

NIFC News

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April 27, 2004
For Immediate Release

WILDLAND FIRE AGENCIES ANNOUNCE 2003 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Boise, Idaho – Six wildland fire service employees have been chosen to receive the first national Paul Gleason Lead by Example Award. The recipients were selected for demonstrating valued leadership traits during or in support of wildland fire operations.

The new annual award was created to honor Paul Gleason, a wildland firefighter whose career spanned several decades before he succumbed to cancer in 2003. Gleason is best known for developing the LCES (Lookout, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones) concept that became the foundation of wildland firefighter safety. Throughout his career, Gleason led and mentored firefighters, studied and taught wildland fire, and worked to improve firefighter safety. The awards highlight Gleason's influence on and contribution to wildland fire management, while honoring those who demonstrate the spirit of leadership for which he was known.

The award is sponsored by the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Committee under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, an interagency, intergovernmental group that works to improve policy, standards and safety in wildland and prescribed fire management. The Gleason award is based on three categories: motivation and vision; mentoring and teamwork; and innovation or initiative. Individuals and groups from federal, state, local and tribal agencies are eligible for the award.

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The award winners for 2003 are:

Category - Motivation and Vision

Dave Koch, National Fire Training Officer
Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho

Mark Linane, Vegetation Management Officer
Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Los Alamos, California

Category – Mentoring and Teamwork

Bill Miller, Great Northern Crew Superintendent
U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Aerial Fire Depot
Missoula, Montana

Dan Kleinman, Division Chief
U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest
Lake Isabella, California

Category – Innovation and Initiative

Curtis Heaton, Regional Wildland Interface Coordinator
Fish and Wildlife Service, Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge
Sasabe, Arizona

Mike Bland, Engine Module Leader
Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office
Winnemucca, Nevada

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