

TORCHBEARERS FOR A NEW FIRE MANAGEMENT PARADIGM: FIREFIGHTERS UNITED FOR SAFETY, ETHICS, AND ECOLOGY (FUSEE)

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Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE) is a national nonprofit organization promoting safe, ethical, ecological wildland fire management. FUSEE members include current, former, and retired wildland firefighters; fire managers, scientists, and educators; forest conservationists; and other interested citizens who support FUSEE's holistic fire management vision.

FUSEE's primary mission is to provide public education and policy advocacy in support of a new, emerging paradigm that seeks to holistically manage wildland fire for social and ecological benefits instead of simply 'fighting' it across the landscape. We seek to enable fire management workers to perform their duties with the highest professional, ethical, and environmental standards. Our long-term goal is the creation of fire-compatible communities able to work safely and live sustainably with wildland fire.

FUSEE Promotes a Fire Ethic

Inspired by Aldo Leopold's *land ethic*, FUSEE advocates a new *fire ethic* in fire management policies and practices:

"A thing is right when it contributes to the safety of firefighters and the public, ethical use of public resources, environmental protection of fire-affected landscapes, and ecological restoration of fire-dependent ecosystems. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

FUSEE Informs and Empowers the Fire Management Community

FUSEE calls for a renewed professionalism, public service ethos, and environmental conscience among fire management workers. We provide a safe forum for firefighters to stand up and speak out for safe, ethical, ecological fire management.

FUSEE Educates Rural Communities How to Prepare for Wildland Fire

FUSEE advocates an expansive program of public education and community preparation to support the full range of fire management: prescribed fire, fire use, and fire suppression. The sooner communities are prepared for fire, the sooner ecosystems can be restored with fire.

FUSEE Educates People about Safety Risks, Economic Costs, & Environmental Impacts of Firefighting

FUSEE opposes endlessly 'attacking' and 'fighting' fires with costly and environmentally harmful suppression actions that put firefighters at extra risk. We advocate for proactive fire and fuels management that restore wildland ecosystems. We believe every fire management action, including suppression, should be based on ethical, efficient use of taxpayer resources and pre-planned ecological restoration objectives.

FUSEE Promotes Restoring Our Cultural Legacy as Torchbearers Using Fire on the Land

FUSEE advocates a new role and identity for wildland firefighters as fire rangers. It is safer and more effective for fire management workers to start prescribed fires or steer wildfires for desired fire effects than it is to stop wildfires. FUSEE works to instill a renewed public service ethos and professional pride among firefighters as dedicated wildland stewards and skilled ecosystem restorationists.

FUSEE Educates Journalists about Fire Ecology and Management Issues

FUSEE critiques the news media's 'catastrophe mentality' and overuse of the 'war metaphor' that frames the majority of news coverage of wildfire events. FUSEE offers alternative words, angles, and frames for reporters to write informative and investigative stories about a wide range of fire issues beyond the narrow focus on wildfire suppression incidents.

Check out FUSEE's fire reports:

- Getting Burned: A Taxpayer's Guide to Wildfire Suppression Costs
- Smoke Signals: The Need for Public Tolerance and Regulatory Relief for Wildland Smoke Emissions
- Fire Watch: A Citizen's Guide to Wildfire Monitoring
- Collateral Damage: The Environmental Effects of Firefighting—The 2002 Biscuit Fire Suppression Actions and Impacts
- A Homeowner's Guide to Fire-Resistant Home Construction
- A Reporter's Guide to Wildland Fire

Find them all at www.fusee.org.

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