

**ILLINOIS INERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER
2010 YEAR – END REPORT**



**United States Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
United States National Park Service**

<http://fsweb.shawnee.r9.fs.fed.us/links/fire/index.shtml>



2010 Year End Report

2010 was a year of changes for the Illinois Interagency Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center lost our Initial Attack Dispatcher, John Anderson, to a promotional position in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Interagency Dispatch Center as their Logistics Dispatcher. Upon John moving, Jennifer Parrish from the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District detailed in as the Initial Attack Dispatcher until the position was advertised and filled. Fortunately for us, Jennifer was the selection for the position and currently is the Initial Attack Dispatcher. Diana Emmons once again came on in May as the Seasonal Dispatcher and stayed with us until she accepted a seasonal firefighter position on the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District working with the fuels crew. The only other additions to our center were the few snakes, mice, and various spiders which also inhabited our facility. (We are after all on a wildlife refuge).

Molly once again was the Eastern Area Dispatch Working Team Chair working on many items including the organization of the 2010/2011 Dispatch Workshop. She participated as a representative for the Eastern Area Coordination Center at the National Coordinators workshop, participated in the Eastern Area's Center Manager meetings, the Eastern Area Working Teams workshop, 2 Big Rivers compact Meetings, as well as participated on a Regional review team which reviewed the Superior and Ottawa National Forests Fire Programs. Molly also was selected to participate on a National Dispatch Taskforce team which is addressing issues that affect Dispatch Centers throughout the country. Before departing for Arkansas, John participated as an instructor teaching D110 to the New York City Fire and Police Department personnel. Diana was able to obtain the D310 and ROSS class which will better enable her to get out on fire assignments this summer. Jennifer, being new, did not get to any training, however she was able to complete here IADP and work on her ACDP taskbooks on home unit activities.

The first wildland fire of the season was on February 7th on Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie (MPF), which is average for the years 1st start. The last reported fire of the season was the Wiley fire on the Mississippi Bluffs RD on December 10th. The first RX project of the year was the burning of Piles at Crab Orchard NWR on January 25th, while the final project was Ashby East on the Hidden Springs Ranger District on November 11th burning 30 acres. The largest fire ILC provided support for was the Grassy Knob fire which burned 409 acres, the dispatch centers first Type 3 incident. We also provided communications and logistical support for 86 wildland fires and 52 RX projects for 932 and 8509 acres (does not include the States final WF and RX acres).

In the spring, the Dispatch Center as well as the entire fire program went through a Fire readiness review and passed with flying colors. Throughout the year we were able to get the new version of the IQS program up and running (thanks Diana), organized a tour for the fire folks through the Paducah National Weather Service office, completed and update our Standard Operating Procedures Guide, Mobilization Guide, Visitor Briefing Guide, Aviation Briefing packets, and implemented radio communications with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This was the also the first full year of using WildCad and the start of providing detailed fire information into the WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) from WildCad for both the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Through all the networking the fire program has done with the various government agencies, 911 dispatch centers and mutual aid fire departments, 2010 has showed to be the busiest year yet when it comes to ILC workload. With 361 incident actions processed, the 2010 year has by far surpassed the 2009 year which was the highest up to that point with 208. The dispatch center participated in more Law Enforcement activities,

more Search and Rescue missions, more mutual aid responses, more wildland fires, more prescribed fires, than ever before. By utilizing our WildCad program to its fullest extent, we are better able to capture all the information regarding daily activity as well as varied incidents quickly by linking maps, weather, and WFDSS entries all the while time stamping all communications and documentation.

The spring was also busy with mobilizing resources to Michigan and Wisconsin, but the summer proved to be a very quiet one. This was the second year in a row we were unable to get a Type 2 crew out on a fire assignment nationally. The Midewin Hotshots had about a month where they were not on a fire, RX or project assignment but we still managed to mobilize them 8 times. The biggest summer mobilizations were resources to the Gulf Oil Spill sending 25 individuals (22 FWS, 2 FS).

Even though we did not mobilize many folks, the dispatch center provided redcards for the following: 64 Forest Service, 13 State of Illinois, 7 Fire Department, 12 Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), 24 Job Corps students and staff, and 11 SHF Casual Hires (AD)'s.

Towards the end of 2010, we were able to get the issues with the network worked out so we now have radio communications with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Our goal is to provide the same services to them as we currently provide for Shawnee National Forest, Crab Orchard and Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuges and for the State of Illinois for initial attack and prescribed fire activities. (Maybe give those folks radio call numbers instead of using names). We also were able to procure radio recording equipment so 2011 radio communications should all be captured and recorded electronically.

