



# GFP RESPONSE

*Protecting What Matters*

A Publication by GFP Enterprises

## 2021 SEASON IN REVIEW

As the 2021 season ends, fire activity across the nation slows, and the national preparedness levels (PL) drop to 1, it is time to reflect on the hard work accomplished and the days spent protecting what matters. 2021 proved to be another historic fire season. With an estimated 3,083,507 acres burned and over 8,000 incidents nationwide, this fire season was nothing short of demanding.

Three of the nation's largest wildfires in history occurred this year. The Dixie fire in Northern California burned over 900,000 acres and is currently the largest wildfire in California history. As a company, GFP had ten different dispatches to the Dixie fire alone. Hand crews and engines spent 117 days working on this historic wildfire.

To review, GFP fire crews and engines went out on 62 different fire assignment dispatches, with an average number of days on each assignment of 9. We had 60 WDS engine dispatches, with an average of 7 days on each and 16 WDS MOD assignments averaging 6 days. There were 23 emergency equipment rental dispatches with an average of 20 days on each assignment. 6 general labor assignments, averaging 12.8 days each. We obtained 17 flagging assignments averaging 4 days each. Finally, GFP responded to 3 disaster response assignments for Hurricane Ida relief totaling 47 days in Louisiana.



Photo credit: Kody O'Neil, ICT5.  
S-503 Fire, Warm springs, OR.  
See pg. 2.

Going to the woods  
is going home, for I  
suppose we came  
from the woods  
originally.

-John Muir

## S-503 Fire photo by Kody O'Neil ICT5

This was our first shift, in the first hours upon arriving on the S-503 Fire in Warm Springs, OR. We were the second crew to arrive behind the Zigzag Hotshots, and the fire was around 30 acres in size. We were briefed and our assignment was to get in behind Zigzag to hold the handline that they were punching in around the West flank of the fire. Most of the crew had been up since 4 A.M. or earlier, unknowing that this would turn into an 18-hour shift. We were catching spots and had a decent-sized slop over almost immediately. This photo was at the anchor of the handline showing the column of the main fire, which was starting to grow rapidly, and in the coming days would eventually end at 6,600 acres.

- Kody O' Neil, ICT5 (NCC-6C, 2021).

## 2021 Photo of the Year

Leigha Gherghetta and Daria Savchenko share a hug on the Lionshead Fire.

This beautiful photograph expresses the fellowship and comradeship between firefighters who, together, have navigated through adverse situations during long hot days.



## Mental Health Resources

• **Heroes Health App** is a free app that enables first responders to track their mental well-being and easily access mental health resources.

• **Share the Load** - A support program for firefighters and EMTs. Visit their website for resources to find local providers who are trained to help firefighters, EMS providers, rescue workers, and their families.  
o <https://www.nvfc.org/programs/share-the-load-program>

**For immediate support:**

• **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** (call or chat online)

o 1-800-273-8255

o <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

• **National Helpline**

o 1-800-622-HELP(4357)

• **Crisis Text Line**

o Text HOME to 741741

## "Don't struggle alone"

-Ryan Moffet

Recently a well-respected, successful man came into my office, and he told me that he was done!! (His words, not mine). Done with business, done with family, marriage, church, etc. He was tired of criticism, tired of the pain, tired of the fight. As this strong, successful man confessed his fatigue to me I found myself rehearsing with him one of the most underutilized strategies to combat the difficult struggles we encounter in life. As a pastor, I love taking people to the Bible to show them practical strategies to war against real-life problems. James 5:16 says; "Confess your sins to one another so that you might be healed". I asked him; "do you ask for help in your business?"

He replied, "Never". Then we went through his other categories; "in your marriage, in your family, in your community responsibilities?" His responses were all uniform; "Nope, I'm on my own". I reminded him of the power of connection. The power of confession to your friends, community, and co-workers that you need help. I can tell you that this man has begun to change. He'll occasionally call me just to make sure he's confessing his needs and weakness to someone. To all you GFP staff and crew, here is my pastoral message and challenge; "Don't struggle alone". I am here to serve you all as you may have need. It is okay to not be okay!

-Ryan serves GFP as a chaplain to help those affected by trauma in their jobs. If he can be helpful to you or you want someone to speak with please reach out ([ryan@vastchurch.com](mailto:ryan@vastchurch.com)).



# Upcoming in 2022

## QUARTERLY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Please send your photo entries from in the field to: [GFPSM@gfpenterprises.com](mailto:GFPSM@gfpenterprises.com) for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Deadlines for submission:

Quarter 1: March 31

Quarter 2: June 30

Quarter 3: September 30

Quarter 4: December 31

Photos can be from any fire or project from the last 12 months,

Photos can only be entered once each.

## DAY 14 PORTRAITS

I am collecting your "day 14" selfies and photos of yourself or your crew members from day 14 for a year end project in 2022. Please send these from throughout the year as you take them, to [corinne@gfpenterprises.com](mailto:corinne@gfpenterprises.com), with the subject "Day 14 Portraits". -Corinne Heiner

## THOUGHTS FROM THE CEO

Now that things are slowing down a bit, it allows us all to reflect on the 2021 busy season. I am thankful for being part of a company that has employees that have such a strong work ethic, a dedication to their job, and skill sets that separate us from the rest of our industry.

