



SOUTHERN CA ASSOC OF FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS

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2023-2024

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*Minutes of the Board of Directors
meetings of the Southern California
Assoc of Foresters and Fire Wardens*

May 3 + 5, 2023

Oak Glen, CA

**AN ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO THE TRAINING AND SAFETY
OF SOUTHERN CA WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS SINCE 1930**

We, the members of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, do band together for the purpose of strengthening interagency cooperation, fire safety coordination, and fellowship.



CONTACT US

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We Are Maui

What the Maui Wildfires Can Teach Us About Our Own Environmental Readiness

By James Logan

Sadly, the Maui wildfires will go down in history as one of the great U.S. tragedies. With 115 deaths confirmed so far, the disaster has already claimed more lives than any other U.S. wildfire in the past century. And with 288 people still missing, the death toll could continue to rise. Communities all around the world need to learn from what happened in Maui. Because many are primed to follow in Hawaii's footsteps.

As environmental risks continue to escalate, communities are underestimating the threats they face, which is leaving them with dangerous gaps in their systems for mitigating these risks. And the lesson, here, is not confined to wildfire risk; it applies to a wide spectrum of environmental risks...

The root cause: Hawaii underestimated its wildfire risk.

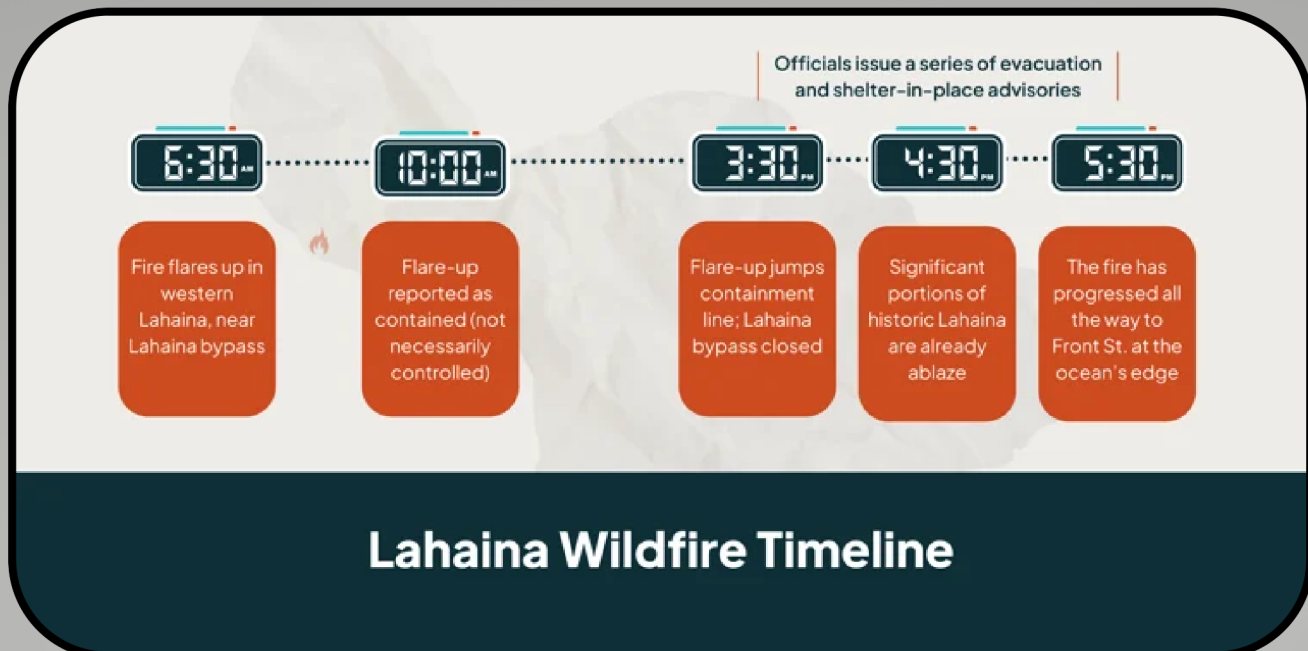
Talking to Reuters, Adam Weintraub of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency put his finger on the heart of the problem: "A lot of our systems were built for a different climate and a different set of hazards that moved a little slower."

Weintraub's statement brings us to the underlying issue: Hawaiian officials appear to have underestimated the state's wildfire risk.