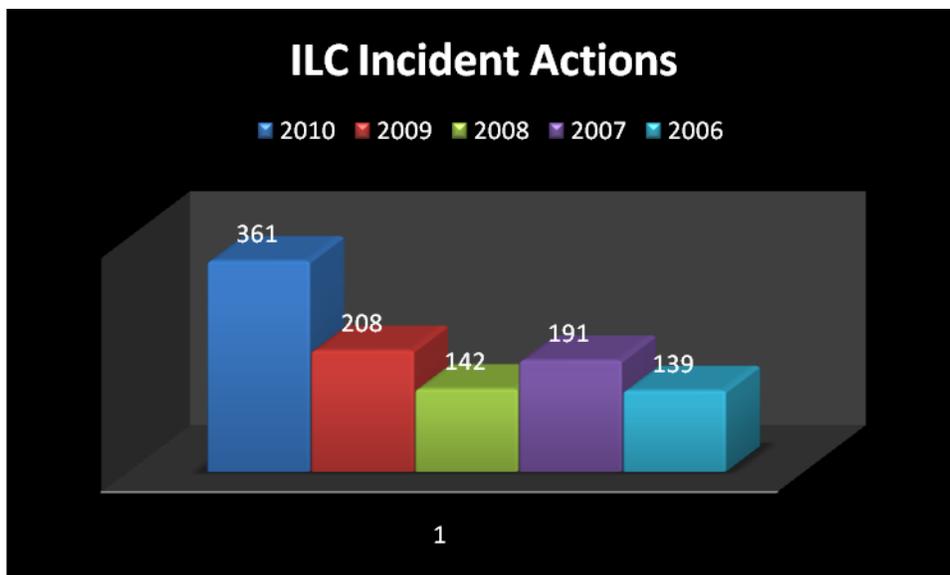
All in all 2010 was a fun filled year for all. The dispatch center is becoming more active participating in a wide variety of agency activities, while the staff is also participating in more training and working on committees on a Geographical and National level which is great for Illinois/ILC exposure. We look forward to the 2011 year and can see nothing but improvements, changes, and good things to come.

Molly, Jennifer & Diana

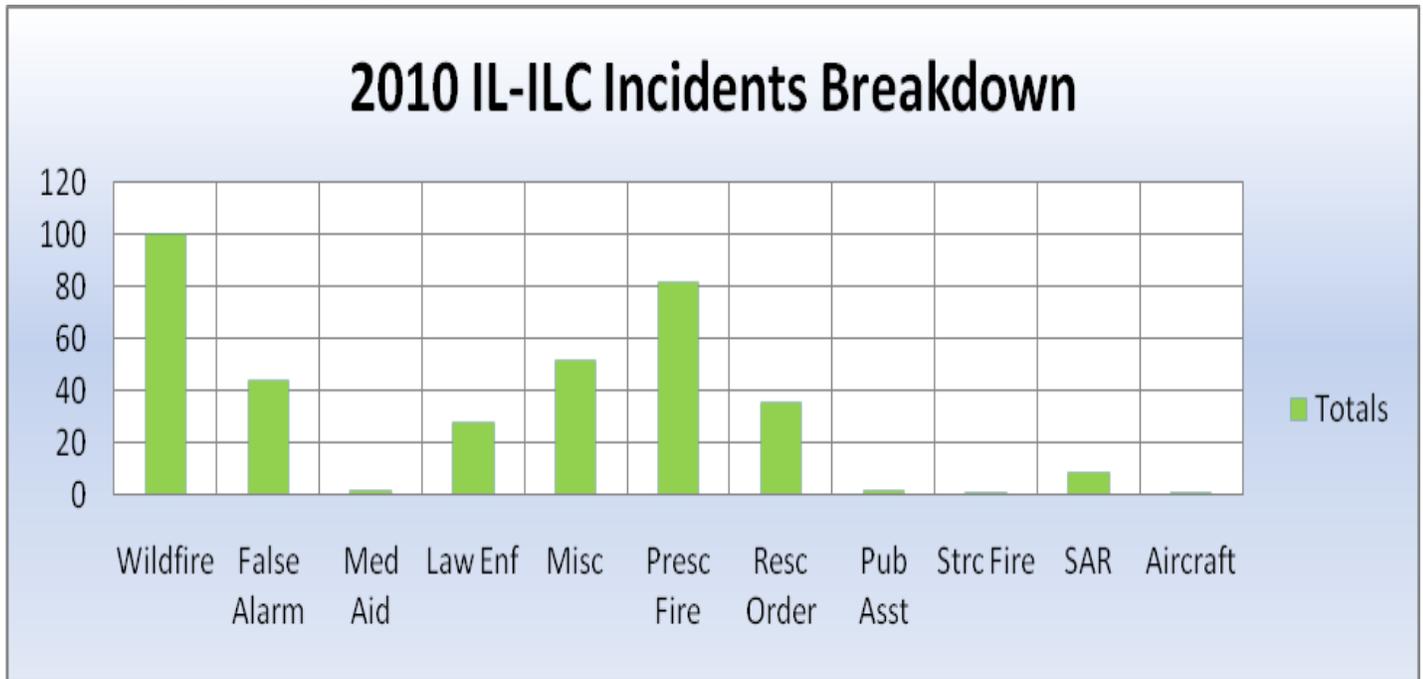
DISPATCH ACTIVITY/WORKLOAD:

