

Australia: Speaker at Australasian Fire Authorities Conference September 23 – October 9, 2002

**Steve Ellis
Lakeview District Manager**

Purpose & Background:

Mr. Steve Ellis, the Lakeview District Manager, was invited to speak at the 2002 AFAC (Australasian Fire Authorities Council) Firefighters Conference. The conference was held September 27 through 29, 2002, in Conrad Jupiters, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. The theme for the conference was "Innovation and Best Practice for Emergency Services, and Mr. Ellis made a presentation on "Fuel Management in the Urban Interface". He was selected because of his extensive fire background, and the fact that the Lakeview District has the largest hazardous fuels program in the Bureau.

Mr. Ellis also accompanied Mr. Paul de Mar on a tour of some fire stations to observe how the Australian manage their fire program. He also give his presentation on "Fuel Management in the Urban Interface" to groups along the way who were unable to attend the conference.

Summary of Activities:

- Attended the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference on the Gold Coast (Brisbane). Gave an oral presentation on hazardous fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. There were 416 registered delegates at the conference.
- Participated in two full days of AFAC working group meetings prior to the AFAC conference.
- Toured wildland urban interface areas around Brisbane with AFAC members from Australia and New Zealand.
- Presented two (2) post conference oral presentations/seminars on hazardous fuels reduction and the National Fire Plan. These presentations were given to Queensland resource management and fire officials that did not attend the AFAC conference.
- Visited Fraser Island with Queensland Fire Official and AFAC Committee member, Richard Clarkson. Looked at fire management in the Fraser Island ecosystem.
- Accompanied New South Wales Fire Management official, Paul de Mar on a tour of suburban Sydney neighborhoods that burned in the Christmas, 2001 wildfires.
- Toured the Blue Mountains west of Sydney with Paul de Mar. Discussed fire management issues in the Blue Mountains. We also met with rural fire officials at a bush fire brigade station west of Sydney.