

## WHAT IS CAFS?

### **1. Why use compressed air foam instead of water?**

Compressed air foam dramatically expands the effectiveness of plain water. A 10:1 expansion ratio turns 100 gallons of water in 1000 gallons of fire-fighting foam. Foam is 20 times wetter than water, it insulates fuel twice as long and is up to 5 times more effective than water.

### **2. Who needs compressed air foam systems (CAFS)?**

Anyone who is at risk of fire damage can benefit from CAFS. Every business or construction site should have on-site fire suppression equipment. Subdivisions, farms, ranches, resorts and even entire communities should always have fire suppression and prevention equipment on their property.

### **3. How do the CAFS work?**

CAFS are powered by compressed air or nitrogen. Merely turn on the valve at the top of each air or nitrogen tank and the unit makes foam, automatically mixing water with just the right amount of foam concentrate and compressed nitrogen.

### **4. What kind of foam do the CAFS make?**

CAFS can make any type of commercially available foam commonly used for fire protection or fire fighting. Each type of foam has certain qualities that make it more or less appropriate for certain applications.

### **5. Are the foams biodegradable?**

Foams that are compatible with the CAFS are biodegradable and non-toxic.

### **6. Should I personally use the CAFS to fight the fire?**

We do not recommend that homeowners fight fires. Fighting fires is better left to the professional or volunteer firemen in your area who have had adequate training. However, the foam made by the CAFS can be used very effectively to fight fires. We recommend that all of our customers familiarize their local fire department with the operation of their CAFS so that trained firemen will be able to operate their system. We also urge those who are able, to join their local volunteer fire department and assist in their community's public safety needs.

### **7. When a wildfire is approaching my home when should I leave?**

You should leave the area for safer ground when you feel threatened by the fire, or when the fire authorities give the order to evacuate, whichever comes first. Be realistic about the threat that a fire poses; a wildfire moving through dry brush can move more quickly than you might imagine if it is fed by wind. Make sure that you don't wait too long, or you may find your escape route cut off. Then you endanger not only yourself, but also any fire fighters who might try to rescue you.