Since 2006 our documentation on workload has steadily increased. Even though 2010 was a fairly slow year with Geographical and National resource ordering, locally we were busy with a wide variety of activities. In order to show workload, ILC uses the Incident Action process where each incident action tracks activity, whether it be a wildland fire, a prescribed fire project, a training event, or a special weather notification which dispatch participated in. In addition to the Incident Action process, the WildCad program gives us the ability to capture all the information on these incidents quickly, linking maps of the incident and time stamping information all with a press of a few buttons. It also gives us the opportunity to accurately document our participation not only in Wildland Fire and Prescribed fire activities for all Agency partners, but in a wide variety of “other” activities such as Law Enforcement and Recreation. Our goal is to meet the needs of all agencies participating within our interagency community, and we feel we are actively reaching those goals year by year.

The graph below shows the increase in our workload (Incident Actions) over the last 5 years. These increases are not only due to increased Forest Service activity, but because all cooperating agencies are working closer and utilizing the dispatch center to a greater extent. This close working relationship was evident during the Gulf Oil Spill where ILC worked very close with the Fish and Wildlife Service mobilizing individual resources. All of the resource orders came to us by name request via EACC and we worked very closely with Don Wiley and Cliff Berger to make sure their resources had a ROSS profile and correct qualifications. Many of the resources we sent were new to the mobilization process and most of the individuals were from Wildlife Refuges we normally don't work with, so this was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves, advise individuals of proper procedures and what to expect when they get there. This incident gave us opportunity to incorporate the entire Illinois Federal Wildlife Refuge program into our dispatch center and we feel, after getting some of the kinks worked out, it was a very smooth process. So we are hoping that some of the FWS individuals enjoyed the experience enough that we can possibly utilize them on more incidents in the future.



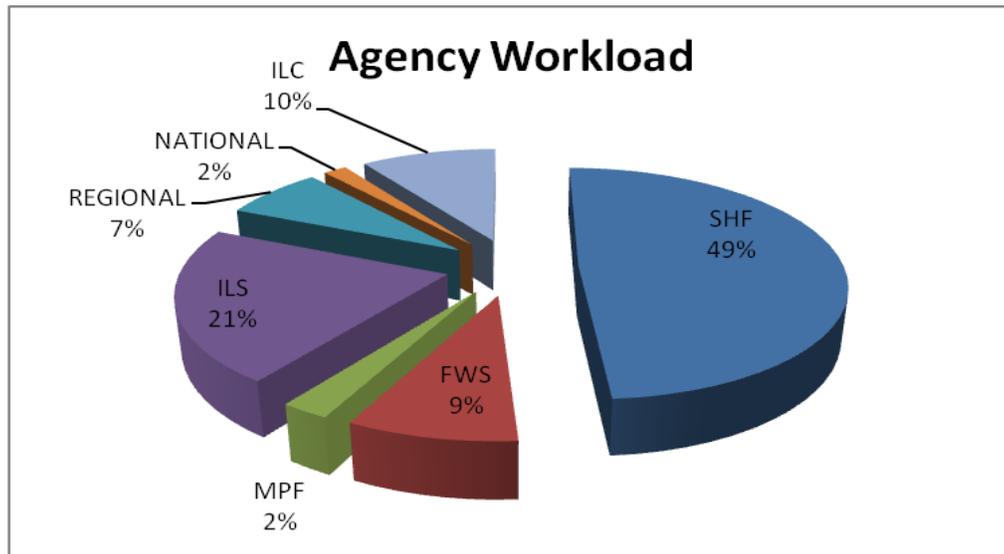
Incident Action Breakdown



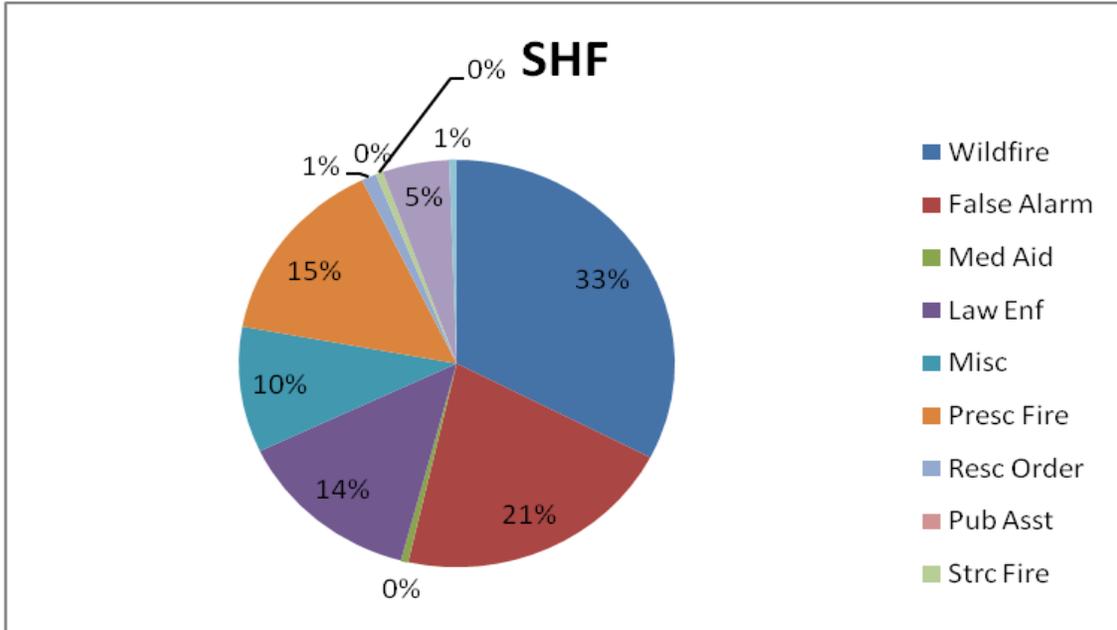
The Dispatch Center's main workloads in 2010 was comprised of prescribed and wildland fires. However, we have seen an increase in all incidents this year due to increased participation with county 911 centers, county fire departments, and especially Agency Law Enforcement personnel.

