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WATERAX
MAGAZINE
Volume 4

125 years of
moving Water



On the road
with Watson



Wildland Fire
Pump Operations
MARK-3®
Watson Edition



4 125 Years of
Moving Water

6 WATSON QPL
Certification

8 On the Road
with Watson

16 WATERAX
Events

22 MARK-3® Watson
Edition vs MARK-3®
Portable High-Pressure
Fire Pump

24 Heart and
Soul of the MARK-3
Watson Edition Pump

26 Wildfire
News

28 Interview with
Wildland Fire
Micro-grant Winner

30 Basic wildland
pump operations
with the MARK-3®
Watson Edition

36 Meet the
Sales Team

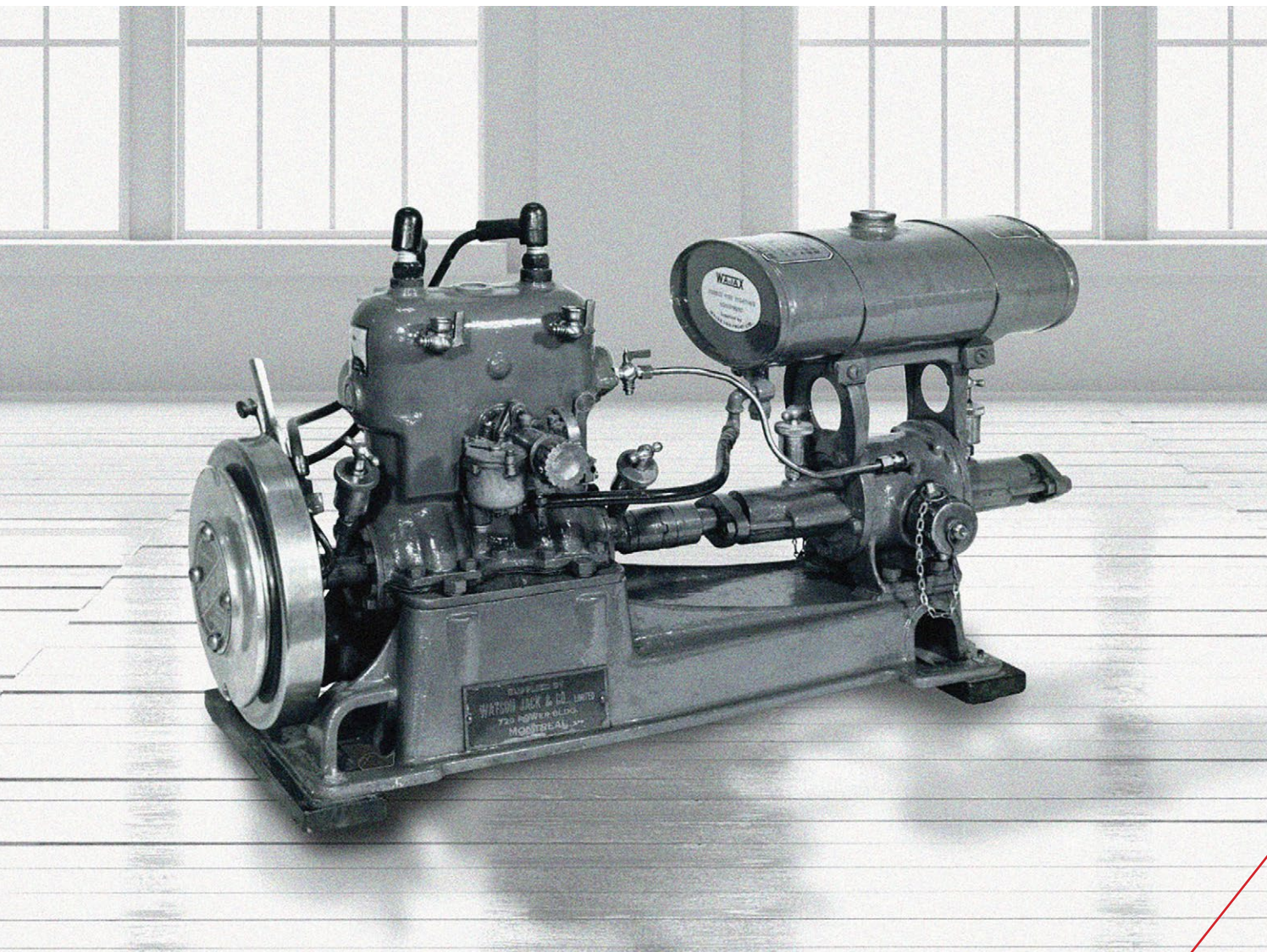
42 Ready for
Wildfires

44 WATERAX Joins
Madison Industries

46 Did you
know?

125 years of Moving Water

We are thrilled to announce that 2023 marks 125 years of Moving Water for WATERAX. Our journey started in 1898, and we are proud to continue serving the firefighting industry with innovative and reliable products.

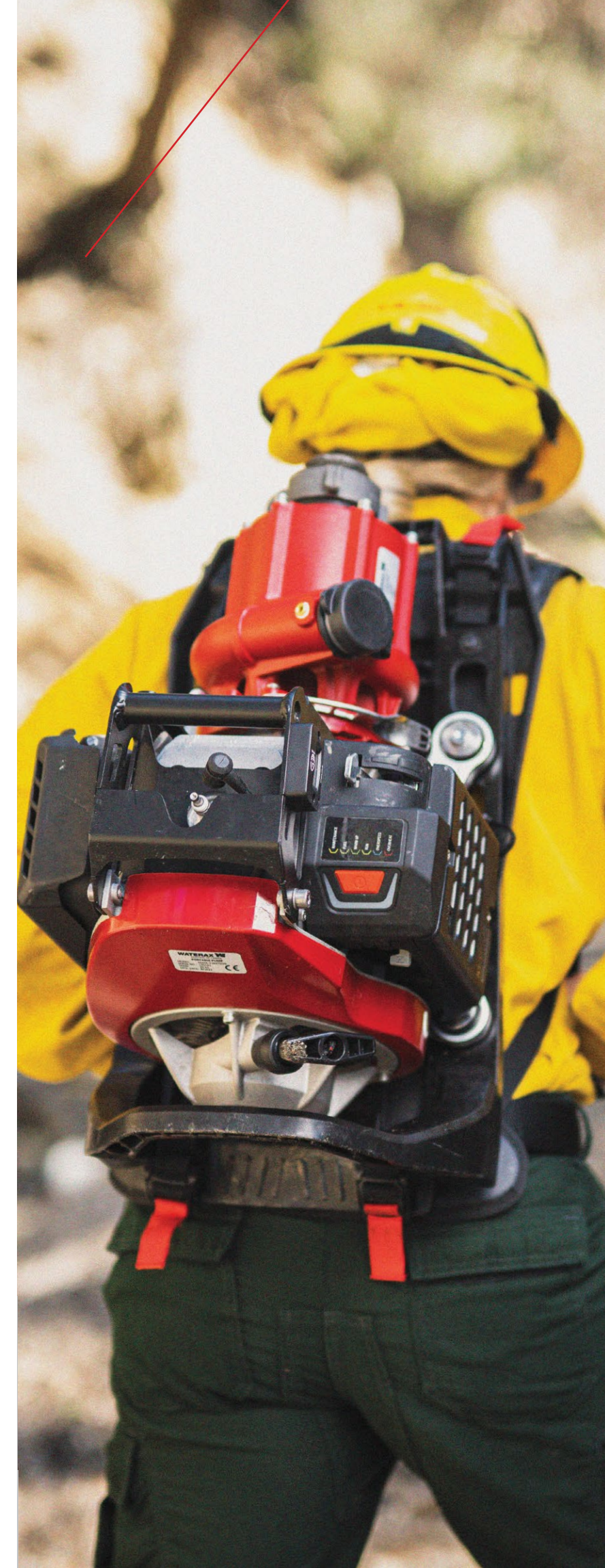


We take pride in our pump innovation journey that began with the WAJAX DDV and led to the new MARK-3® Watson Edition, which is named after our founder, John Colquhoun Watson Jack. This first ever purpose-built engine for wildland firefighting sets a new benchmark of excellence for high-pressure fire pumps and is the first of its kind in the industry.

The MARK-3® Watson Edition is designed to plug right into your existing MARK-3® water-moving systems, making it a seamless upgrade for firefighters. This pump is precision engineered to be lightweight, portable, and reliable, ensuring that it is always ready when needed to keep people safe and protect communities from the ravages of wildfires.

We are proud to continue our mission to place powerful and efficient pumps into the hands of wildland firefighters, and we remain committed to moving technology forward while maintaining our tradition of excellence.

We look forward to the next 125 years of Moving Water and working together to create a safer and more resilient world.