HAWAII'S WILDFIRE RISK HAS BEEN GROWING

Although wildfires in Hawaii are not new, the problem has historically been a relatively small one and associated mainly with volcanic activity. However, Hawaii's climate has become drier. And as agriculture has given way to a tourism-based economy, more than 25% of the land has been taken over by invasive, fire-prone grasses and shrubs. As a result, the state's fire risk has grown.

As far back as 2015, it was noted that an average of 0.5% of the state's land area was burning each year, which was equal to or greater than the proportion of land burned in any other state. The heightened risk was further underscored by a 2018 wildfire that struck the same general area of Maui. Although no one died in the 2018 fire, it was a near miss for Lahaina and still destroyed 21 structures, 30 vehicles, and more than 2,800 acres. In the wake of that incident, residents called for officials to make wildfire a bigger priority.



Lahaina Wildfire Timeline

HAWAIIAN OFFICIALS DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE GROWING WILDFIRE RISK

Yet, as recently as 2022, Hawaii’s emergency management agency released a report detailing the natural disasters most likely to threaten residents. The report focused heavily on tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic hazards. Wildfires received minimal attention as they were described as posing a “low” risk to human life.

Without an accurate picture of the risk, wildfire suppression budgets in Hawaii have tended to be inadequate. The limited budgets that have been available have typically covered only the costs of fighting fires and have left little or nothing to put toward proactive prevention and mitigation measures. And in the absence of an accurate picture of the risk, officials were not prepared for the various wildfire scenarios that they could realistically encounter – including the scenario that materialized on August 8 in Lahaina.

Beyond Hawaii: Environmental risks are escalating

It would be all too easy to isolate ourselves from the disaster in Maui by attributing it to poor decision-making. But that would be a dire mistake. Communities across the United States and abroad share more in common with Hawaii than they might think.

First, Hawaii is not the only place where wildfire risk is increasing. According to a 2022 study by the National Science Foundation and Colorado State University, U.S. wildfires have quadrupled in size and tripled in frequency since the start of the 2000s. Or, if we look at the average acreage burned annually, it was 68% larger from 2017 to 2021 than it was from 1983 to 2016.

Secondly, wildfire isn’t the only environmental risk that is escalating. For example, as the earth’s baseline temperature has continued to rise from its pre-industrial level:

- Heat waves have become 2.8x more frequent.
- Droughts are 1.7x more frequent.
- Severe rainstorms have become 1.3x more frequent.

And, if Earth’s baseline temperature continues to rise at the rate projected by scientists, then by 2030:

- Heatwaves would become 4.1x more frequent.
- Drought would be 2x more frequent.
- Extreme rainstorms would be 1.5x more frequent.

Read the full article at: blog.aem.eco/we-are-maui

*The 91st Annual
Wildland Fire
Training & Safety Conference
took place on May 4-5, 2023
in Oak Glen, CA*





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOC of
FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS**

**May 3, 2023
Oak Glen, CA**

**May 5, 2023
Oak Glen, CA**

**May 19, 2023
Conference Call**

May 3, 2023

Oak Glen, CA

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Schwarm at 1600 hours in Oak Glen, California on May 3, 2023. A round of introductions were made.

Officers and Directors Present:

Curt Schwarm – President – Los Padres National Forest
Dave Fowler – First Vice President – CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Co.
Trevor Johnson – Second Vice President – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Phil Johnson – Treasurer – Orange County Fire Authority (Ret.)
Tim Chavez – Secretary – CAL FIRE Sacramento HQ
Doug Lannon – CAL FIRE San Bernardino (Ret.) – Arrangements Chair
Kevin Fetterman – Orange County Fire Dept.
Drew Smith – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
Tim Dunfee – Angeles National Forest
Brook Spelman – CAL FIRE Southern Region
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest (Ret.) – Liaison Chair
Matt Ahearn – San Bernardino National Forest
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Department (Ret.) – Safety Chair
Nathan Judy – Cleveland National Forest

Officers and Directors Absent:

Vacant – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Josh Black – CAL FIRE San Diego County
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
Garrett Huff – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
Andrew Kennison – Kern County Fire Dept.
Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE San Bernardino Co.
Vacant – Sequoia National Forest
Jason McDermott – CAL FIRE Riverside County

Guests:

