



Wildland Fire

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

Wildland Fire in the U.S. Caribbean

Facts:

- There are no natural fire-dependent ecosystems in the U.S. Caribbean
- Every year there are thousands of wildland fires
- Incidence between January and April, associated with the winter/spring dry season
- And July, associated with hot, dry air from the Sahara desert and a strong low-level jet stream
- The majority of fires are deliberately or inadvertently set by people

Uncontrolled wildfires threaten forested and non- forested landscapes, grasslands, agricultural fields, pastures, and structures in the wildland-urban interface. Fast-moving grassland fires can engulf individuals working or hiking in the area and can serve as a fuel ladder to ignite forest canopies of shrubs and trees.

The program ensures that federal, state, and local agencies can deliver a coordinated response to wildfire through adoption of the National Incident Management System, and common standards of training, equipment, qualifications and other operational functions. It supports fire mitigation activities and prevention programs such as Fire Adapted Communities.

Cooperative Fire Protection Program

Technical and professional training, and hazard mitigation activities.

Provides financial and technical assistance to the Puerto Rico Fire Department (PRFD) and the U.S. Virgin Islands Fire Service (USVIFS)



Caribbean Cohesive Wildfire Strategy

The National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy establishes a framework for wildland fire management throughout the United States. Within this framework IITF S&PF is working with partners to develop a five-year Caribbean-wide implementation strategy consistent with the following national goals:

Restore and Maintain Landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

Fire-Adapted Human Communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.

Wildfire Response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