WATSON QPL Certification

We're happy to share the news that the MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump has been officially qualified after being tested in accordance with the USDA Forest Service Specification 5100-274E. The pump has passed the requirements of 5100-274E and the 100-hour endurance test in San Dimas, and is therefore qualified as of 08/04/23.

The assigned primary pump code is C-45-150/40. Alternate codings are C-45-175/40 and C-45-200/40. These pump codes will be indicated on the qualified products list (QPL).



On the road with Watson

Here are a few highlights from last summer, where we started delivering MARK-3® Watson Edition Units to agencies across Canada for more intensive testing, hoping to get over 100 hours of run time on each demo unit.

Ensuring the MARK-3 Watson Edition was ready to operate in the wildland fire environment required that we replicate those conditions as closely as possible. The final stages of our field testing took place in Maniwaki, QC, off the grid with our good friends at SOPFEU. Our goal was to accumulate as many hours as possible on the MARK-3 Watson Edition platform to address any last tweaks that needed to be made. This had us at times running 6 pumps at once in various configurations. These ranged from, single pump, tandem, and parallel while pumping from porta-tanks and natural water sources. This was the perfect way to prep for the larger deployment and a very memorable part of the journey to maturity for the MARK-3 Watson Edition.



Manitoba

During summer 2022 the new MARK-3® Watson Edition pump deployed on a fire in Manitoba. Zach our Account Manager and Mario our Regional Sales Manager for Canada even got a helicopter ride to the fire!

While in Manitoba, WATERAX was with our partner M&L Supply, Fire & Safety in Ingleside, ON, to try out their new powerful MARK-3® Watson Edition pump demo unit. Reach out to M&L Supply, Fire & Safety to request a demo and reserve your unit!

British Columbia

Deployment of the MARK-3 Watson Edition in BC where Silvie Fojtik one of the recipients of The Smokey Generation micro grants sponsored by WATERAX, snapped a few pictures of the crew with the new pump.

The goal of her project is to express her story through photography, she shares her photos with us to broaden the public's understanding and perception of wildfire.

Ontario

The new MARK-3® Watson Edition pump deployed in Ontario with OMNR. Zach our Account Manager and Mario our Sales Manager got to compare the MARK-3® 185cc and the MARK-3® Watson with the crew! We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to work with such valued partners during the deployment of the MARK-3 Watson Edition.

While we were in Ontario, we also made sure we stopped by to see 1200 Degrés, our Quebec Dealer to deliver a MARK-3® Watson Edition Demo unit, and we tried it with Nicolas Breton, their Quebec North East Sales Rep. Get in touch with 1200 Degrés to request a Demo in the Quebec area.



Salt Lake City

After a few stops in Canada during the summer, our team made their way to the United States for the CURTIS Salt Lake City Grand Opening where Gabriella Gerbasi, Director of Sales & Marketing and Zach Grigg, Account Manager from WATERAX showed the CURTIS team the new MARK-3® Watson Edition pumps! If you're on the West Coast, make sure you give them a call to place your orders!



Michigan

Then we were off to Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact in Traverse City Michigan with our partner Heiman Fire Equipment.



Edmonton

Canada in November 2022 to showcase the new MARK-3 Watson Edition Pump! Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth #WFCC2022

Wildland Fire Canada Conference (WFCC) brings together wildland fire management agencies, partners, and collaborators in Canada and around the world. These biennial conferences focus on wildland fire management, ecology, and science in Canada. Canada has a diversity of fire-prone environments that bring a unique perspective to wildland fire challenges and opportunities.



International

Mattia went to Interschutz in Hannover, Germany in June 2022. INTERSCHUTZ features eye-catching exhibitions and engaging forums on the many aspects of fire fighting, rescue services, civil protection and safety and security

South America Tour

After our North American stops, it was South America's turn to see the MARK-3® Watson Edition pump.

Mattia started his summer in Argentina at the Intersec conference. He had the opportunity to meet with Daniel Vicente, Director of the Consejo Nacional de Bomberos & President of the Bomberos Voluntarios de Lomas de Zamora. He has over 55 years of firefighting experience!!

We were with our partner in Argentina Metalurgica ARD S.A./ Representante Rosenbauer de Argentina

Mexico

He then made his way to Mexico...

He first stopped in Mexico City to meet the El Palacio Del Rescatista team. Then, presented the MARK-3 Watson Edition Pump in Guadalajara, Mexico at SEMADET with Miguel Valles Pérez (Director del Manejo del Fuego)

Mattia continued his road, introducing the new MARK-3 Watson Edition pump at the Protección Civil de Jalisco in Mexico. He ended the Mexico trip, presenting the new MARK-3 Watson Edition pump to the Conafor team in Guadalajara together with El Palacio Del Rescatista. We were also joined by Hadrián González Torres Attaché Commercial, Délégation Générale du Québec à Mexico.

Chile

We then went to Chile for Expocorma with our partner Foreservices.

Mattia then arrived in Santiago for the demo with CONAF (The National Forest Corporation or CONAF (Corporación Nacional Forestal))

30 MARK-3 Watson Edition pumps donated to Chile in March 2023

We received photos from Kim Connors, Executive Director at the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) who was in Chile in March for a meeting with CONAF in Santiago for the official hand off of CIFFC's donation to Chile of 30 MARK-3 Watson Edition pumps.



Next stop...



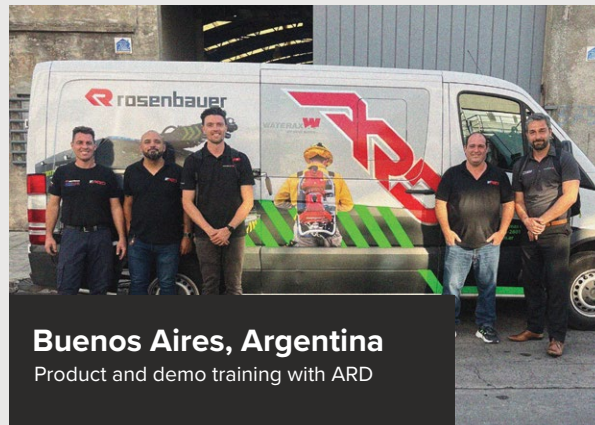
Cordoba, Argentina

ARD demo with Federacion de Bomberos Voluntarios de la Provincia de Cordoba



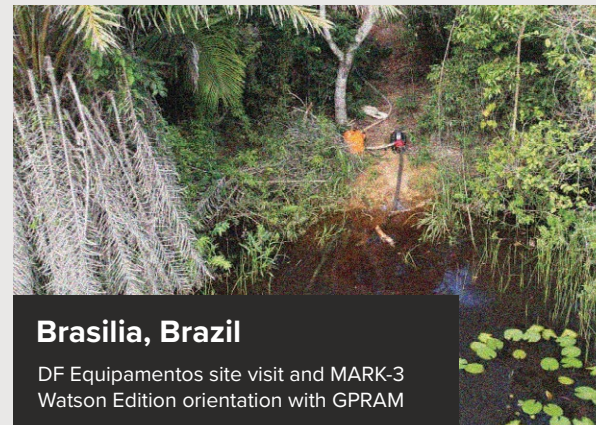
Santa Fe, Argentina

ARD demo with Bomberos Voluntarios de la Pcia, de Santa Fe



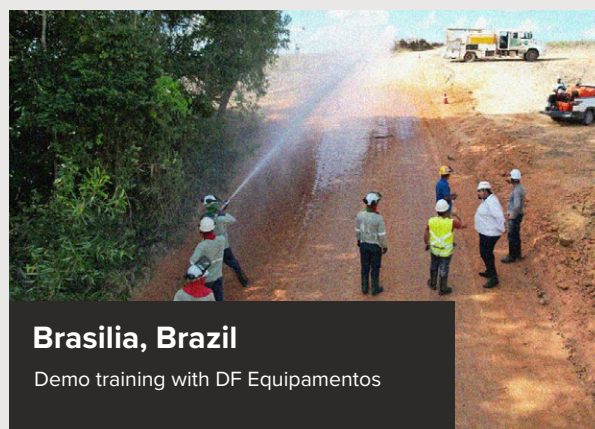
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Product and demo training with ARD



Brasilia, Brazil

DF Equipamentos site visit and MARK-3 Watson Edition orientation with GPRAM



Brasilia, Brazil

Demo training with DF Equipamentos

Costa Rica

Mattia, Export Sales Manager and Gabriella, Director of Sales & Marketing spent the day with INVOTOR S.A. team and Luis Diego & Oscar from Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC) to show them the new MARK-3 Watson Edition.

The first MARK-3 Watson Edition to arrive in Central America touched down in Costa Rica. #WATERAX hosted a demo with the team from INVOTOR S.A. and the bomberos from Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC). Every single firefighter present had the opportunity to start the pump and had nothing but great comments about the new pump.