Agency Workload Breakdown

As you can see by the graph below, the Forest Service once again is our biggest workload. However in past years the National and Regional workload has been much higher and I suspect as time goes on the State percentages will increase a bit. The ILC activity includes in-house incidents such as severe weather announcements, red flag warnings, in house resource orders, and miscellaneous work activities.

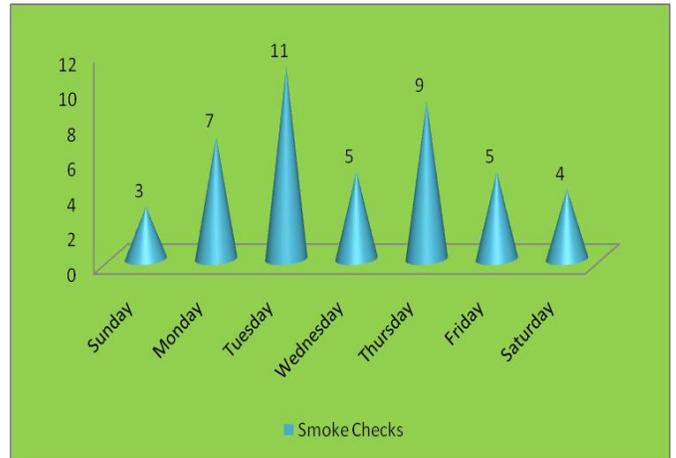


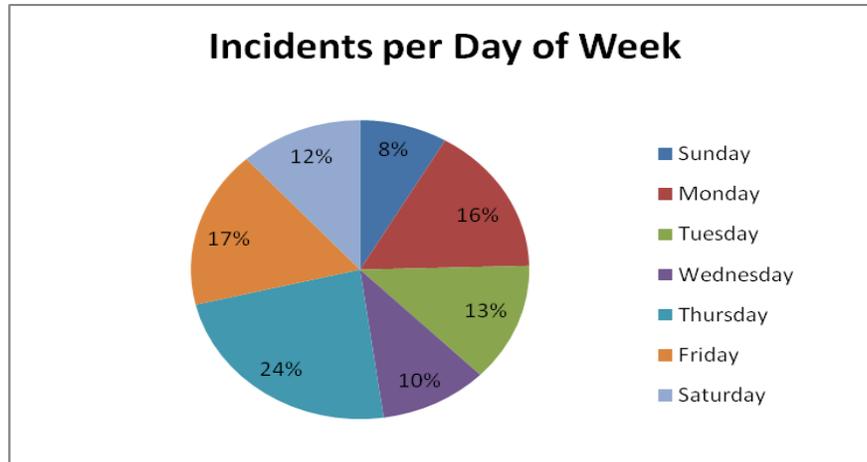
2010 SHF Incident Breakdown



Incident Activity

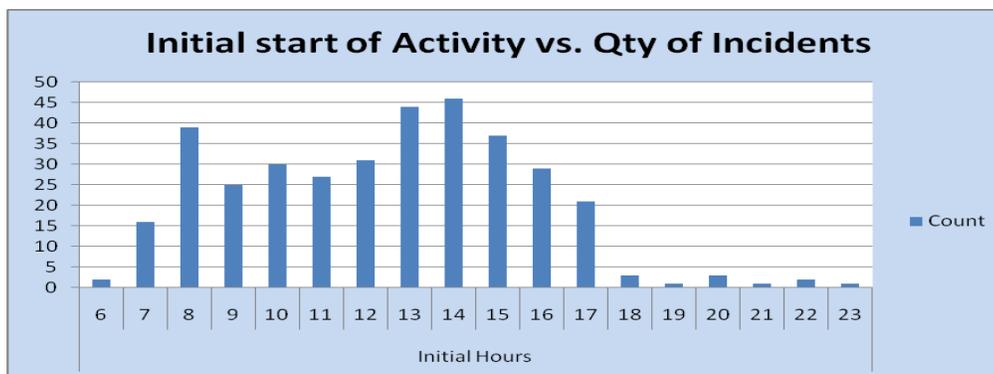
Something new this year which we were able to obtain through WildCad is information on the times and days which most of our wildfire activity occurs. You will see on the graphs below what days we are most prone to get an incident as well as the time of day they seem to occur.





Incident Starts

This graph shows the time frame of when most incidents initially start in dispatch. These totals and time frames identify all types of incidents. As captured in the graph, most incidents start in the hours between 1300 and 1400



Resoure Orders:

Except for the oil spill activity, the dispatch center was pretty quiet with resource order activity. The spring activity up in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio gave our resources opportunity for assignments, but once summer came, resource orders basically dried up, with only a few overhead resources going out on assignments.

This was the second year in a row we were unable to get our Type 2IA handcrew an assignment, however the Midewin Hotshots were busy in early spring throughout the Geographical area with wildland fires, prescribed fires with a few resource projects. ILC filled 8 resource orders throughout the year for the crew (twice to the Routt NF in Colorado for project work).

The below graph summarizes ROSS resource order activity for the center showing all the resource ordering activity that ILC either received or placed. The overhead numbers include crewmembers from engines, handcrews, helicopters as well as individual overhead (that's why they are high), while the aircraft, crew, equipment columns are for individual specific resources (ex: Midewin IHC, Dozer 4, E21 etc)

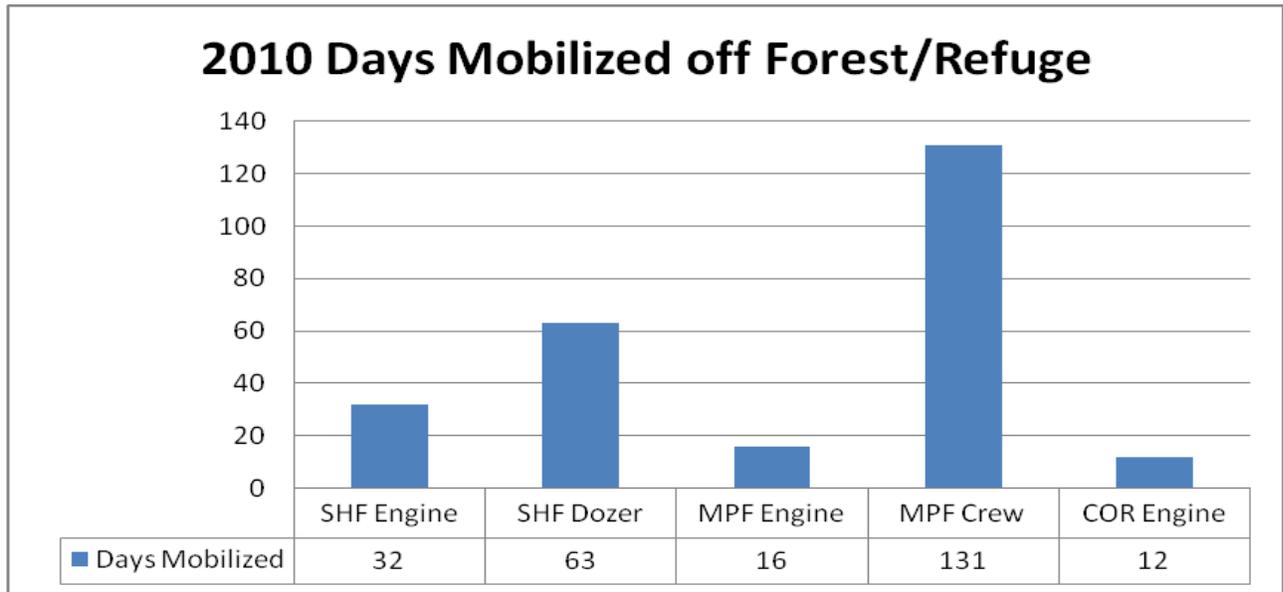
2010 was the first year we put all our supply orders on electronic resource order forms in ROSS, however it was more for documentation purposes and clarity since we still had to fax them into the fire caches. 2011 will be the first year we will be able to send the orders electronically through ROSS to the caches to fill which is going to be great for the dispatch community. This process will save our center time and will provide for a more accurate account of supplies ordered per incident.

