

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Technology &
Development
Program

5100 Fire
November 2000
0051-2856-MTDC



Wildfire Equipment Development Priority Needs: A Comparison 1984 to 1998



Jon Driessen, Project Leader

Dick Mangan, Program Leader

**USDA Forest Service
Technology & Development Program
Missoula, Montana**

TE02P16–Tech Services, F&AM Residues

November 2000

The Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, has developed this information for the guidance of its employees, its contractors, and its cooperating Federal and State agencies, and is not responsible for the interpretation or use of this information by anyone except its own employees. The use of trade, firm, or corporation names in this publication is for the information and convenience of the reader, and does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of any product or service to the exclusion of others that may be suitable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Prepared for the National Wildfire Coordinating
Group and the Fire Equipment Working Team

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Missoula Technology and Development Center	1
The National Wildfire Coordinating Group and the Fire Equipment Working Team	1
Brief History of Wildfire Equipment Needs Surveys	2
1984: The First Interagency Fire Equipment Survey of Priority Needs	2
1993: Pacific Southwest Region's (R-5) Fire Equipment Survey of Priority Needs	2
The 1998 Interagency Fire Equipment Survey of Priority Needs	4
A Comparative Study	4
Survey Respondents: Work Roles in the Interagency Fire Community	4
The Questionnaire and Number of Responses	4
Measurement and Analysis of the 1984 and 1998 Survey Data	5
Establishing a Priority Needs List for Equipment Development	7
1998 Survey Findings	8
Comparing Priority Fire Equipment Development Needs: 1984 to 1998	9
Reappearing and New Priority Fire Equipment Development Needs	10
Reflections on the 1998 Fire Equipment Survey	11
Major Wildfire Events: 1984 to 1998	11
Changing Work Force Characteristics	11
Fire Equipment Use Trends	12
Understanding the Top-20 Priorities	12
So Now What?	12
About the Authors	14

***“The more things change,
the more they are the same”***

Alphonse Karr, Les Guepes, January
1849 (6th Series, 1859) p. 305