

**Международный конгресс «Лесные пожары и изменение климата. Проблемы управления пожарами в природных и культурных ландшафтах Евразии»  
11.-12.11.2013 г. Новосибирск**

**Involvement of volunteer firefighters in enhancing wildfire preparedness and response capacities in Macedonia**

**Nikola Nikolov, PhD**

*President, Fire Protection Union of Macedonia*



- **The Republic of Macedonia is situated in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula. The distance from the Aegean sea is approx. 60 km and from the Adriatic see approx. 80 km.**
- **Neighbouring countries:**
  - on the west, Albania
  - on the south, Greece
  - on the east, Bulgaria
  - on the north, Serbia and Kosovo
- **Population: 1,945,932 (1994)**
- **Total area: 25,713 km<sup>2</sup>**



# Forest fires

Year	Number of fires	Burned area (ha)	Burned timber mass (m <sup>3</sup> )	Suppression fees (euro)	Total fees (euro)
1999	69	2 414,80	1 950,0	32 512,00	372 .921
2000	476	46 235,73	711 782,00	976 142,00	15. 642. 775
2001	161	6 263,30	88 260,00	66 810,81	9. 851. 849
2002	65	1 186,30	24 661,28	15 193,10	298. 902
2003	144	1 068,88	10 987,00	44 607,87	251. 527
2004	94	892,05	4 322,30	23 214,55	1. 469. 090
2005	182	1 368,00	1 063,00	42 018, 11	411 .181
2006	138	2 085,95	12 978,00	45 311,20	2. 437. 914
2007	652	35 248,6	617 678,67	386 852,46	21. 494. 700
2008	323	10 143,1	53 055,6	96 278,69	4. 612. 377
2009	38	197,00	756,50	313,627.00	5.812.889
2010	64	1,112.50	5 000,00	985.455.00	90.000
2011	390	20 856,8	65 042,8	400 153,00	1 .719 . 105
2012	385	19964,9	155 126,00	410 323,00	4.248.828
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 791</b>	<b>128 181,1</b>	<b>1 687 620.35</b>	<b>3 438 345.79</b>	<b>66. 994. 953</b>
<i>Average</i>	<i>199,4</i>	<i>9 155,8</i>	<i>120 544.3</i>	<i>245 596,12</i>	<i>4. 785. 353</i>

**2012 – Four fatalities**



- 1836
- 1951



Article 8, paragraph first of the Statute of Fire Protection Union of Macedonia:

