



Fire Management Office: National Fire Plan

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Receives National Fire Plan Award



Photo 1: Accepting the award from Lynn Scarlet, Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget for the Department of the Interior (far left) and Corbin Newman, NFP Coordinator for the USDA Forest Service (far right) were: Michael Johnson, Fire Education, Prevention and Information Specialist, Midwest Regional Office; Dave Nugent, Dispatcher, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Chris Peterson, Fire Management Officer, Hoosier National Forest; Brian Winters, Prescribed Fire Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service..

Photo 2: National Fire Plan Award for Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Safety and Training.

The Indiana Interagency Coordination Center (IICC), in which Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter, Ind., is a cooperative partner, has been named the winner of the 2003 National Fire Plan Award for Excellence in Firefighter Preparedness, Training, and Safety. Representing the National Park Service and accepting the award from Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget for the Department of the Interior, was Indiana Dunes Dispatcher, Dave Nugent and Midwest Region Fire Education, Prevention & Information Specialist, Michael Johnson. The award was presented during the National Fire Plan Conference- Wildland Fire 2004, held in Reno, Nev., March 3-5, 2004.

The National Fire Plan awards, presented during a ceremony at the conference, recognize the outstanding accomplishments of land managers and community members who have gone above and beyond the scope of the National Fire Plan goals in each of the six key points of the Plan. The following are the award categories:

- *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; and*
- *Improving Accountability.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Midwest Regional Office

1709 Jackson St.
Omaha, NE 68102

402-221-3478 phone
402-221-3565 fax
www.nps.gov/fire

The Indiana Interagency Coordination Center (IICC) is a collaborative effort of the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), 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 Midwest Region of the National Park Service was well-represented among the nominees for the 2004 National Fire Plan Awards. Five of the eighteen NPS nominees were from the Midwest Region. These included: Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Homestead National Monument of America, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Effigy Mounds National Monument, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial.