

# 8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CONFERENCE

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES:

Towards an International  
Framework

Porto - Portugal | **May 16-19<sup>th</sup>**, 2023

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**CONFERENCE**

**GOVERNANCE**  
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Framework

20 years of firefighters training  
and awareness campaigns:

Lessons learned

Defence against the Fire Centre  
CDF

# Castilla y León overview

9 400 km<sup>2</sup>

25 people/km<sup>2</sup>

52% forests, scrubs, and pastures

1500 forest fires

17000 ha per year burnt

Second Spanish fire region



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# Castilla y Leon overview

Forest firefighting organization:

- 4500 forestry & environmental professionals
- deep land knowledge
- large firefighting experience



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# Defence against the Fire Centre

## Centro para la Defensa contra el Fuego CDF

2003 - today

Mission:

training, awareness, and research

- training and certification program
- 2200 courses to 32200 attendants
- fire prevention awareness project



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# Training evolution: theory to practice

## New workers training

Theoretical lessons → practical exercises

Max. 5 days face-to-face

Theoretical contents: e-learning

Scientific and technical standard reduction



# Training evolution: communication & coordination skills

## Seeking team efficiency

Simple practical exercises:

work procedures and decisions making

- written and drawn classroom exercises
- field exercises
- virtual sceneries which simulate real situations
- sandbox with overhead projection

Real radiocommunications and expert firefighters as trainers

Learning processes focused on key points



# Training evolution: e-learning

## A specific language

e-learning contents:

- light and enjoyable
- focussed in key points

e-teacher skills:

- very different
- need for improve

Webinars





# Training evolution: field exercises

## Review courses

Train and improve procedures & coordination

Improve the teamwork efficiency including:

- management, planning, and operations
- dozers, trucks, and hand tools

Simple exercises:

- one or two simple objectives
- easy and fresh
- not complex performances



# Training evolution: teachers

The main character

Communicating and teaching skills

Ability to translate knowledge to practice and real operations

Real experience



# Fire prevention awareness

## Aula del fuego (fire classroom)

Activities program since 2007:  
2500 activities for 58600 people

Permanent exhibition (1700 m<sup>2</sup>)

- causes, effects
- prevention and control

Guided tours for scholarships  
(Leon and neighborhoods)

Activities in schools



# Awareness keypoint: communicators

## The heart of the project

### Communication skills:

- address the activities
- focus to the key points
- adapt the activity and the methods



# Awareness keypoint: schools

## Scholar projects and teachers

Activities design:  
according with the official educational program

Marketing:  
schools information campaigns



# Awareness keypoint: schools

## Scholar projects and teachers

### Best results:

- groups with several activities
- primary and secondary courses
- included in the educative program
- continue the work in their classrooms

### Awareness resources for teachers



# Awareness keypoint: content

The whole fire phenomenon

Prevention and suppression:  
engage in prevention



# Awareness keypoint: train the trainers

## Expanding the team

### New work line:

- trained forest agents (forest service rangers)
- training resources
- new school beyond Leon
- coherent awareness messages

First year: good results





# Conclusions

Let's give our professionals  
handy knowledge

Let's give our trainers and communicators  
good communication skills

Defence against the Fire Centre  
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