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INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



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The Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region is experiencing an increasing number of forest fires, which are affecting people's health and safety and causing the loss of property, livelihoods, and biodiversity.

Since 1998, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided specialized technical assistance in the LAC region to help countries prepare policies, strategies, and national plans for Integrated Fire Management (IFM). USAID/OFDA also promotes and facilitates the creation of public awareness campaigns and the establishment of early warning systems and provides training to local technical staff and community stakeholders. USAID/OFDA's technical assistance programs aim to help protect the region's most vulnerable populations and strengthen local agencies' responses to forest fires.

USAID/OFDA has trained more than 20,000 forest firefighters and multiple teams of instructors throughout the LAC region. USAID/OFDA also has collaborated in developing reference materials in English, French, and Spanish that help reinforce community preparedness and response capacities.

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### TECHNICAL SUPPORT AREAS

- Design and development of training courses and materials on fire suppression
- Deployment of fire management experts to advise on suppression and management techniques for large forest fires
- Development of national policies, strategies, and plans for IFM
- Information campaigns and project implementation to strengthen capacity at the community level
- Strengthening of national and local training programs

### COURSES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Aide Mémoire of the Latin American Forum on IFM
- Basic Forest Firefighter Course
- Basic Techniques for Forest Fire Control at a Community Level
- Effective Use of Water to Extinguish Forest Fires Course
- Instructor training workshops
- Operations for Forest Fire Prevention and Control Course