Larry Kurtz – Orange County Fire
Chris Scott – Los Padres NF
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire (Ret.)
Samantha Conn – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

Minutes:

President Schwarm presented the minutes of the April 2023 meeting.
Motion by Director Whitman, seconded by Treasurer Johnson to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering April 7, 2023 to May 2, 2023

Income from Conference proceeds: \$13,568
Expenses: \$12,326

Balance on hand: **\$52,920.15**
Last year at this time: **\$43,723.58**

Motion by Director Whitman, second by Chairman Forsyth to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Arrangements:**

Signs are up, tent is up. Thanks to USFS BDF Oak Glen E39 helped with tent. Some minor problems with the facility: Apts. A and B and Main Hall have no gas/hot water due to broken pipe. Screen was not in good shape, but it has been fixed. Firewood is placed in multiple places. Mealtimes will be 0700, 1200 and 1800. Expecting 35 Breakfasts on Thursday morning, 135 Lunch, 135 Dinner, 90 Breakfasts on Friday and 90 Lunches. Dartmouth will be used for female attendees. Keep the upper parking lot open for displays. Yucaipa CAL FIRE will be providing medical coverage. VNC Buggies will provide shuttle from parking at Luther Glen to Pilgrim Pines. Some of the Oak Glen Camp Crews are assigned to the recent fire in RRU so not available. Sam Conn has the audio set up and ready to go.

Exhibits and Demonstrations:

Vendors are already setting up in the tent. Should have good selection of vendors. Need to do Vendor intros before the social hour. Bingo materials located. McDermott will bring them up. Static displays will include a Cell-on-Wheels from Verizon and a UTV from Kern County.

Registration and Membership:

101 registrations so far. Updated the database ready to print cards. We will have 2 Squares to process payments.

Entertainment and Raffle:

Lots of good stuff to raffle off. We received some donations. Have the tickets with single number for 20 tickets. Need help after Bingo to get all the cans and bottles collected.

Publicity:

Got the camp description and arrangements on the web page. Have the DVDs for the conference recordings, just need to get them loaded on the You Tube page.

Historian:

Finally have possession of both the Gavel and the Knot Head award. The Knot head award was not awarded at the 2022 Conference because we did not have it. Just to refresh everyone, the President awards it at the end of each conference. The awardee will sign the scroll. The First VP will hold the Knot Head until the next Conference. We took individual and group photo at the Orange County meeting. Some years of history are misplaced in the Google Drive. Needs to be better organized.

Safety:

Prepared for bears with bear spray and horns. Radios will be used to contact the medical. We have checked the hose boxes for fire protection. Please don't ring the bell except for emergencies. Safety Chair Forsyth will do a safety briefing at the beginning of the conference. SBSO will do the traditional talk before lunch. We have drinking water and hand sanitizer stationed around the area.

Golf:

No report

Newsletter:

Thanks to Megan for getting the newsletter formatted. Logo and layout are great.

Program:

Printed programs look great, thanks to LA County. Piper and 3 Honor Guard for flag are ready. Tripp will have the speaker sheets for introductions. No names for the Bell Ceremony this year.

Old Business:

Presenter gifts will be the pocketknives with engraved F&FW name. Snowman has the shirts and jackets.

Life Membership Recommendations:

None

Gary Helming Award Nominations:

None

New Business:

New logo on the hats and programs is very popular with everyone.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held after the conference on Sunday, May 5 after lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 1730 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Chavez

Association Secretary



May 5, 2023

Oak Glen, CA

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Fowler at 1243 hours in Oak Glen, California on May 5, 2023. A round of introductions were made.

Officers and Directors Present:

Dave Fowler – President – CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Co.
Trevor Johnson – First Vice President – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Matt Ahearn – Second Vice President – San Bernardino Natl Forest
Phil Johnson – Treasurer – Orange County Fire Authority (Ret.)
Tim Chavez – Secretary – CAL FIRE Sacramento HQ
Doug Lannon – CAL FIRE San Bernardino (Ret.) – Arrangements Chair
Kevin Fetterman – Orange County Fire Dept.
Drew Smith – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
Tim Dunfee – Angeles National Forest
Brook Spelman – CAL FIRE Southern Region
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest (Ret.) – Liaison Chair
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Department (Ret.) – Safety Chair
Andrew Kennison – Kern County Fire Dept.
Jason McDermott – CAL FIRE Riverside County
Nathan Judy – Cleveland National Forest
Chris Scott – Los Padres National Forest
Curt Schwarm – Past President – Los Padres National Forest

Officers and Directors Absent:

Vacant – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Vacant – Sequoia National Forest
Josh Black – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
Garrett Huff – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.