Events

2023 started with the North East Forest Fire Protection Compact Conference in Portland, Maine #WATERAX with our partner Heiman Fire Equipment

Just before the Wildland Urban Interface Conference, Zach and Marcello were with Chris Mackey from CURTIS to visit the Department of Natural Resources in Washington for a Watson Demo. Take a look at these pictures to see people's reaction to the new MARK-3® Watson Edition pump.

They also went to the Idaho Department of Lands in Boise with David Lindley from Curtis - Tools for Heroes for a Watson Demo.



Wildland Urban Interface Conference, Reno, NV

Then Gabriella Gerbasi, Director of Sales & Marketing, Marcello Iacovella, VP Business Development and Zach Grigg, Account Manager, made their way to Reno, Nevada to support and network with our channel partners exhibiting at the Wildland Urban Interface Conference.

WATERAX's wildland partners were at this year's Wildland Urban Interface Conference, March 28 to 30, in Reno, Nevada. The event is the premier gathering for firefighters and industry and community members to explore issues centered on the minimization and management of wildfire threat to the WUI. It's where all the latest on Fire Adapted Communities, operations and suppression, and wildland fire policy and tools are discussed in interactive sessions and skills are acquired in hands-on training.

A.S. Roach Fire Services Ltd

A.S. Roach Fire Services manufactures and provides WUI fire protection equipment, Sprinkler Trailers (SPU), and the Elevated Sprinkler Mount system. Stop by their booth to see their trailer with a BB-4® and STRIKER-3 High-Pressure pumps.



Curtis

CURTIS is on a mission to help wildland firefighters perform their duties effectively and safely. They will be showcasing the MARK-3® high-pressure pump, MINI-STRIKER® lightweight high-pressure pump and MARK-3® Watson Edition high-pressure pump.

Flash Fire Safety

Flash Fire makes custom built apparatus and has all the fire safety equipment you need. He always has WATERAX pumps in stock and will be featuring the RANCHER featuring the MINI-STRIKER® Pump at WUI Conference.



QTAC Fire

QTAC fire and rescue products -- specializes in the design and fabrication of vehicle-based emergency response equipment and mobile spray systems. Through ethical business practices and innovative, efficient manufacturing processes, we provide fire service personnel and private enterprise with value-driven products that have life-saving implications. Their firefighting UTV / ATV skids feature our VERSAX® multipurpose pump.



FDIC

Show season was in full swing with FDIC International just a few weeks later in Indianapolis.

WATERAX was at FDIC International, bringing together fire & rescue professionals from around the world for learning in workshops and seminars, Hands On Training (H.O.T.), developing lasting friendships, business networking, and feeling part of a proud, vibrant international firefighting community.

For our part, we were showcasing our recently launched MARK-3® Watson Edition pump, the extreme lightweight, high-pressure fire pump that's the latest innovation in the long history of the trusted MARK-3®.



WASP Manufacturing

Wasp, which makes equipment specific to structure protection, will be exhibiting a Type 2 Sprinkler Protection Trailer equipped with 6 MARK-3® high-pressure pumps in the main exhibit hall. It will also be offering special prices on its patented Wasp Gutter Mount Sprinkler Bracket.



Raffaele Gerbasi, President at #WATERAX with Robin and Jose Luis from @_foreservices our partner in Chile at #FDIC2023



Gabriella Gerbasi, Director of Sales & Marketing at WATERAX with Tyler, Kiela and Nick from Heiman Fire Equipment, our partner based in Sioux Falls, SD.



Marcello, VP Business Development at #WATERAX with Aldo and Fernando from @metalurgica_ard our partner in Argentina



The WATERAX team is very grateful to have received this recognition award in honor of our partnership with Curtis - Tools for Heroes.

Thank you Angela, Paul, Roger, Jeff and Erik for stopping by our booth in person. Here's to many more years of success and partnership to help firefighters move water when they need it the most!

THE E-PRO REVOLUTION STARTS NOW.

Another highlight was our partner QTAC Fire who was featuring the only electric skid of its kind. The QTAC Tsunami E-Pro offers performance equal to or better than its gasoline-powered equivalent. With virtually zero maintenance to perform and no flammable fuel, the quick-starting, electric engine allows firefighters to get to work quickly, instantly moving water through the unit via an electrified 230-psi high-pressure #WATERAX STRIKER II pump.

The move to electrify fire apparatus is becoming a necessary step in complying with government regulations and meeting the evolving needs of the firefighting industry. As the trend towards electrification continues to grow, QTAC is leading the charge with the first-ever portable electric firefighting skid. No fuel to contend with. Virtually zero maintenance. Quick-starting and ready to get water on the flames in an instant.

Learn more at <https://www.qtacfire.com/e-pro>

BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in Vancouver at the Wall Center.

In May 2023, Mario Janson, Regional Sales Manager for Canada at #WATERAX was presenting the new MARK-3® Watson Edition at the BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in Vancouver.

Then we hosted a demo at the North Vancouver Training Center to invite the Wildfire Resiliency Summit attendees to try the MARK-3® Watson Edition with our partner WASP Wildfire.



IWFC

WATERAX was at the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference. Team members Marcello Iavocella, VP Business Development, Frédéric Lefrançois, VP Product Development and Anthony Trojko, Independent Field Specialist for Europe represented the company at the event.

Previous conferences helped organizations and professionals from more than 70 nations to develop a common fire lexicon, doctrines, training manuals, techniques, and operational standards. We excelled on preventing, detecting, and extinguishing wildland fires, mastering a portfolio of technological solutions.

In the last decade, extreme fire events destroyed lives, buildings and natural habitats, cornering and puzzling politicians, institutional leaderships, and professionals. In 2017, wildfires tragically challenged Portuguese society. Since then, all our efforts converged into integrated fire management this is no longer a niche or a subject for a few wildland firefighters or landscape planners.

It is all about reaching out to other communities of practice, economic sectors, and local and indigenous people. As fire management becomes a complex socio-ecological issue, it demands robust institutions, transparent and accountable procedures, and permanent communication with key stakeholders. It also demands a balanced budget between fuel treatment and suppression, in a set of cohesive policies. This means dismantling a culture of silos, promoting interdepartmental dialogue, avoiding unintended consequences of cross cutting public policies (agriculture, forestry, energy, development, environment, fiscal and others). In Portugal, we are also aiming at engaging different audiences, at different geographies and levels of authority and have their commitment, prevailing in time.

MARK-3[®] WATSON EDITION

VS

MARK-3[®] PORTABLE HIGH-PRESSURE FIRE PUMP

We get a lot of questions on how the new MARK-3[®] Watson Edition pump compares to the MARK-3[®] 18c pump. We've made it easy by creating this side by side comparison.

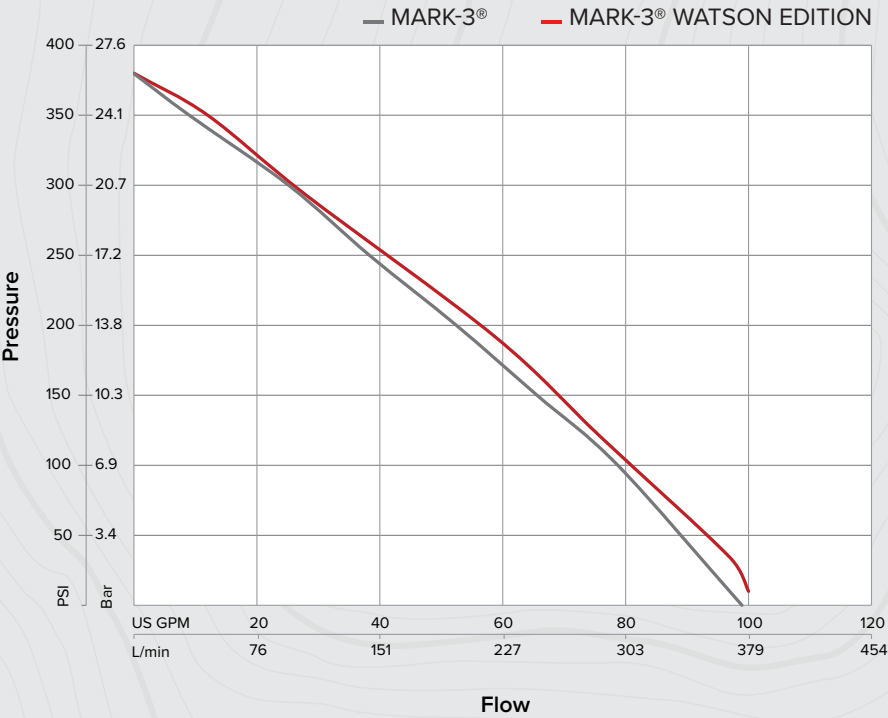
MARK-3 [®]				
Flow			Pressure	
US GPM	L/min		PSI	Bar
78	295	@	100	6.9
65	246	@	150	10.3
38	144	@	250	17.2

Max Head 877' (267 m)
Max Pressure 380 PSI (26.2 Bar)
Max Flow 98 US gals/min (371 L/min)

MARK-3 [®] WATSON EDITION				
Flow			Pressure	
US GPM	L/min		PSI	Bar
80	303	@	100	6.9
70	265	@	150	10.3
40	151	@	250	17.2

Max Head 877' (267 m)
Max Pressure 380 PSI (26.2 Bar)
Max Flow 100 US gals/min (379 L/min)

PERFORMANCE



A MODERN PUMP
FOR THE MODERN
FIREFIGHTER

MARK-3[®]



12"
307 mm



23"
580 mm

16.25"
410 mm

• Weight: 58.3 Lbs (26.4 kg)

MARK-3[®] Watson Edition



12"
305 mm



21.6"
549 mm

14.6"
371 mm

• Weight: 44 lbs (20 kg)

The Heart and Soul of the MARK-3 Watson Edition Pump



Reliability Under Fire

When the call comes in and firefighters rush to contain a raging wildfire, they depend on their equipment to deliver without fail. The WATERAX engine in the MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump is earning its reputation for unwavering reliability just like its predecessor. Its air-cooled design ensures consistent performance in the most extreme conditions, from scorching desert heat to frigid alpine environments.

