SMARTSOURCE

THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY FOR REAL-TIME PRECISION

BACKGROUND

Wildland fires have great potential to cause damage on private and public lands across the United States. Technology has been an instrumental tool in the effort to protect the lives of firefighters and civilians.

The US Forest Service and other federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies collaborate within NIFC to continuously conduct research and implement new technologies to enhance wildland firefighting. With cutting-edge technology at the core of this interagency collaboration, decisions can often be made within seconds of receiving information. The establishment and operation of predesignated temporary Incident Command Posts (ICPs) near the most high-risk areas helps to facilitate this process.

CHALLENGE

Agencies at NIFC implemented the Wildland Fire Information and Technology (WFIT) initiative to identify a single information and technology vision and unified approach in managing IT investments.

To achieve this goal, they created several wildland fire-specific software applications. Remote ICPs must be equipped with the hardware required to access this integral software within 24 hours of receiving an order, but the agencies do not own sufficient computer equipment and supporting technology to outfit temporary ICPs on such short notice.

Agencies at NIFC needed a reliable source of temporary computers and IT equipment that could meet the sometimes complex requirements of a government-funded operation.

SOLUTION

A customized program developed by SmartSource® provides wildland fire agencies with laptops, iPads, and other hardware, all of which are loaded with up-to-date wildland fire software and applications and then replicated and stored by SmartSource. In the event of a wildfire or other emergency, the pre-loaded and pre-configured hardware is delivered to the local ICP within 24 hours.

The adoption of this program has led to the annual delivery of thousands of pre-loaded and pre-configured laptops and iPads (with LifeProof cases), printers, networking systems, and various other equipment and office technology to wildfire incidents across the US.

> ***"The evolution of technology has allowed us to make considerable advances in how we manage wildland fires. Having instant access to insightful data empowers people to make life-saving decisions with real-time precision."***
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> - Erik Torres-Jacquez
> Chief, Branch of Information Technology,
> Division of Fire and Aviation Management,
> National Park Service