Guests:

Larry Kurtz – Orange County Fire
Samantha Conn – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Megan Currier – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

Minutes:

Minutes from Wednesday and today will be combined in the next newsletter and approved at the December 2023 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering May 3 to May 5, 2023.

Preliminary information:

(A complete Treasurer's report will be readied for the December 2023 meeting).

Directors' Dinner receipts: **\$1,213.16**

Raffle receipts: \$2460 + 479.52 (refreshments) + 1280 (square) = **\$4,219.52**

Bingo receipts: **\$1,273**

Still need to pay final payment for facility.

Bill for web page still pending.

Edison Grant has been awarded but not received yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Arrangements:**

Conference went well. Pretty cold in the main hall. Signs needed for Dartmouth to keep others out of it for female attendees use. Food overall better. Radios from RRU cache had damaged batteries in clamshells. Tent takedown going on now.

Exhibits and Demonstrations:

Vendor participation good. Thanks to Kern and Verizon for displays. Next year need more rigs to display. Discussion of vendor rep position.

Registration and Membership:

124 attendees including 24 Crew and Buggy drivers.

Entertainment and Raffle:

See above. Next year will try to get donations earlier.

Publicity:

Social media this year, from Feb – May, 2 ads cost \$300 ea.

Still have balance of \$400 in social media accounts.

Had 275,000 “impressions” with 1500 links from ad to registration page

Historian:

No report

Safety:

No incidents. Need more fused multi-outlet extension cords for vendors.

Newsletter:

No report

Program:

Successful program. Thanks to MC Chief Tripp. Great job.

Old Business:

Discussion on whether we need a motion to officially change the logo to the new one.

It was decided not needed. We will start a discussion/chat group either slack or some other app to maintain contact in between meetings.

Life Membership Recommendations:

Jim Cook – Approved

Gary Helming Award Nominations:

None

New Business:

- Election of Officers
 - Matt Ahearn elected to 2nd Vice President
 - All other positions being filled will continue.
 - Need Board Members from LA City, Sequoia Natl Forest and San Bernardino Unit
- Logo hats set aside for Department heads.
- Sam Conn has the Bingo box
- Phil Johnson suggested making some historical presentation a permanent program element.
- President Fowler would like to have a Teams call in 2 weeks to have open discussion.
- Discussion about moving the conference. Committee will be appointed

Next Meeting:

Calendar for next meetings

December 7-8, 2023 – Bakersfield – Director Kennison will make arrangements

February 1-2, 2024 – Los Angeles – Director Smith will make arrangements

April 4-5, 2024 – TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 1344 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Chavez

Association Secretary



May 19, 2023

Conference Call

Attendees:

Dave Fowler
Doug Lannon
Kevin Fetterman
Tim Dunfee
Garrett Huff
Trevor Johnson
Phil Johnson
Brook Spelman
Nathan Judy
Matt Ahearn
Troy Whitman

Feedback from attendees:

Weather was cold. May have affected attendance.

Suggestions for future:

- History of SCAFFW presentation
- Location at Pilgrim Pines – mostly positive, food generally good. Breakfast some negative comments
- Worried about decline in attendance
(pre-registrations were higher than ever this year)
- Need to reach out to Agency Heads and County training Officer associations.
- Maybe a move in the future?
- Discussion of food quality

Final Numbers:

Total Income (conference registration, raffle, bingo, grant): **\$40,749**

Total Expenses: **\$26,851**

Bylaws committee formation to discuss Liaison Chair position and Email voting

Location committee formation to discuss future locations

Deputies for positions – does not need bylaws change

Chris Scott officially LPF Board member

Board member vacancies:

BDU – Doug will contact Chief Littlefield

LA City – Drew Smith will make contact

SQF – Chris Scott will make contact

Conference recordings had much better sound

Fowler will send emails to thank Presenters

Presentation ideas for next year:

- Bring Confirmations to December meeting so we can advertise earlier next year.
- Phil suggested making a historical fire a permanent element
- Hawkins has suggested making the History of the Association a permanent element

Meeting ended at 0953 hours

