

Uvodnik

Suvremeni izazovi zaštite od požara i upravljanja požarnim rizicima sve se jasnije oblikuju u sječištu klimatskih promjena, prostornog planiranja, društvene otpornosti i institucionalne spremnosti. Požari raslinja i otvorenog prostora danas više nisu sporadični incidenti ograničeni na pojedine sezone ili regije, već postaju dugoročan sigurnosni, ekološki i gospodarski izazov, s izravnim posljedicama na ljudske živote, imovinu i održivi razvoj. U tom kontekstu, vatrogastvo se potvrđuje ne samo kao interventna služba, već kao ključna sastavnica sustava domovinske sigurnosti i upravljanja krizama, što jasno prepoznaju i suvremeni zakonodavni i strateški dokumenti Republike Hrvatske.

Ovaj dvobroj časopisa *Vatrogastvo i upravljanje požarima* tematski i sadržajno odgovara upravo na te izazove, nudeći znanstveno utemeljene analize, empirijske podatke i interdisciplinarnu uvide u problematiku požara i zaštite od požara u regionalnom i nacionalnom kontekstu. Poseban naglasak stavljen je na požare raslinja i otvorenog prostora, njihovu učestalost, uzroke i posljedice, ali i na širi okvir prevencije, edukacije, zakonodavstva i percepcije javnosti.

Dodatno, s ovim brojem časopis *Vatrogastvo i upravljanje požarima* ulazi u novu fazu svoga razvoja i vidljivosti unutar međunarodnog znanstvenog i stručnog prostora. Od ove godine časopis je indeksiran u bazi EBSCO, čime se osigurava znatno šira dostupnost objavljenih radova akademskoj i stručnoj zajednici, povećava njihova vidljivost te olakšava njihovo uključivanje u daljnja istraživanja, edukacijske procese i stručnu praksu. Uvrštavanje u relevantnu bibliografsku bazu potvrđuje kvalitete objavljenih priloga i kontinuiteta časopisa, ali ujedno i obveza daljnjeg podizanja znanstvenih i etičkih standarda.

U tom kontekstu, od sljedećeg broja časopis prelazi na sustav OJS (Open Journal Systems), čime se dodatno jača transparentnost uredničkog procesa, standardizacija postupka recenziranja te dostupnost radova u skladu s načelima otvorene znanosti. Implementacija OJS-a omogućit će učinkovitije upravljanje rukopisima, jasniju komunikaciju s autorima i recenzentima te dugoročnu arhivsku stabilnost objavljenih sadržaja. Ovim iskorakom časopis se jasno pozicionira kao otvorena platforma za razmjenu znanja u području vatrogastva i upravljanja požarima, s ciljem povezivanja znanstvenih spoznaja, stručne prakse i javnog interesa.

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Contemporary challenges in fire protection and fire risk management are increasingly shaped at the intersection of climate change, spatial planning, social resilience, and institutional preparedness. Vegetation and open-area fires are no longer sporadic incidents limited to specific seasons or regions; instead, they are becoming a long-term security, environmental, and economic challenge, with direct consequences for human lives, property, and sustainable development. In this context, firefighting is affirmed not only as an emergency response service, but as a key component of the homeland security and crisis management system, as clearly recognized in modern legislative and strategic documents of the Republic of Croatia.

This double issue of the journal *Firefighting and Fire Management* thematically and substantively responds to these challenges by offering scientifically grounded analyses, empirical data, and interdisciplinary insights into fire-related issues and fire protection in both regional and national contexts. Particular emphasis is placed on vegetation and open-area fires, their frequency, causes, and consequences, as well as on the broader framework of prevention, education, legislation, and public perception.

Furthermore, with this issue, the journal *Firefighting and Fire Management* enters a new phase of its development and visibility within the international scientific and professional community. As of this year, the journal has been indexed in the EBSCO database, ensuring significantly broader accessibility of published articles to the academic and professional community, increasing their visibility, and facilitating their inclusion in further research, educational processes, and professional practice. Inclusion in a relevant bibliographic database is a confirmation of the quality of the published contributions and the continuity of the journal, while also constituting an obligation to further raise scientific and ethical standards.

In this context, starting with the next issue, the journal will transition to the OJS (Open Journal Systems) platform, further strengthening the transparency of the editorial process, the standardization of the peer-review procedure, and the accessibility of articles in line with the principles of open science. The implementation of OJS will enable more efficient manuscript management, clearer communication with authors and reviewers, and long-term archival stability of published content. Through this step forward, the journal clearly positions itself as an open platform for the exchange of knowledge in the field of firefighting and fire management, with the aim of connecting scientific insights, professional practice, and the public interest.

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