial in Boise ID.*

L-R: Don Moss; Mike Whelock; Deborah Miles; NWSA Exec. Director; Viki Minor; Wildland Firefighter Foundation Exec. Director; Bruce Ferguson; Rick Duce; NWSA Board President

National Wildfire Suppression Association  
*Preserving and Protecting Our Environment*

## PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



### A PROGRAM TO HELP PREPARE CONTRACTORS TO MEET ALL THE REGULATIONS IN THE FIRE SERVICE ARENA

The National Wildfire Suppression Association unveiled its NWSA Professional Contractor Certification Program at its annual meeting in Reno in February 2009.

The Professional Contractor Certification Program is offered to our members annually and requirements for continuing education have to be met to retain that certification. You will now see on the ICQ cards of those that have completed the course *NWSA Professionally Certified Contractor*:



This was a concerted effort with some of the regulatory agencies including US Department of Labor, US Department of Transportation, and others.

### NWSA PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION

You can access the Program Guide and more information by visiting the NWSA website at [www.nwsa.com](http://www.nwsa.com) and clicking on the training tab and the *Contractor Certification* link.

It is an 8 hour voluntary course that covers many of the following areas:

- \* Service Contract Act
- \* FMCSA Regulation for Drivers
- \* Workers Compensation Issues (Cross Border)
- \* Business Ethics
- \* Critical Incident Management
- \* The History of Our Industry
- \* Training Requirements



## RAPID RESPONSE WITH QUALITY SUPPORT



Braving the smoke, heat and danger of wildland fires or the aftermath of disasters and emergency incidents is an “army” of federal/state and local agency responders battling to contain the crisis. When the magnitude of the event exceeds agency resources, these agencies can call in reinforcements from professional wildland fire contractors: 20-person firefighting crews, timber faller modules, engines, tenders and other specialized equipment.

Pre-existing agreements and contracts with the agencies allow National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) member and associate member companies to dispatch these resources immediately. More than 130 contract crews and over 400 fire engines and tenders of all types are available from NWSA member companies for dispatch across the U.S.

Because of budget cutbacks and increased fire activity, agencies are increasingly calling on these private resources on an as-needed basis. They are paid only for time worked on the line. The contractor bears all costs of training, equipment, travel, and insurance costs.

After a 12-14 hour shift on the line, agency and private contractor crews need a place to eat, sleep, shower and revitalize. In addition to providing crews, engines, tenders and other specialized equipment for the front lines, contractors can send resources to set up a totally operational camp: shower, laundry, lavatory, and housing units, as well as catering operations that can feed thousands of firefighters or emergency responders.

### SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Fully Equipped 20-person Crews
- Timber Faller modules
- Various types of Engines
- Water Tenders
- Tactical Tenders
- Dozers
- Lowboys
- Bus Transportation Services
- Handwashing Units
- Shower Units
- Catering Units
- Time Recorders
- Overhead Personnel
- Temporary Housing Units
- Skidgeons
- Reefers
- Portable Water
- Laundry Units
- Pumping Stations
- Tower Fill Tanks
- The National