Summary of all Resource Order activity in ILC

| Catalog Name | Enter | Place | Fill | Reassign | Release | Cancel | UTF |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Aircraft | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Crew | 6 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Equipment | 29 | 13 | 24 | 5 | 22 | 3 | 1 |
| Overhead | 165 | 107 | 276 | 72 | 105 | 6 | 9 |
| Supply | 288 | 0 | 274 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Summary | 491 | 127 | 585 | 81 | 130 | 21 | 10 |

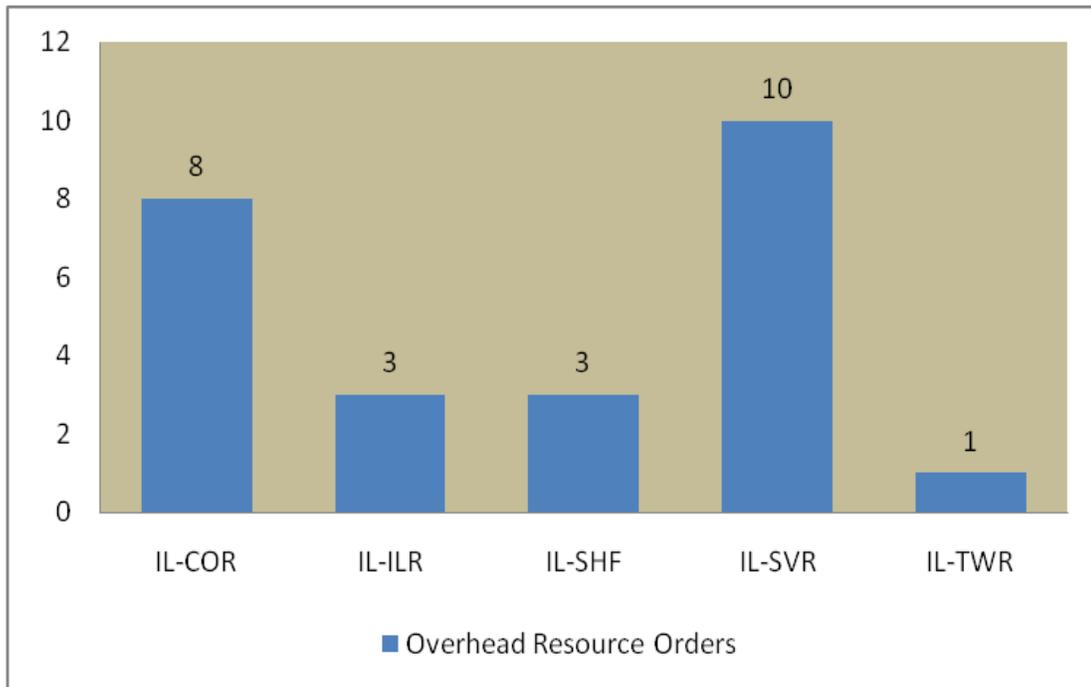
Resources Mobilized:

Even though it was a relatively quiet summer for mobilizing resources, the spring provided opportunity for agency Equipment and Midewin IHC to participate in wildland fire and RX activities throughout the region. The Gulf Oil Spill was the only incident in the summer where individuals were provided opportunity for mobilization. The graphs below show resources mobilized throughout 2010. The majority of the overhead sent to the Gulf were FWS, only a few USFS individuals were able to go down and assist.



The above numbers were taken from ROSS reports for equipment and crews mobilized off forest and off refuge. Crab Orchard Refuge had an additional 17 days off refuge with an engine. No resource orders were generated via ROSS for these mobilizations, omitting them from the graph

2010 MS Canyon Spill



WILDLAND AND PRESCRIBED FIRE ACTIVITIES

Even though the western fire season year was very slow, the Shawnee National Forest, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuges, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie as well as the local counties were very busy with Initial Attack and Prescribed Fire activities. Due to more mutual aid assist, the center provided more mutual aid initial attack communications than ever before. The fall fire season not only had the largest fire the dispatch center has ever had, it was also the busiest year for prescribed fire participation. This I believe it is due to the coordination of State of Illinois and the National Fish and Wildlife fire management folks utilizing the dispatch center for their projects.

Wildland Fire:

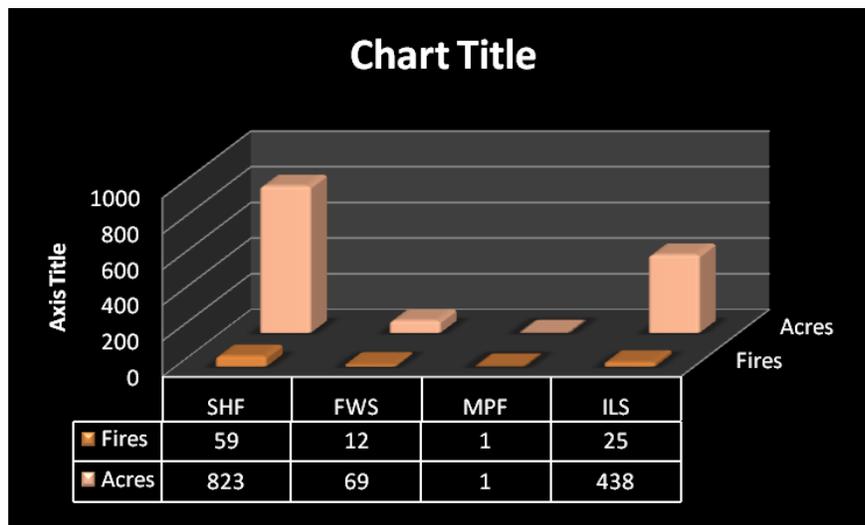
As stated in the introduction, 2010 was a very busy year for wildland fires. The Grassy Knob fire in November was the largest documented fire in Shawnee National Forest History (some say there was one bigger, but we couldn't find any documentation of such). It was an exciting fire because it was the first time we ordered a Type 3 helicopter specifically for an active wildland fire incident. We had a hotshot crew from Southern California; we had engines and overhead personnel from South Carolina, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. We were also able to utilize a local Fire Department resource through our agreements. Shawnee NF fire personnel did an exceptional job managing and suppressing this incident proving that our personnel can match out west personnel any day of the week.

