

MarkeTips

The 2002 Fire Season Erupts

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In This Issue



Last year, 28,000 firefighters and support personnel battled more than 63,000 fires that burned 3.2 million acres. GSA met the extraordinary demand for fire supplies and equipment through the duration of this record breaking season. Tragically, those records may fall in 2002.

As *MarkeTips* goes to press, GSA is delivering broad support to all the men and women along fire lines across the country. Nineteen large fires are currently burning across the United States with a total of 2,333,434 acres consumed. Forest land burned for this time of year is more than double the 10-year average. Unprecedented wildfires burning in Colorado and Arizona have resulted in a huge demand for firefighting resources. The Rodeo-Chediski Complex fire is the largest in Arizona's history and has already resulted in a loss of over 300,000 acres.

GSA furnishes wildfire protection equipment and supplies to Federal Agencies as well as U.S. Forest Service cooperating organizations through formal Interagency agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A similar agreement exists with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

GSA has been supporting the National Wildlife Protection program since the 1950's. We are making improvements to meet the ongoing changes within the wildland firefighting community, and in the way government does business. We maintain a close working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service to provide the highest quality products in a timely manner at the most reasonable cost. The importance of the National Wildlife Protection program cannot be overstated, and GSA is committed to assist in program implementation whenever possible. We are proud of this partnership and are privileged to participate in a program with such far reaching effects.

Thank you for your loyalty and continued trust.

Ray Balli
GSA Fire Program Coordinator

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CONTENTS

JULY-AUGUST 2002

FEATURE ARTICLES

- 4** **Managing Nature's Fury**
How federal, state, and local organizations have come together to achieve a singular goal: restoring the delicate balance of a violent natural cycle by taming the wrath of wildfires.
- 18** **Supply Line**
GSA's Excess Personal Property Program gives a California state organization vital access to life-saving fire fighting equipment.
- 22** **A Touch Of Home**
GSA Employees reach out to soldiers on the front lines.
- 24** **Strategic Partnerships — Powered by GSA**
How a sharp eye and quick action prevented a hazardous and costly delay in one fire fighting effort.



DEPARTMENTS

- 27** *What You Need!...You Know We Got It!*
Supply and Procurement
Check out the latest featured products and services from GSA.
- 61** *Learning Curve*
Training and Seminars
Look up our latest course offerings and seminar locations.
- 75** *Charting the Course*
Transportation and Property Management
New developments in the property disposal and travel/transportation programs.
- 81** *Get up to Speed*
Vehicle Acquisition
Product offerings, upcoming events, and news from GSA Automotive.