Wildland firefighters know that every moment counts, and the robust Nikasil cylinder of the WATERAX engine provides not just power but also the durability needed to stand up to the rigors of the job. With a track record of dependability, this pump has proven time and again that it can be counted on when it matters most.

Power to Tame the Inferno

Wildfires can be relentless, often sweeping across vast landscapes with an intensity that defies imagination. To combat these formidable foes, firefighters need power, and the WATERAX engine delivers. With a maximum power output of 10.7 hp at 8,000 RPM, it provides the muscle required to drive the MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump and deliver water where it's needed most. This power ensures that firefighters have the means to control the fire's advance, protecting lives, property, and precious natural resources.

In the world of wildland firefighting, the tools of the trade must be reliable, efficient, and powerful. Firefighters battling nature's fury need equipment they can count on when the heat is on, and one such tool that has stood the test of time is the MARK-3® Pump. It is now time to take a look at the heart and soul of the pump of the future, the MARK-3® Watson Edition, inside this indispensable firefighting companion lies a powerhouse of an engine - the WATERAX 140cc, 2-cycle, air-cooled, Nikasil cylinder engine, boasting a maximum power of 10.7 hp (8 kW) @ 8,000 RPM and a maximum torque of 7.6 lb-ft (10 Nm) @ 7,050 RPM.

The success of any firefighting operation hinges on the reliability and performance of the equipment firefighters deploy. In the challenging and unpredictable world of wildland firefighting, where lives and ecosystems are at stake, there is simply no room for error. It is here that the MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump, powered by the WATERAX engine, rises to the occasion as the beating heart of the firefighting arsenal.

ENGINE

MODEL AND TYPE	WATERAX 140cc, 2-cycle, air-cooled, Nikasil cylinder
MAXIMUM POWER	10.7 hp (8 kW) @ 8,000 RPM
MAXIMUM TORQUE	7.6 lb-ft (10 Nm) @ 7,050 RPM
STARTING SYSTEM	Recoil starter with backup manual rope starter

Reducing Environmental Impact

In an era where environmental concerns are paramount, the 2-cycle engine in the MARK-3 Watson Edition Pump showcases WATERAX's commitment to minimizing its environmental footprint. By efficiently burning fuel, this engine not only reduces emissions but also extends the time between refueling, allowing firefighters to focus on the task at hand rather than frequent refueling stops.

Precision and Performance

While power is crucial, precision is equally important in firefighting operations. The MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump's WATERAX engine is finely tuned to deliver consistent performance, thanks to its 2-cycle design and carefully engineered components. This level of precision ensures that water is delivered with the right pressure and flow rate, allowing firefighters to optimize their efforts and maximize their effectiveness.

In conclusion, the WATERAX 140cc, 2-cycle, air-cooled, Nikasil cylinder engine at the heart of the MARK-3® Watson Edition Pump is truly the soul of wildland firefighting. It embodies reliability, power, precision, and a commitment to sustainability, making it an essential tool for those on the front lines of wildfire suppression. As long as there are wildfires to battle, the MARK-3® will continue to serve as a symbol of strength and hope for firefighters worldwide, a testament to human ingenuity and determination in the face of nature's fury.

Wildfire News

Worldwide

In 2023, the world has witnessed a significant increase in wildfires, and many regions have been affected by extreme heat waves. Several countries, including Turkey, Spain, Croatia, Canada, the United States, and Argentina, have been grappling with forest fires. The extent of the wildfires has posed significant challenges for firefighting efforts and has resulted in the destruction of vast areas of forestland. The occurrence of these wildfires underscores the urgent need for global attention and collaborative measures to address climate change and mitigate the risks associated with extreme weather events.

Help from South Korea

A group of 150 firefighters from South Korea arrived in Maniwaki, Quebec, to assist in combating the forest fires in the region. The firefighters underwent training to acquaint themselves with the Canadian environment and utilized WATERAX pumps. Their presence and preparedness will contribute to the ongoing efforts to control and extinguish the wildfires in Quebec.

Source : LaPresse (July 5th 2023) En pays ami pour combattre l'ennemi.



SOPFEU AHN Hanbyul, Deputy Director, Korea Disaster Relief Team, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ysabelle Fiset, Coordonnatrice à la formation

Training forest firefighters

During the month of June, a significant number of individuals generously volunteered to undergo SOPFEU training to become forest firefighters. It is worth noting that many of these brave individuals have personal connections, with their families directly impacted by the ongoing wildland fires. The training efforts have been fruitful, with over 400 people successfully completing the program to join the ranks of forest fire fighters, bolstering the response capabilities in tackling these fires.

ICI Québec (6 juin 2023) Former beaucoup de pompiers rapidement pour combattre les feux de forêt.

Wildfire records in Canada

This summer, the wildfires in Canada have shattered previous records in terms of the vast expanse of land consumed, the magnitude of evacuations undertaken, and the substantial costs incurred as a result of these forest fires. The convergence of warm weather and frequent lightning strikes in North America has created an ideal environment for the outbreak of wildland fires. To date, an alarming total of 3,412 fires have been documented across Canada this season, highlighting the severity and scale of the situation.

Source: AP News. (July 6, 2023). Wildfires in Canada have broken records for area burned, evacuations and cost, official says. <https://apnews.com/article/canada-wildfires-record-health-united-states-9afe003ba12d7c135adcc4d5308c5ac>

Red sun and poor air quality

During June 2023, a haze over parts of the northeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S. and a red sun have been observed as wildfires occur in the Northern Hemisphere.

Wildfires are a significant factor contributing to poor air quality and the occurrence of the red sun phenomenon. These pollutants can have adverse effects on human health, especially when inhaled over an extended period. Smoke plumes can travel long distances, affecting regions hundreds or even thousands of miles away. This can result in widespread haze, reduced visibility, and the red sun phenomenon.

Source : Skyler Caruso. (2023/06/06). Why Is the Sun Red? All About the Air Quality Index and What It Means for Your Health. People. <https://people.com/red-sun-air-quality-index-everything-to-know-7508689>

Interview with Wildland Fire Digital Storytelling Micro-Grant Winner Lucy Grainger

Biography

A born and raised British Colombian, Lucy Grainger grew up on Secwepemc territory in Salmon Arm, BC. In the winters, she moves around this province, making odd and useful crafts, finding warmer places to climb, and learning how to stay upright on two planks. This summer will see her returning for an eighth season of firefighting with the BC Wildfire Service.

Project Vision:

After two of the most destructive fire seasons in BC history, the long summers are visibly taking a toll on firefighters. I wanted to focus on the importance of mental health on the fireline by interviewing and photographing the same wildfire fighters at multiple points throughout the summer. I will display the portraits of each individual chronologically to highlight the physical changes that have appeared over the time spent firefighting. BC Wildfire has begun to advocate for the mental health of its workers and this project intends to support their work by bringing the discussion of mental health into the hands of the people on the ground.

Favorite thing about wildland firefighting:

When I think about wildland firefighting, I think about the time spent around meals at the end of the night. We often end up sitting on the ground, circled up. Sometimes everyone is exhausted, and it is comfortably and sleepily quiet. Other times, people tell stories, laugh, commend that night's chef on a mean dehydrated meal, and stay up later than we should. And even though we are sitting in the dirt in the middle of nowhere, sooty, sweaty and worn out, it's okay because our bellies are full, the sleeping bags are waiting, and things are good.



Q. You were one of the winners of the Wildland Fire Digital Storytelling Micro-grant cycle which is part of the Smokey Generation wildland fire oral history project. Can you tell us about your storytelling project?