The Fish and Wildlife service activity has also been increasing. This year Cypress Creek National Wildlife refuge had a fairly active year (more than in the past 5 years). Fortunately, when they became active, Ray Parrish the Prescribed Fire Specialist from Crab Orchard, had brought in extra resources therefore we were able to utilize those resources to patrol and assist on wildland fires in the area and on the refuge when typically resources would have to travel from Marion or Vienna.

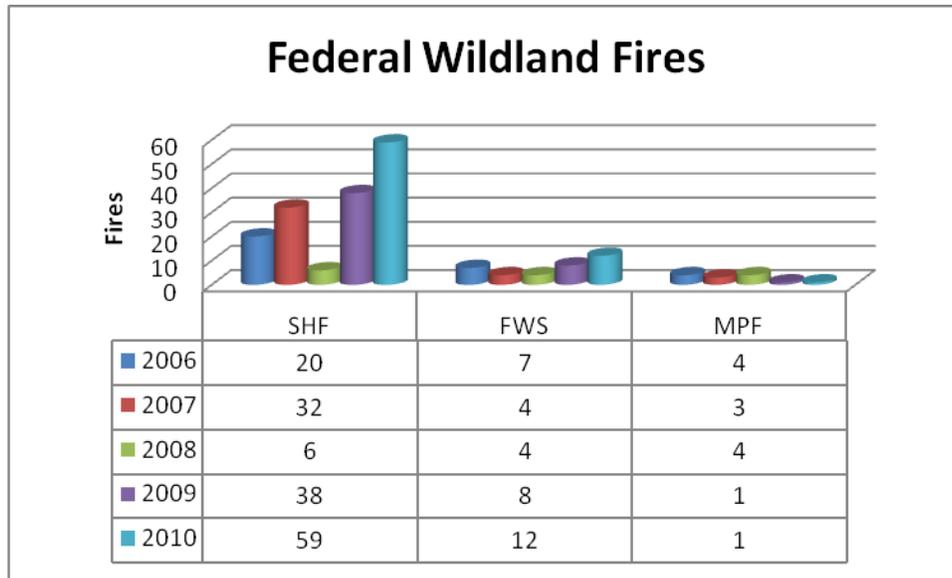
As you can see from the graphs below that the Shawnee NF is our biggest contributor in wildland fire activities. The graph shows the activity ILC reported on the National Sit report from all agencies including State and Private. Unfortunately by the time this report was out, Tom had not received all the wildland fire information on acres, therefore the graph only shows what was turned in to us here in dispatch. We are working on a new process where the State and fire department folks get their fire activity to Tom Wilson and or ILC in a timely manner. Currently there is a handful that provided that information, for example Massac County sends their activity sheet in every month, but the majority does not sent it in until end of year or even the beginning of the New Year. So one of our goals in 2011 is to reach out to these other folks and figure out a way to obtain this information so we can show their activity on the National Situation Report accurately because as you can see by the second graph, Illinois has a lot of fire activity. The third graph shows federal incidents over the last 5 years.

- *Half way through the year, the dispatch centers in the Eastern Area were instructed to report fires and acres a different way on the National Situation Report. A spot for private fires and acres was added to the sit report where previously those private acres, within Forest Service lands, were reported as Forest Service Acres. (Therefore there is a bit of discrepancy in acres reported).*