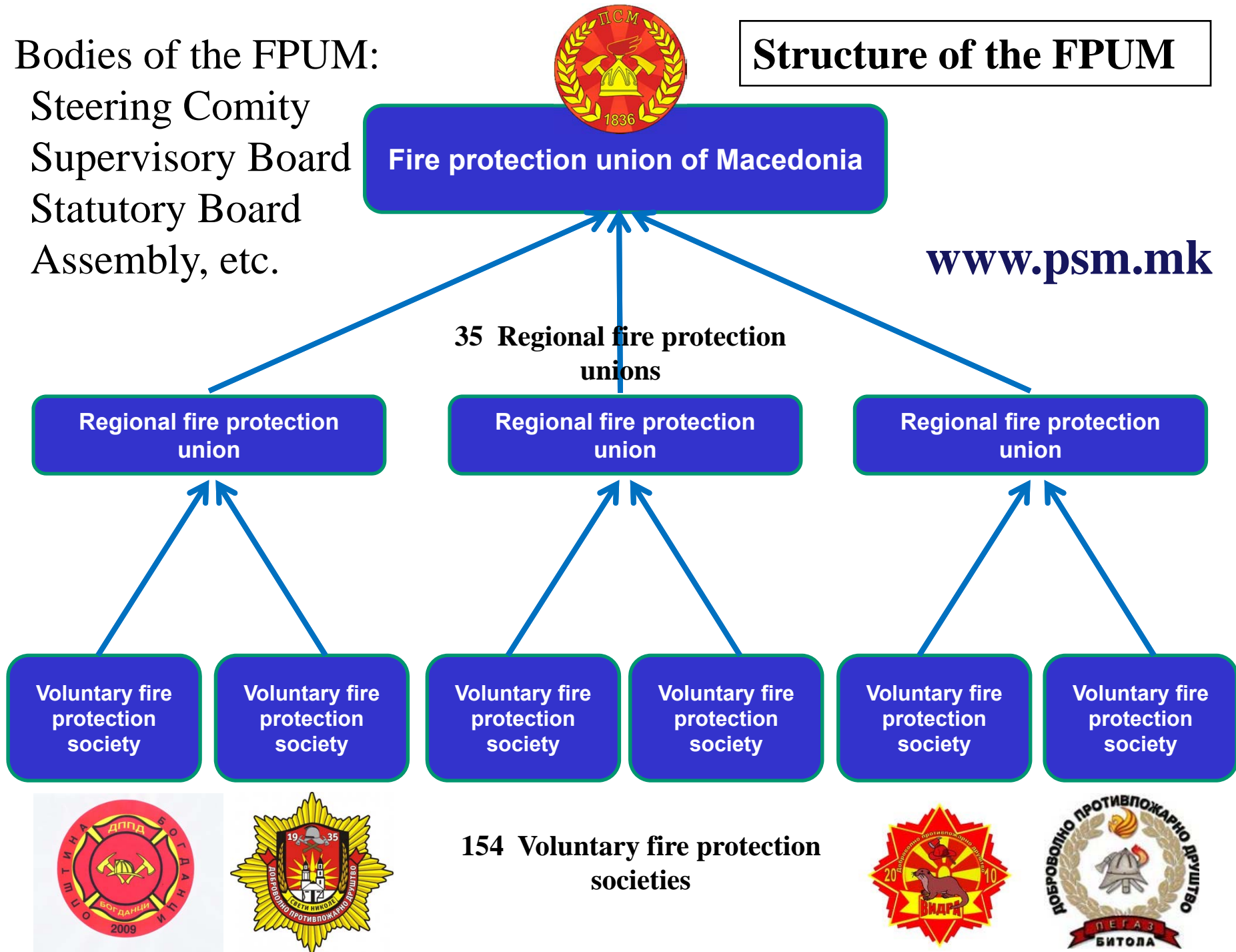
„Union implements measures and activities to prevent the occurrence of fires, extinguish fires and rescue people, property and values threatened by fires, natural disasters and other catastrophes.



## Bodies of the FPUM:

- Steering Comity
- Supervisory Board
- Statutory Board
- Assembly, etc.

## Structure of the FPUM





# The FPU of Macedonia, RFPU and VFPS takes preventive, presupresiv and suppressive activities in the field of fire protection.

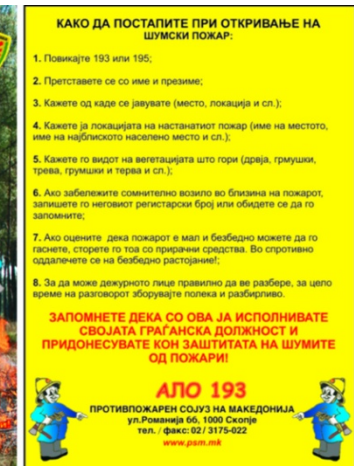
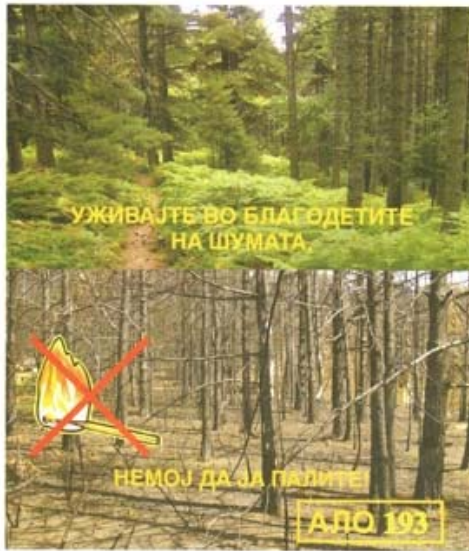
As examples of preventive measures may be indicated:

- Organizing Fire Protection Quiz (for population from 7-18 years old), on local, regional and state level. Each year, this includes about 30,000 young persons.