A. After two of the most destructive fire seasons in British Columbia history, the long summers are visibly taking a toll on firefighters. With this project, I wanted to focus on the importance of mental health on the fireline by interviewing and photographing the same wildfire fighters throughout the summer. I displayed the before and after portraits of each firefighter to highlight the physical changes that appeared over their time spent firefighting. The photographs were paired with the firefighters' responses to the question "how are you feeling?" BC Wildfire has begun to advocate for the mental health of its workers and this project intended to support their work by bringing the discussion of mental health into the hands of the people with their feet on the ground.

Q. What's your background in storytelling and creative work (e.g. writing, photography, videography, etc.)?

A. How I perceive the world has always been through the stories that I am hearing or telling. The first time my sister and I ate a pomegranate, my mom picked a book of Greek myths and read us the story of Persephone. Reading is still a certain kind of magic. I owe much to the authors who populate my bookshelves. I picked up a camera early on and took too many photos of the dog. I spent my undergraduate degree studying the connection between children's books and our sense of belonging in the world. Thomas King, an American-Canadian writer, said, "The truth about stories is, that's all we are." I couldn't agree more.

Q. How did you get into firefighting? What was the attraction for you?

A. In grade 4, my gymnastics team challenged the local wildfire crew to a competition of strength, agility, and flexibility. Unsurprisingly, the team of nine-year-old girls absolutely crushed the then firefighters (gymnasts are beasts). A decade later, I was excited to start working for the same crew (with some of the same people...)!

Q. Have you ever used a MARK-3® pump? If so, do you have a MARK-3® story while working as a wildland firefighter?

A. Of course I've used a MARK-3 pump! They scared the bejesus out of me when I first started. Since my rappel crew is weight-restricted, we tend to use much smaller and less powerful pumps, so it is always a treat when we get to fire up and use the bark-splintering pressure of a MARK-3.

Q. For you, how do firefighting and creative work fit together?

A. I think firefighting is an overlooked kind of creative work. The best firefighters I know are the ones who are curious, excited about challenges, brave enough to experiment, and courageous enough to learn from their mistakes. We know what our end goal should look like (generally it involves extinguishing a fire), but to get there it takes the cohesion of a team, a bit of MacGyver-ing, and a whole lot of creative thinking.

Q. When you were a kid, did you ever dream you'd be fighting fires and be a creative?

A. When I was a kid, I didn't want to be a firefighter. I wanted to draw giraffes professionally. So, the creative aspect was always there, I just didn't expect to now be drawing giraffes and digging guard.

Q. If you had to pick one "lasting message", what would you like people to remember from your project?

A. Sometimes having conversations about mental health can feel scary. But if you create a space for people and you listen, people will open up and talk. It is that easy. It shouldn't surprise me anymore, but I am still awed anytime someone chooses to step up and trust.

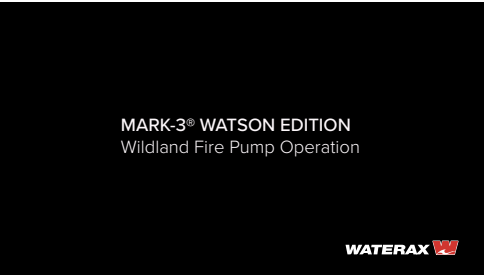


Basic wildland pump operations with the MARK-3® Watson Edition

Even though the MARK-3® has been around since the 1960s, there are quite a few differences.

Here's a recap and a step-by-step guide of basic wildland pump operations with the MARK-3® Watson Edition.

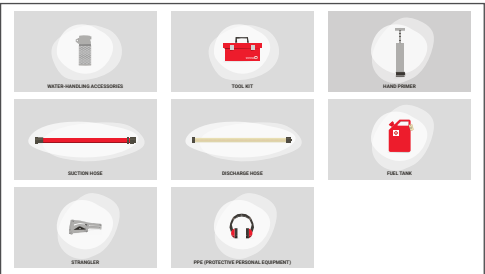
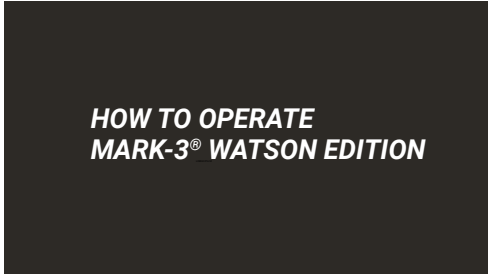
*please note these are the manufacturer's recommendations to prolong the life of the unit, always follow the safety protocols and guidelines of your respective agency.



Here are basic operations and pump setup for the MARK-3 Watson edition.



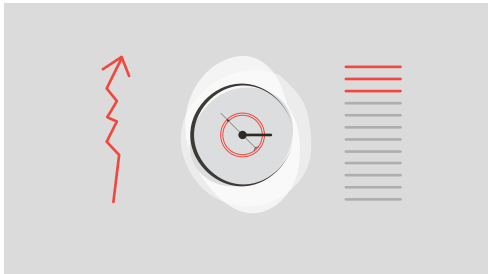
The first step is to find a nice, safe and open pump site located near a water source.



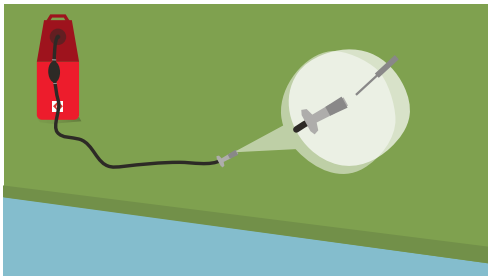
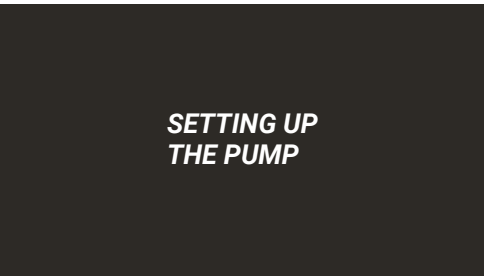
In order to operate the MARK-3® Watson Edition pump, the required tools are: toolkit, water-handling accessories, hand primer, suction hose, discharge hoses, fuel tank, strangler, and recommended PPE.



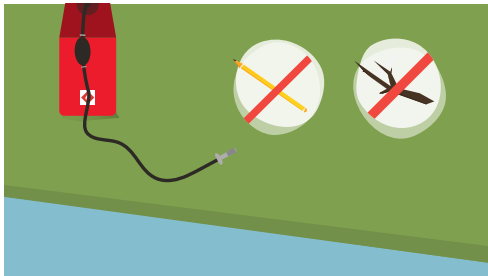
WATERAX suggests a fuel mixture ratio of 50:1 using synthetic oil.



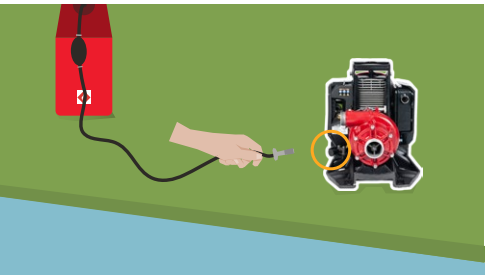
Note that the fuel consumption will change based on the elevation, the barometric pressure and throttle position.



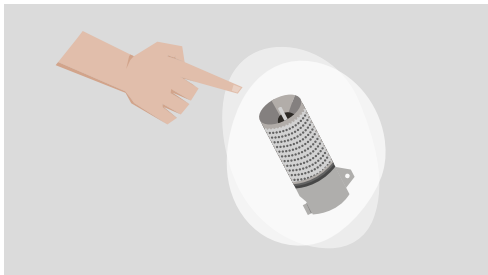
Using a tool like the spark plug wrench rod to push in the ball bearing in the fuel quick connect will allow the air to be purged from the fuel line.



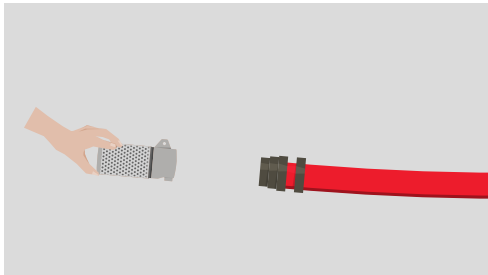
Using objects like twigs or pencils can cause pieces to break and jam the quick connect ball valve.



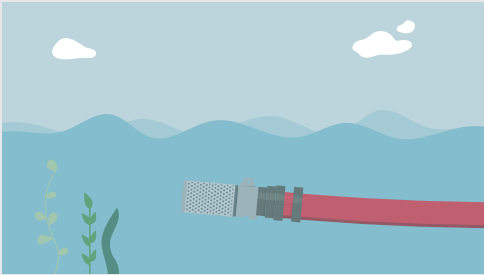
Firmly press fuel line connection onto the pump fuel connection and twist to lock in place.