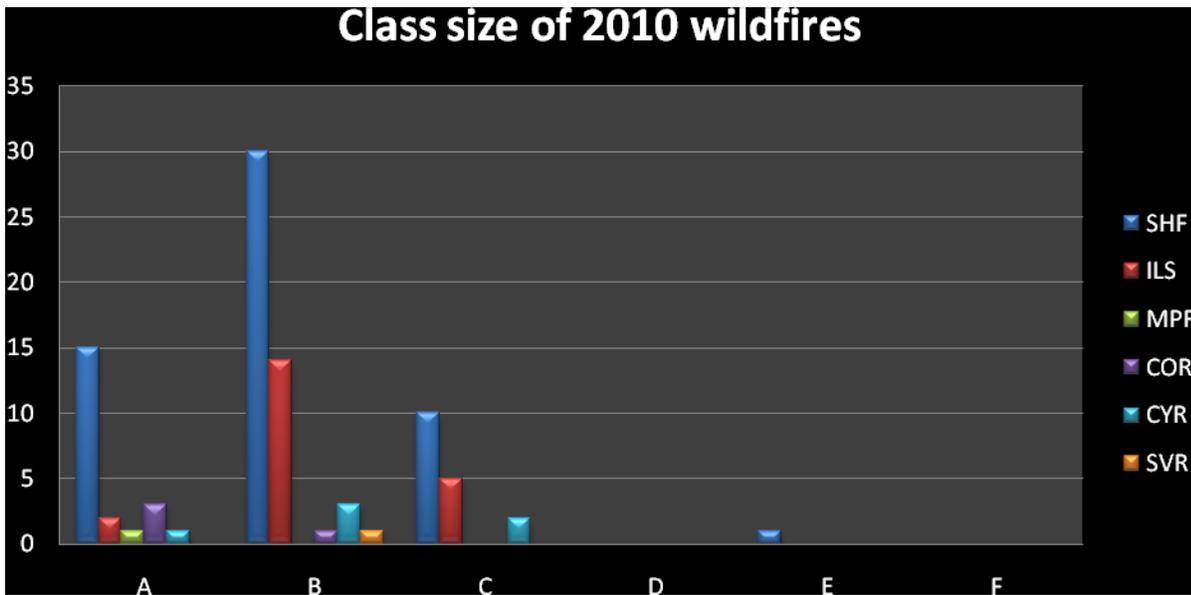
Agency Wildland Fires (Reported on Sit)



ILS fire totals are only what was reported to ILC by end of year.



As you can see on this graph, both the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service fires, except for 2008 (a very wet year for us), fires have steadily increased.

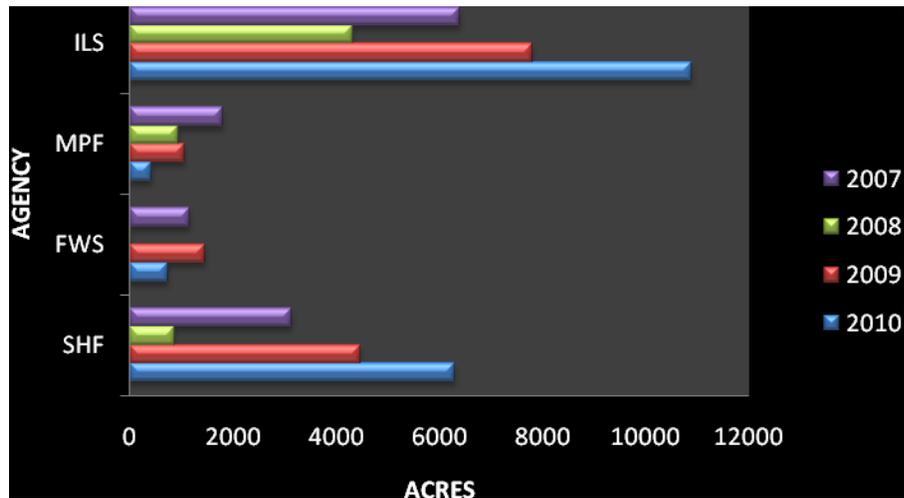


Class sizes for the SHF and partners were predominately Class A and Class B fires. The Grassy Knob Fire that ignited on November 8th, 2010 was controlled at 409 acres, making it the only Class E fire we have for the year. The Grassy Knob fire is the largest fire the Shawnee has had on record.

Prescribed Fire:

Prescribed fire is an important and large part of what we do here in the dispatch center. By supporting the burn with communications, obtaining needed resources, notifications, reporting, as well as other logistical support we feel we are an integral part of a successful operation. The graph below shows that the State of Illinois participates in a large prescribed fire program assisting private individuals as well as other agencies in their burning programs. The dispatch center currently plays a minor role by reporting on the national sit report daily acres burned, however it is only a small percentage of what they actually do (only a few folks call in on a regular basis) until the end of the year when Tom is sent required information, then their numbers typically balloon but it is too late to include on that year's National Sit Report. Like the States wildland fire information, this is something we are in the process of working to remedy, at the least obtain acres burned on a weekly basis so the rest of the country can get a better idea of what all they do.

Shawnee National Forest is again the biggest player (dispatch participation) in prescribed burning activities, although Crab Orchard NWR has been utilizing our center to a greater degree, which is what we are here for. 2010 was the first year we were able to utilize a Type 3 helicopter to do firing operations on the Buttermilk and Talbot Hollow Blowdown units 9 & 10 on the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. It was an exciting time for us because we rarely get to work with aircraft. The dispatch center put together and provided the helicopter manager with a Helicopter Briefing packet with all the vital agreements, policies, maps, etc which would come into play during daily operations. Overall the burn went without a hitch, and we were even able to use the helicopter for bucket drops on a wildland fire which occurred the day of the burn.



Graph depicts the increase in RX acres burned for the last 4 years per agency
As you can see, Illinois State DNR has a large prescribed fire program.

All in all it was a safe and successful year for the wildland fire and prescribed fire programs in Illinois.