- Printing and distributing posters and leaflets for forest fire protection (over 40,000 posters and leaflets each year)

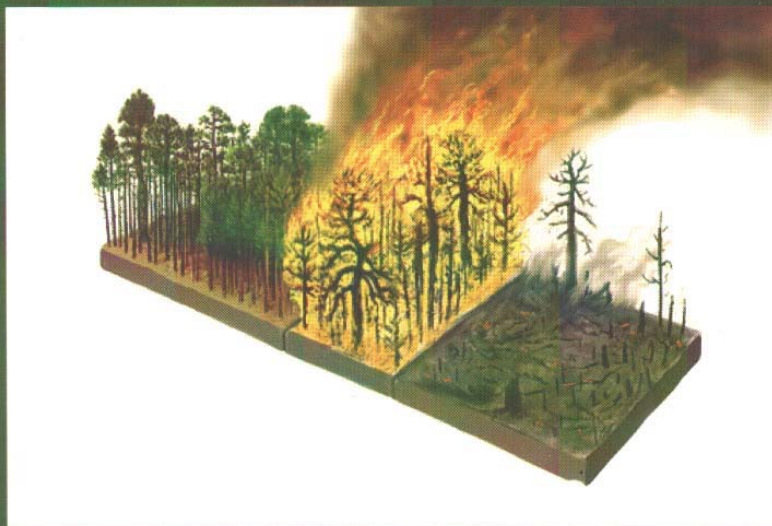




Противпожарен Сојуз на Македонија

Д-р Никола Николов

**ЗАШТИТА НА ШУМИ И ДРУГИ  
ОТВОРЕНИ ПРОСТОРИ ОД ПОЖАРИ**



Скопје, 2012



- Organizing public forums, workshops, seminars and so on.









- Organizing summer camps for young firefighters, etc.





As examples of preparatory measures may be indicated:  
- Forming of fire fighter's teams and their training









- Forming teams for early forest fires detection (patrols)





- Formation of teams to control fire protection measures taken at harvest and so on.





# Suppression















# LAW OF FIRE PROTECTION

*(Published in the “Official Gazzete of Republic of Macedonia” no. 67 from October 4, 2004 yr.)*

## Article 22

- (1)** In order to participate in extinguishing fires and rescuing people and property, volunteer fire protection societies can form volunteer fire units.
- (2)** The units referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article should have at least ten operational firefighters.
- (3)** The voluntary fire units, for extinguishing fires have fire-fighting equipment, facilities for fire fighting and personal protective equipment.
- (4)** Firefighters of voluntary fire units have uniform and symbols on the uniform.
- (5)** Fire Protection Union of Macedonia, after earlier opinion issued by the Directorate, with a separate act sets out the types and minimum amounts of fire-fighting equipment for volunteer fire units, their personal protective equipment, as well the type and appearance of the uniform and uniform markings.

## Article 23

(1) Operational firefighter in volunteering fire brigade can be a person who:

- Is aged between 18 and 65 years (men) or to 55 years (women)
- Is healthy and psychophysical capable for accomplishment fire suppression works
- Has completed a course for volunteer firefighter.

(2) The course for volunteer firefighter is conducted by the Fire Protection Union of Macedonia.

(3) The program for implementation of the course for volunteer firefighter brings the Fire Protection Union of Macedonia, after earlier opinion issued by the Directorate.