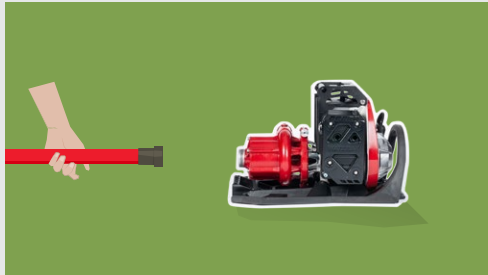
Check to see if the foot valve is working correctly by pressing on the spring-loaded valve located at the bottom.



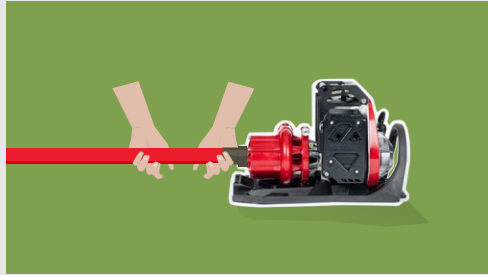
Ensure that the foot valve is firmly attached to the suction hose. It should be hand tight.



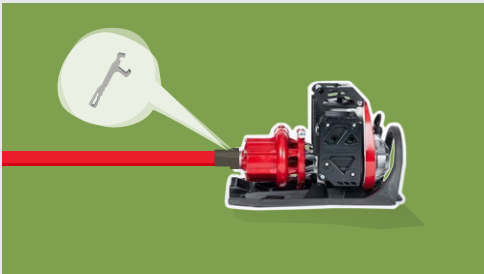
Speed up pump end priming by submerging the suction hose in the water before attaching to pump intake.



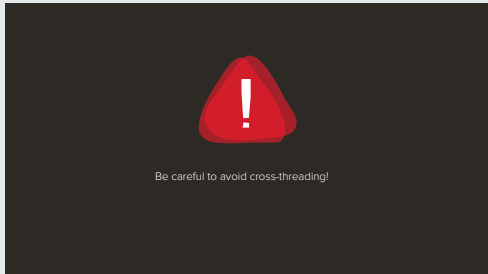
Use one hand to keep the suction hose level and straight to take pressure off the threads.



Use the other hand to attach the end of the suction hose to the pump intake. Hand-tighten as much as possible.



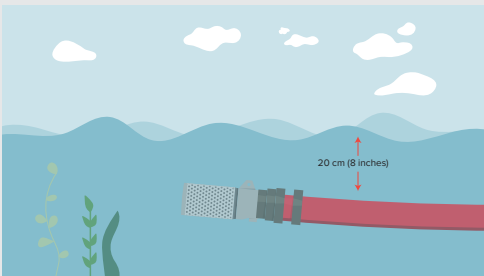
Finish tightening with the hose wrench to prevent any air leaks.



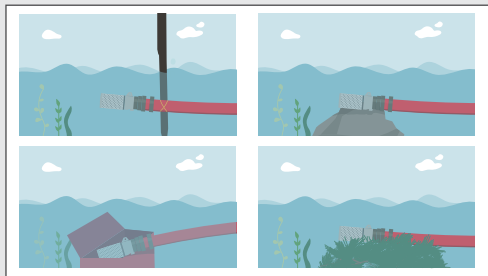
Cross threading can damage the connection and create air leaks that can lead to air locks and potential pump end seizure.



WATERAX recommends the use of a thread protector. It is important to have an airtight connection.



Allowing at least 20 cm (8 inches) of water above the foot valve will stop any air from being sucked into the pump end.



Suspend the foot valve off the bottom if sand, gravel, mud or other material could be drawn into the pump. You can place it on a rock, in a submerged tool box, make sure to keep tools together in a safe place to prevent loss, you can also tie it to a stake or shovel, place it on spruce or pine boughs, or tie it to a float.



Priming the pump end can be done by either agitating the foot valve or by using a hand primer.



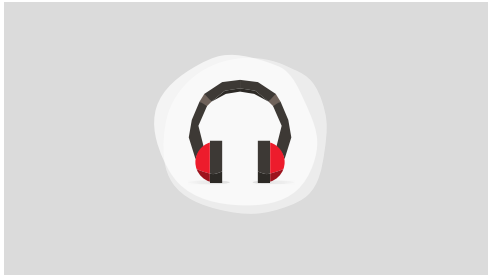
Keep priming until either there is water coming out of the discharge or out of the spout on the hand primer.



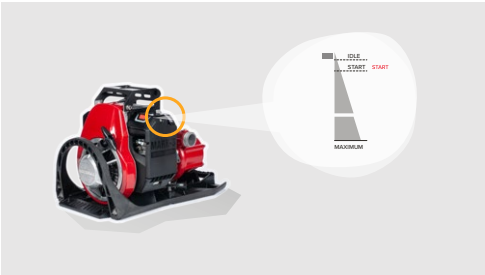
Attach the discharge hose. Once again, it is important to have an airtight connection.



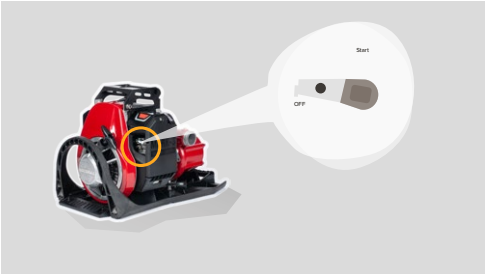
Now that your pump is set, it's time to fire it up!



Hearing protection is recommended when operating the MARK-3 Watson Edition.



Set the throttle to the "Start" position.



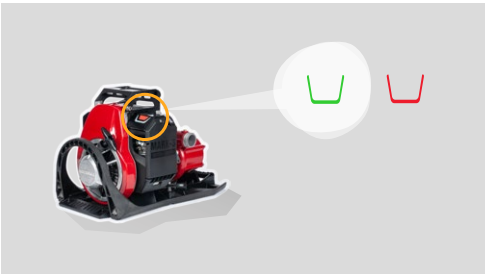
Set the choke to the "Start" position. If the engine fires but does not continue running, turn the choke to the "off" position.



Find a comfortable/firm grip on the pull start handle, but don't wrap it around your hand.



Placing your other hand on the handle and your foot on the frame foothold will provide stability while pull starting.



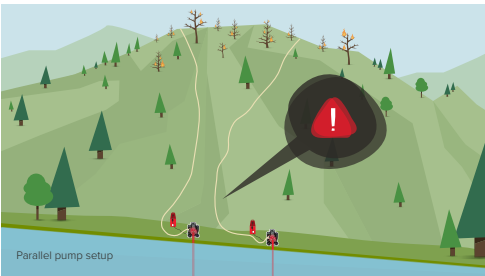
The LED light will stop flashing and change to solid green once the pump has warmed up sufficiently and is ready to be throttled up.



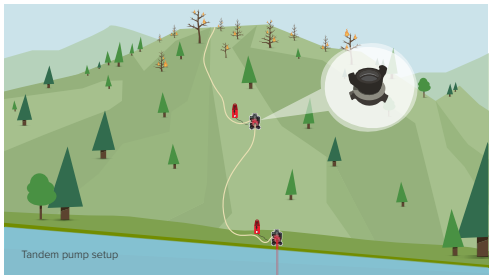
Here are pump layouts commonly used in the field.



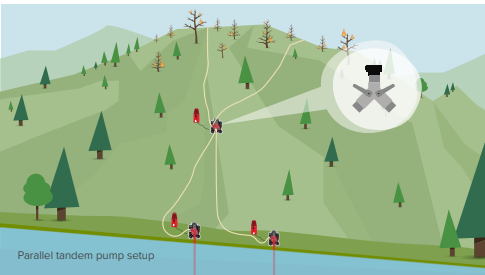
A Wye can be used with a single pump set up to provide water to two discharge hoses.



Running parallel hose lays provides reliability, more volume and allows the use of two water sources. Parallel pumps connecting to a single hose line is less efficient because of increased friction loss.



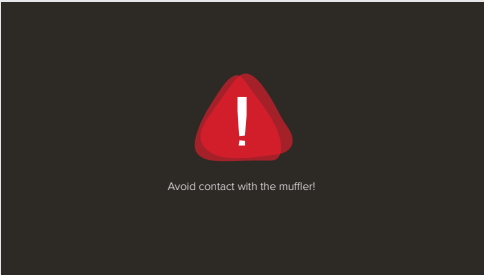
A tandem setup can be introduced to overcome elevation and distance when effective working pressure cannot be achieved.



In this case, use a tandem adaptor.



