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# Resource Sharing An Agency Perspective

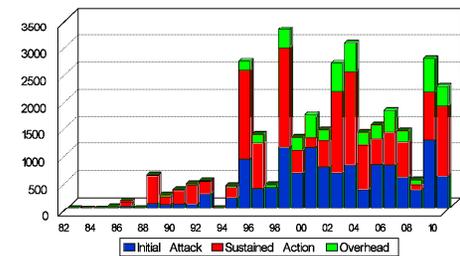
Wildland Fire 2010

A large wildfire is burning in a forest, with thick smoke rising into the sky. The fire is concentrated in the middle ground, with bright orange and yellow flames visible. The smoke is dark and billowing, filling much of the upper half of the image. The foreground shows a dense forest of green trees, and the background is a hazy, smoke-filled sky.

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- There has been an increase in resource sharing in Canada since the mid nineties.
- Ontario has gone through cycles as a 'resource importer' and a 'resource exporter.'
- Significant progress has been made nationally and internationally by Agencies, CIFFC and Compacts

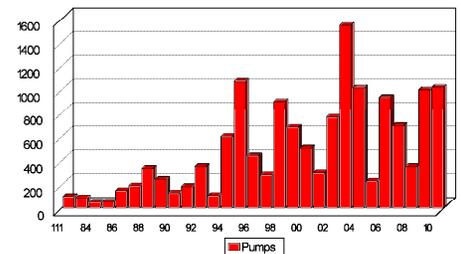
**Personnel Mobilized**  
1982-2010



As of Aug 24, 2010



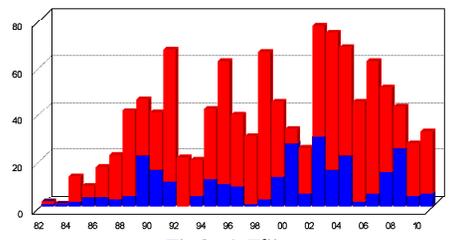
**Pumps**



Current as of Aug 20, 2010



**Airtankers**  
1982 - 2010



as of Aug 3, 2010



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**An Importer's Perspective**

Benefits

- Help when we need it most – people, equipment, aircraft
- Opportunity to recycle our own staff
- Media takes notice
- Integration of resources smoother every year
- Sharing knowledge and networking – building the Fire Community

Risks/Challenges

- Safety – tactics, identify hazards/assess risks
- Knowing when you have enough
- Understanding out of province policies and requirements – Safety, Collective Agreement (hours, breaks, overtime, etc.), Overnight accommodations needs, equipment maintenance
- Visiting IMT's may not be aware of local issues, concerns or strategies
- Financial – approvals, perceptions, cost (ie transport costs)



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## An Exporter's Perspective

### Benefits

- Experience, skills development, learning
- Morale
- Opportunity to support other agencies
- Financial



### Risks/Challenges

- Maintaining sufficient resources back home – Good long range resource planning necessary
- Crews & Tankers can be recalled quickly – Equipment may be gone for several months
- Safety – tactics, hazards, accumulated fatigue
- Bringing home invasive species (a/c, equipment)
- Home - work program (vacation time, equipment procurement/refurbishment, deferred projects)
- Professionalism
- Financial – approvals, perceptions, administrative workload, \$\$ don't always go to the fire program
- Communications with staff – the new reality - resource sharing and the associated workload is part of our jobs and will increase in the future



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### Other Challenges

- Interoperability (radio/IT) – fire agencies, other responders
- Need for national contracts or provincial contracts with similar deliverables (ie Type Contract 2 Crews, Basecamp Infra, etc)
- Aging workforce – loss of experienced staff (FBANs, DIVS, IC's...)
- What happens when more than 3 or 4 provinces/territories are busy?
- Shortages of trained/experienced staff to work in command centres.
  - Move needed towards standard positions/structure in Fire Centres
- Training
  - Common training will lead to reduced orientation time for incoming resources



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## Summary

- A Win/Win Situation
- Many benefits from Exporting and Importing Resources
- Nationally, we have made significant strides over the last 10-15 years.



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- Thanks