

PORTABLE FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM



U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory prototype of a portable, skid-mounted fire fighting system



Challenging the fire fighting system in extreme weather conditions.

“The new fire fighting system is an innovative, efficient solution to provide fire fighting capabilities in inconvenient or remote areas where fuel presents a fire hazard.”

*Dick Oglevee
President
United First Responders LLC*

Both crashes and routine field operations such as refueling present a meaningful risk of fuel fire. Oftentimes, however, resources or logistics limit the ability to have adequate fire fighting equipment nearby.

To address this capability gap, the Fire Research Group of the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) designed a portable, Combined Agent Fire Fighting System (CAFFS). Described by AFRL inventors, it was designed to allow it to fit size-wise and weight-wise in aircraft to accompany first-to-arrive deployments. It is optimized to provide an effective capability for fighting a burning pool of petroleum that is fed by running fuel. Because of its suitability for pre-positioning in high risk environments, including, for example civilian airport terminals, and its expected affordability, United First Responders, LLC (UFR) has decided to refine and commercialize the technology.

The prototype design and technology “know-how” will be transferred to UFR under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, arranged by AFRL with the assistance of FirstLink.

Tests conducted at Tyndall Air Force Base and elsewhere demonstrated that the CAFFS can extinguish fires with very little agent, and has a long shelf life. The CAFFS system bridges the gap between smaller flightline extinguishers and crash/rescue fire trucks, to improve emergency preparedness for fuel fires with a single, effective system.

The Fire Research Group stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base is part of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory. The group develops new materials, processes and manufacturing technologies for fire fighting and fire prevention in aerospace and related applications.

FirstLink is the Department of Defense’s National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technology Transfer, supporting emergency and security needs through the development of commercial pathways between Department of Defense Science & Technology, private industry and universities.

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