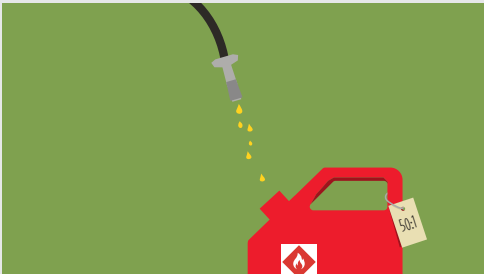
To prolong the life of the engine, let the pump idle for at least 2 minutes before shutting it down.



Avoid contact with the muffler after operating the pump to avoid burns.



Drain the pump end after use. After pumping salty or brackish water, it is also important to flush the pump end with fresh water.



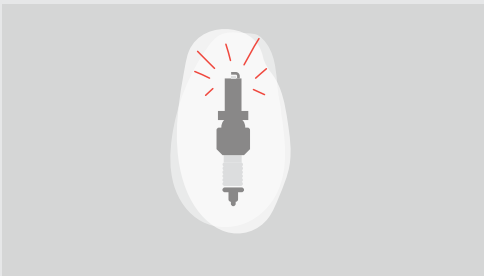
Drain the fuel line back into the fuel tank to avoid leaks during transport. Tighten the cap on the fuel tank to avoid spills during transport. Fasten protective caps on the discharge and intake ports.



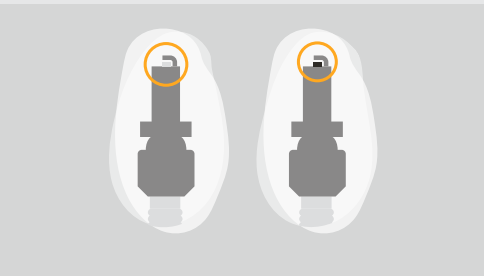
If the pump doesn't start or is running rough, check the following basic troubleshooting steps:



Ensure that the fuel line is clear of air bubbles or contamination.



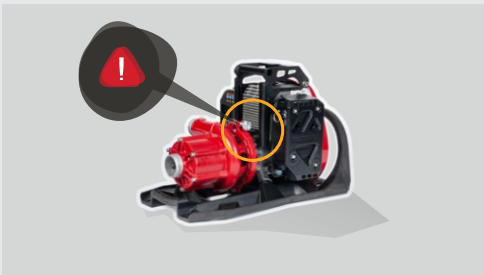
Make sure that there is a spark.



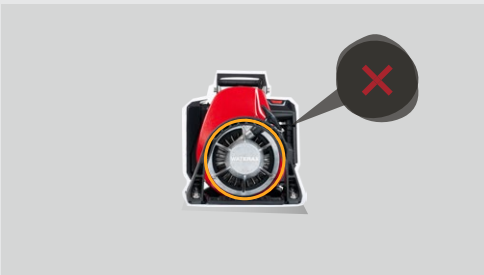
When checking the spark, make note of the colour of the spark plug. If the air-fuel mixture is too lean, the spark plug is white and if it's too rich, the spark plug is black.



Keeping a clean air filter will ensure good flow of oxygen into the carburettor.



Remove the pump end and inspect to ensure there is no blockage. When reattaching the pump end, use only finger pressure when securing the clamp.



If the recoil assembly becomes inoperable, remove the recoil starter to expose the manual start pulley. Next, it is important to rotate the fan shield and replace the 3 bolts to hold the fan shield and fan cowl in place.



Lastly, restore pump site to the way you found it. Collect and remove garbage and litter before leaving the site.



MEET THE SALES TEAM

MARCELLO IACOVELLA

VP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

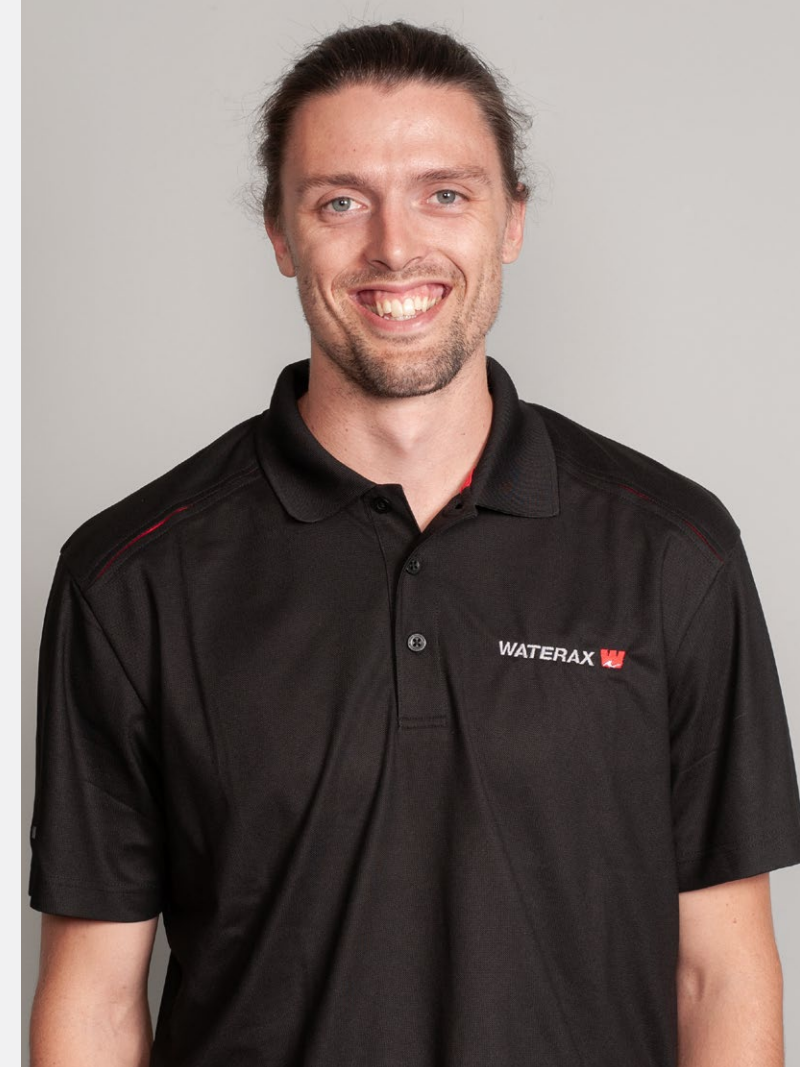
Marcello joined WAJAX Manufacturing, Fire Control Division in 1995 as an intern within the Sales & Finance department. His fluency in languages opened the door for a director position in International Sales, but he quickly proved his worth at the corporate level shepherding various acquisitions under the Tyco umbrella and taking the lead in a Management Buyout (MBO) of the Wildfire division (formerly WAJAX) in 2010. He holds a bachelor's degree in International Business and an EMBA from Concordia University's John Molson School of Business (JMSB). Now Marcello acts as a mentor and guide for the Sales Team in his role as Vice-President of Business Development at WATERAX.



ZACHARIE GRIGG

ACCOUNT MANAGER

A dedicated team player, Zach joined WATERAX in 2019 following 5 years fighting wildfires in British Columbia on the Sentinel Unit Crew. He brings hands-on experience operating the MARK-3® pump in the challenging, stressful and incredibly memorable situations that characterized his career combating wildland fires. Zach speaks to the durability and reliability of the MARK-3® and other WATERAX products from firsthand experience in BC and Alberta. From Product Specialist to Account Manager, Zach is here for continuous professional support and hands-on training for your staff and to help you learn about our products and the industry. Zach pitches in when you need extra hands at your booth, channel support, demos and much more!



GABRIELLA GERBASI

DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING

With over 8 years of experience in Sales & Marketing at #WATERAX, Gabriella has led the company through a complete rebrand, the launch of two corporate websites and a microsite for the MARK-3® Watson Edition, as well as the continued expansion of our social media platforms. As Director of Sales & Marketing, Gabriella's focus is to develop our networks of partners in the USA, in Canada and Internationally in both wildland and industrial markets as we roll out the next-gen MARK-3® Watson Edition. Her goal is to help our partners thrive by building a team to support each market and provide tools and resources to promote the WATERAX brand effectively.



MATTIA TASSINARI

EXPORT SALES MANAGER

Mattia has been with WATERAX for over 7 years with a focus on Export Sales. He has traveled around the world for WATERAX supporting and assisting our dealer network to grow and compete in their respective markets. He brings to the table years of customer service and sales experience and is fluent in multiple languages such as Spanish, Italian, French and English.

MARIO JANSON

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Mario has been with WATERAX for 8 years. Many of his past skills, like his experience as a Marine Engineering Technician on a River-class destroyer for the Royal Canadian Navy have helped him gain the trust of his customers and develop a strong Canadian distribution network for WATERAX manufactured products. His main goal is to help WATERAX channel partners with the introduction of the new MARK-3® Watson Edition in the Canadian market.



