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**Understanding the Private Contract Fire Services Industry**

For more than 40 years, Professional private wildland fire services contractors have supported state and federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Bureau of Land Management in wildfire suppression efforts. This is the work done by National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) member companies. These resources are made available through competitive bid contracts to help supplement agency resources when there is a need.

While this work often takes place in rural or wilderness areas, it becomes more visible when wildfires encroach on populated regions or wildland-urban interface areas.

Types of private contract firefighters:

1. **Wildland Firefighting Resources:** These contractors provide supplemental personnel and equipment to local, state, and federal firefighting efforts. This category forms the backbone of private contract fire services, accounting for the vast majority of companies, in this segment of the industry.

 **Importantly, this is the primary focus of National Wildfire Suppression Association (NWSA) member companies**, which specialize in supporting wildfire suppression operations across the country. Their work ensures critical resources are available when and where they are most needed, helping to combat wildfires effectively.

1. **Prevention and Mitigation Contractors for Insurance Companies:** These contractors focus on activities to reduce fire risks, such as clearing undergrowth, trimming or removing trees near homes, and applying fire retardants. This work typically occurs during the off-season and not in response to active fires. It is a growing segment of the industry.
2. **Private Contractors for Home and Landowners:** A small percentage—less than 1%—of contractors are hired directly by private homeowners or landowners for both fire prevention/mitigation and response services.

The rising number and intensity of wildfires have introduced external factors that are reshaping the private contract fire services industry:

1. **Growth in Wildland-Urban Interface Communities:** More people are choosing to live at the edge of rural and wilderness areas, increasing the demand for firefighting services.
2. **Insurance Coverage Challenges:** Homes and lands in fire-prone areas are facing reduced or revoked insurance coverage, driving an urgent need for mitigation services.
3. **Increased Demand for Prevention and Mitigation Services:** Homeowners and landowners are seeking more prevention and mitigation work to safeguard their properties against the growing threat of wildfires.

This evolving landscape underscores the critical role of private contract fire services in addressing the complex and increasing risks associated with wildfires.

For more information on:

**Wildland Firefighting Resources**

National Wildfire Suppression Association

P.O. Box 169

Mill City, OR 97360

Website: [www.nwsa.us](http://www.nwsa.us)

Email Contact: dmiley@nwsa.us

**Contractors with Insurance Companies:**

Wildfire Defense Systems

580 Zoot Enterprises Lane

Bozeman, MT 59718

Ph: 1-877-323-4730

Website: [www.wildland-defense.com](http://www.wildland-defense.com)

We do not have a contact for those companies that contract directly with land/homeowners for structure protection.