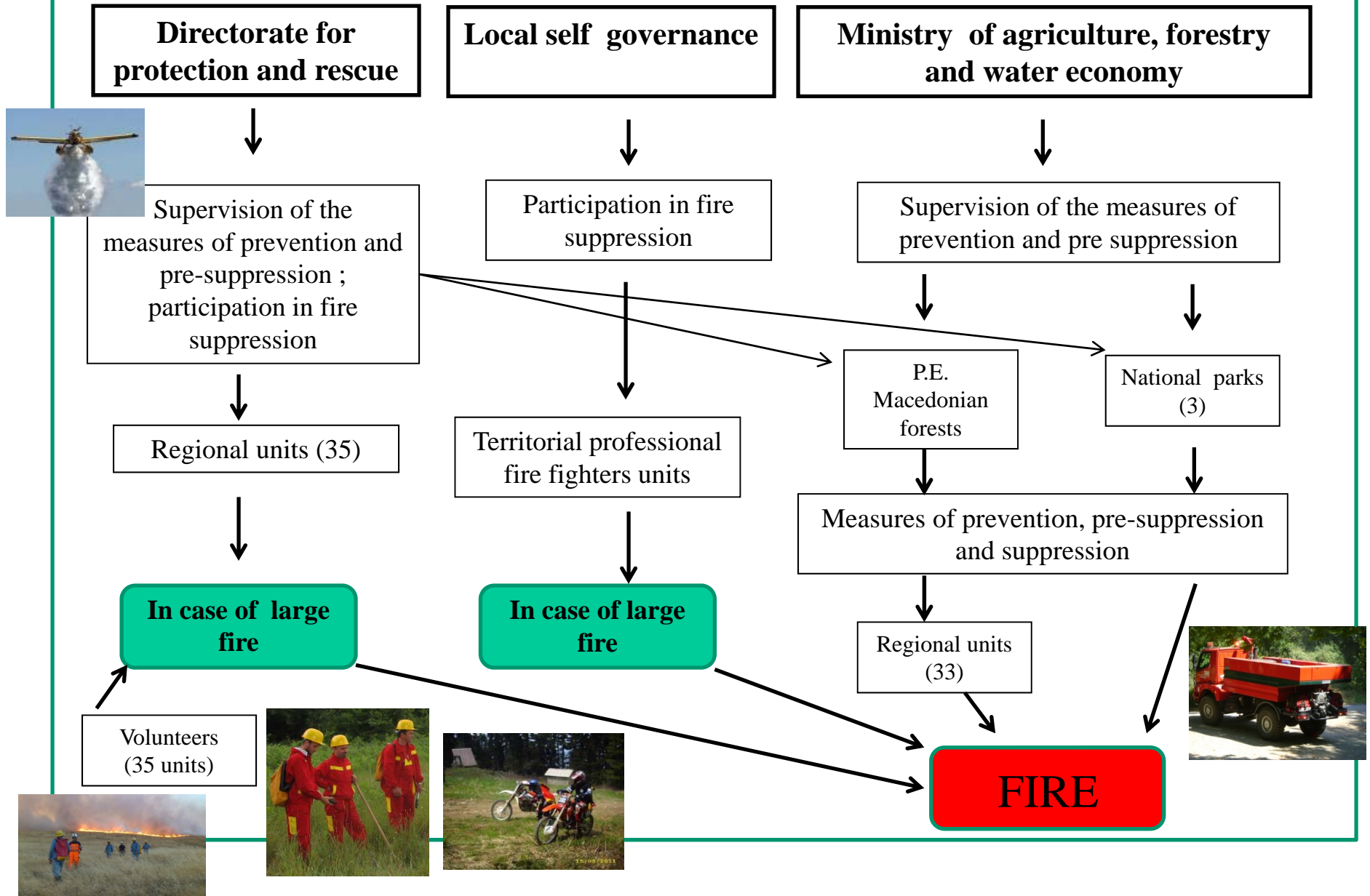
## Article 7

( 1 ) For the purpose of extinguishing fires in forests and other open spaces , in terms of increased risk of occurrence of such fires , at the request of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue , municipalities engage seasonal firefighters. Priority in engagement of seasonal firefighters have the firefighters from the volunteer units and societies who served at least two years.

( 2 ) Prior to the engagement , firefighters in paragraph ( 1 ) of this Article shall be obliged to perform training under a special program that brings Directorate.

( 4 ) The cost of engaged seasonal firefighters will be covered by the municipality of which are engaged .

# ORGANIZATION OF THE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION IN MACEDONIA





## Conclusions/Experiences

1. The volunteerism must be regulated by Law and be part of the system for fire protection.
2. The volunteerism can be a solution in regions where there is a lack of professional personnel.
3. The volunteers must be in full cooperation and coordination with the official institutions and organizations (the fire service and forestry in particular). *They must not act on their own hand!*
4. The volunteerism cover all aspects of the fire protection (prevention and suppression) and include all categories of citizens ( in terms of age, gender, religion, profession, etc.).

**Международный конгресс «Лесные пожары и изменение климата. Проблемы управления пожарами в природных и культурных ландшафтах Евразии»  
11.-12.11.2013 г. Новосибирск**

**Involvement of volunteer firefighters in enhancing wildfire preparedness and response capacities in Macedonia**

**Thank you for the attention!**

**Nikola Nikolov**

*President, Fire Protection Union of Macedonia*