ANTHONY TROJKO

INDEPENDENT FIELD SPECIALIST, EUROPE

His experience as a Smokejumper in the Parattack program with the BC Wildfire Service showcases his skills in responding to remote wildland fires, controlling and extinguishing fires, and performing various crucial tasks like prescribed burns, tree falls, pump operations, and more. His ability to swiftly assess emergency situations and take appropriate actions has undoubtedly prepared him to excel in his new role with WATERAX. As a Field Specialist, he will play a vital role in the Sales & Marketing team by delivering training and support to our channel partners (dealers) across Europe, with a focus on introducing the MARK-3® Watson Edition pump. His firsthand knowledge and perspective as a wildland firefighter will enable him to demonstrate what sets WATERAX pumps apart from the competition. By leveraging his experience, he will effectively showcase the superior qualities of our products and position himself as a trusted field expert and brand ambassador.



STEFANIA ERCOLANO

INSIDE SALES

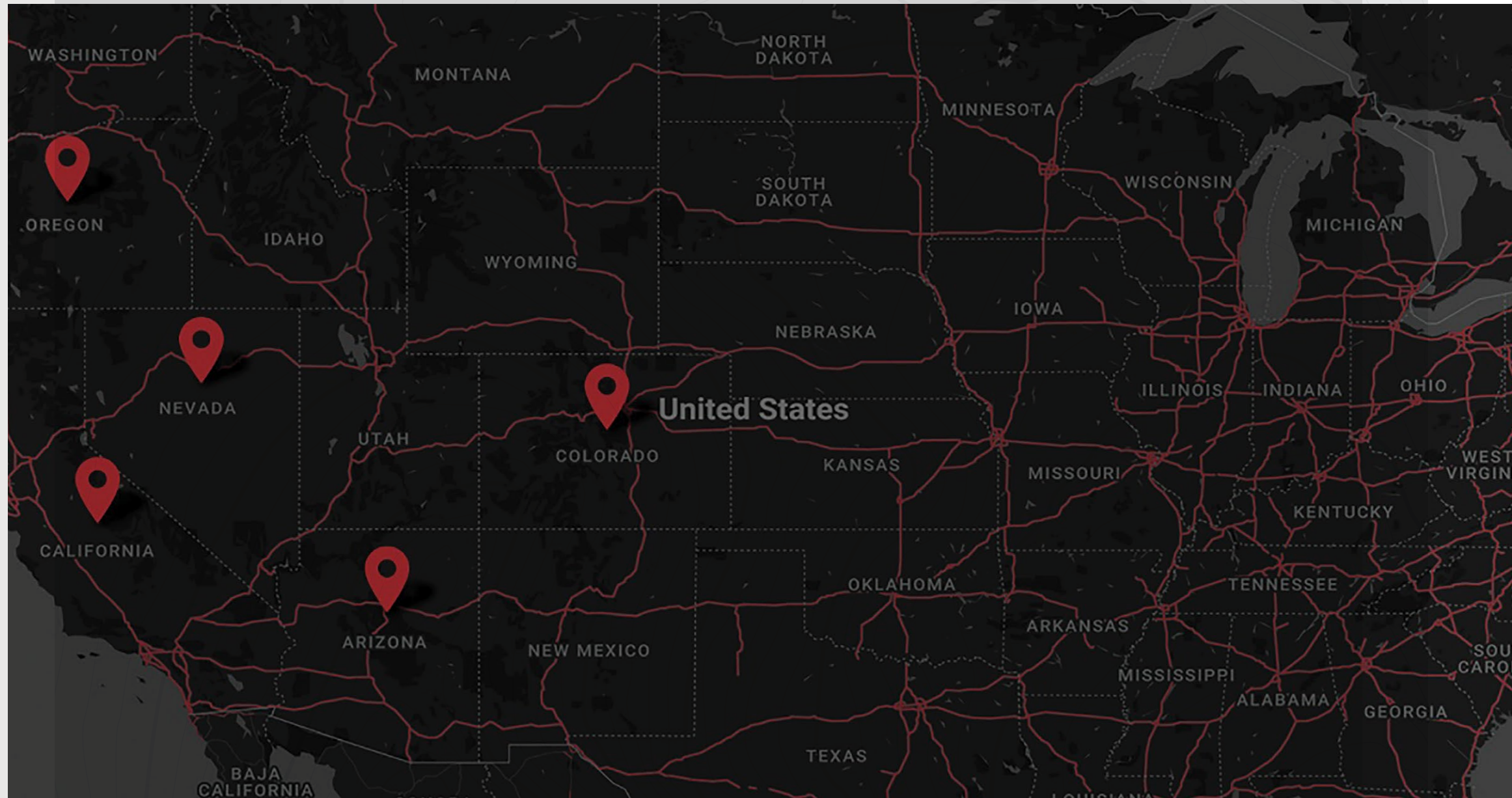
With over 8 years of experience at WATERAX and a passion for Sales and Marketing, Stefania has built her career and reputation by making sure our customers are well taken care of. Providing superlative service is a matter of great pride for Stefania, and she definitely has the knack for guiding customers in their product choices. If you have any questions about your orders or need assistance with anything, Stefania is here for you.



JORDAN BOTSFORD

ACCOUNT MANAGER - USA EAST

Jordan spent 9 fire seasons with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, as a member of a Helitack crew. He left Wildland firefighting to start a career in Education, where he eventually worked to become a Secondary School Vice-Principal. Upon moving to the United States, Jordan was looking for a change of careers, and more specifically a way back into the wildfire industry. He is excited to have found a place with WATERAX as an Account Manager and Field Specialist, allowing him to utilize both his experience on the fireline and in the classroom.



Ready for Wildfires

To help you stay **#ReadyForWildfires**, we've made a few changes, placing 100% of our focus on manufacturing our core products, portable fire pumps. To do so, we've established a network of trusted supply and distribution partners that can help us provide WATERAX pumps quickly in addition to water-handling equipment and accessories.

Enter your address, city or postal code in the search box on our website to find your nearest authorized WATERAX dealer.



WATERAX Joins Madison Industries

Madison Safety & Flow adds provider of portable fire pumps to its fire safety offering

January 26, 2023 — CHICAGO, IL – Madison Industries, one of the world’s largest privately held companies has made a significant investment in WATERAX, a leading manufacturer of lightweight portable fire pumps. WATERAX bolsters Madison’s Safety & Flow offering, making it one of the largest providers of firefighter equipment and rescue tools in the world today.

“WATERAX fits perfectly with the Madison mission; to make the world safer, healthier and more productive,” said Kris Howard, President and CEO of Madison Safety & Flow. “The team that built WATERAX into what it is today are joining our team of over 20,000 entrepreneurs who are building a truly remarkable business. We live in a world where firefighters need lighter, more powerful portable tools to fight remote fires and WATERAX has the world’s leading solution. We are proud of our companies who are equipping firefighters with state-of-the-art tools to be more effective in their jobs.”

WATERAX’s mission is to place powerful, precision engineered lightweight portable pumps into the hands of wildland firefighters to move water to protect our forests and communities from the ravages of wildfires. Roughly 60,000 wildfires burn 8 million acres in the U.S. each year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). That number is projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.

“We’re very excited about this partnership as it will enable WATERAX to launch truly revolutionary technology with a focus on our core elements of the portfolio, our mission-critical portable fire pump platforms”, said Raffaele Gerbasi, President of WATERAX. “We couldn’t be more excited to join the Madison team.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know our first portable water pump was called the WAJAX, an acronym of the company founder's name?

WATERAX originated as Watson Jack & Company, which was founded in 1898 by Montreal, Quebec native John Colquhoun Watson Jack. Born on August 19, 1870, Jack was a Canadian inventor, businessman and trail-blazer.



Did you know that natural disturbances, such as fires, insects, and diseases, are actually important to the regeneration of forests?

Forest fires often stimulate new growth, insects reduce aging trees and make the forest more productive, and diseases eliminate weak trees and give new species a chance to thrive.



Did you know that because Australia has so few lakes, the best way to fight wildfires is actually with... fire.

Firefighters will intentionally set fire to specific regions ahead of a major wildfire in order to pre-burn the fuel and ensure that there is nothing left to burn when the fire arrives.

Did you know high-intensity wildland fires can create storms that can produce lightning, hail, tornadoes, and more?

It's called pyrocumulonimbus storms. It represents a unique phenomenon featuring ice-capped cumulonimbus convection, impacting fire behavior and atmospheric dynamics, marked by in-cloud smoke infusion and extreme updrafts.

Did you know Canada has more lake area than any other country in the world?

In fact, 62% of all the lakes in the world are in Canada, that's more than the rest of the world's lakes put together. Of the largest 10 lakes in the world, five are in Canada and lakes cover 8% of the country's surface.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

WATERAX 
WE MOVE WATER

FSC stands for 'Forest Stewardship Council', an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible forestry. When you see this logo, you can be confident that it's not harming the world's forests.