I am thankful for the contracts and relationships we have with the government and private sector.

We will continue to go after contracts that fit our work force and provide sustainability to our business. We are implementing programs across the board that will provide more stability to our firefighters and provide greater advancement opportunities to all employees.

Ask about our middle management retainment program. I am also happy to announce that wages are increasing for our firefighters beginning in 2022. We are all excited for the future of GFP Response. Thank you to all of our employees who worked hard and showed a commitment to excellence during 2021.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Pollard

C.E.O./Owner



Base Camp Nichols, Thibodaux, LA. September-October 2021.

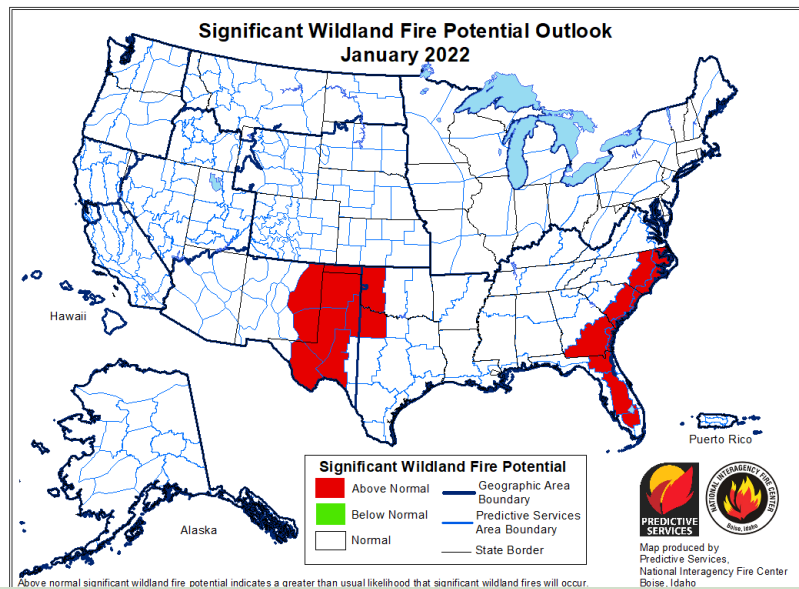


Ricky Skovrinski (FFT1-T), relays and confirms air ops intended action to the crew on the Summit Trail Fire, July 2021, while the crew was holding and improving the line.

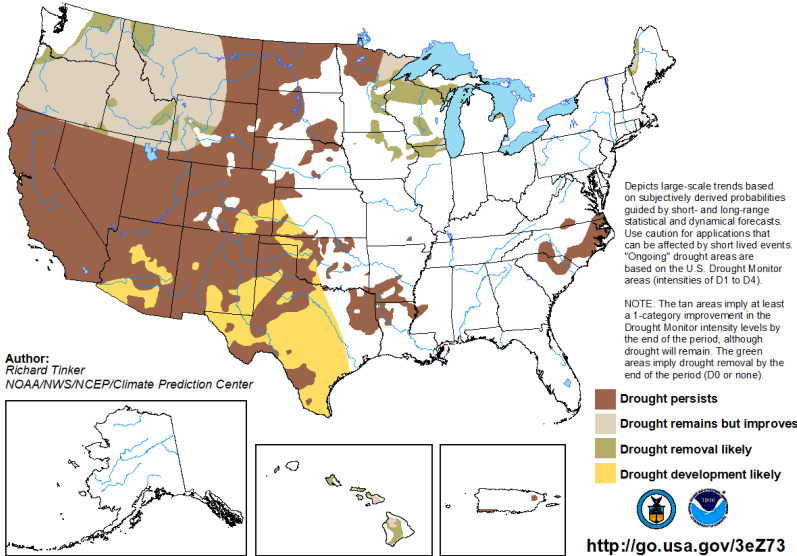
Photo Credit: Joshua Wyllie - (FFT2).

## 2022 Quarter 1 Outlook

2022 quarter 1 drought outlook shows large-scale trends with drought persisting in multiple regions across the West, Southwest, and parts of the Mid-West. There is minimal improvement throughout the Northwest states, but drought does remain in these areas. Above normal wildfire potential in the January 2022 predictive services outlook from The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), indicates a greater than normal likelihood of wildland fires in parts of Florida and Texas. This trend remains consistent through February 2022. Even with small geographic areas showing above-normal fire potential, most of the US shows normal fire potential for quarter 1, 2022, however, with significant drought occurring across multiple regions, changes for high fire potential in quarter 2 becomes more probable.



### U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



## Employee Feature!

**Meet Jamie Ronco! Jamie has been a part of the GFP family since 2004 as our Payroll Administrator and HR manager. Without all the hard work Jamie does for us we would not get paid! So next time you see her or talk to her make sure and thank her for all her hard work!**

- What is your favorite thing about being a part of GFP Response? **I love working together as a team in a constant changing environment.**
- If you could max out your credit card at any store, which would it be? **Hobby Lobby or TJ Maxx.**
- Who is your favorite cartoon character? **Fred Flintstone.**
- If you could only have one kind pizza for the rest of your life, what kind of pizza would it be? **Pepperoni and pineapple.**
- What is your favorite sports team? **OSU Beavers!**

**Thank you, Jamie for everything you do!**

