

# Newsletter



## Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2021-2022

#### OFFICERS

President— Tim Ernst—LFD  
First Vice President — Curt Schwarm—LPF  
Second Vice Pres.— Dave Fowler—SLU  
Secretary Tim Chavez—CDF  
Treasurer Phil Johnson—ORC

#### DIRECTORS

Matt Ahearn—BDF  
Trevor Johnson—VNC  
Drew Smith—LAC  
Troy Whitman—SCE  
Tim Dunfee—ANF  
Bryan Gaines—SQF  
Rusty McCulley—BDU  
Garrett Huff —SBC  
Brook Spellman—CSR  
(vacant)—CNF  
Josh Black—MVU  
Andrew Kennison—KRN  
Jason McDermott—RRU

Nick Ferrari—Publicity Chair  
Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative  
Doug Lannon—Arrangements Chair  
Don Forsyth—Safety Chair

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

**An Association dedicated to the  
Training and Safety of Southern  
California Wildland Firefighters  
for 92 years.**



Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens  
February 4, 2022, Riverside, California

Colorado Fire, Big Sur, Monterey County burns near the Bixby Bridge on SR 1, January 21, 2022.



Credit NBC Bay Area

#### Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information

**Mailing:** SCAFFW

c/o Tim Chavez 25268 Howard Dr., Hemet, CA  
92544



**E-mail:** [SCAFFW@gmail.com](mailto:SCAFFW@gmail.com)



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*Did you or are you thinking of  
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SCAFFW at [SCAFFW@GMAIL.com](mailto:SCAFFW@GMAIL.com)  
and let us know so we can  
send you your newsletters  
and other important infor-*



## 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS

The board of directors will begin working on the programs and speakers for the **90TH Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on **May 5-6, 2022** at **Camp Pilgrim Pines** in beautiful Oak Glen, California. This promises to be another exciting and informative conference and we look forward to seeing you back at Pilgrim Pines.



You can now go  
directly to our web  
site by scanning the  
QRC (quick response  
code) with your smart  
phone.



#### Cover Photo

*The Airport Fire in Bishop threatens the CalTech Owens Valley Radio Observatory. The fire burned 4136 acres, most of it on February 15-17, 2022.*

*Credit San Jose Mercury News*



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS  
90 TH WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING AND  
SAFETY CONFERENCE.**

# May 5-6, 2022

Check our web site for further  
information [www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)



March 5, 2022

SCAFFW PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends & Colleagues of the Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens,

It's been almost three years since we have all had the chance to enjoy the fellowship, stories, and lessons that our Wildland Fire Safety & Training Conference has been known for. The Pandemic was only the second time in the Association's 93-year history that the annual Conference was delayed - so we're excited to welcome everyone back for the 2022 in-person Conference. Despite the catastrophic El Dorado Fire in 2020 and resultant mud and debris flows, Camp Pilgrim Pines re-opened their doors and will again be the site of this year's event, which is set for Thursday May 5th and Friday May 6th. WE NEED YOUR HELP in light of our absence for the last two years – if everyone reading this letter can bring one new person to the Conference, you are personally ensuring the ongoing success of the Association and the Conference.



As we develop our annual Conference program, the Board looks at presentation topics in the five major categories: Operations, Leadership, Safety, Technology, & Other (e.g., weather, firefighter wellness, etc). We are confident you will find this year's program to be filled with excellent presentations from start to finish.

Due to feedback received from many of you at fires this last year about missed friendships, the Board would like to extend the invitation to the Wednesday night Directors Dinner, to the entire membership! Wednesday dinner will be at the Oak Glen Steakhouse & Saloon, which is about 10 minutes from the Camp. This will give everyone the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at dinner on Wednesday, stay at the Camp Wednesday night, and hit the ground running for breakfast and the Conference on Thursday morning. Please mark your calendars, and look for additional information about making your dinner reservation to join us. Of course, if you can't join us on Wednesday night, we look forward to seeing you all at registration Thursday morning.

For the most up to date information about the Conference, please check our website ([www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)), or feel free to reach out to any of the Board members individually.

Stay safe, stay strong...

Tim Ernst, President  
Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Ernst at 0903 hours at Riverside, California on Feb 4, 2022. A round of introductions were made. President Ernst thanked Director Spelman for making the arrangements for the meeting space.

**Officers and Directors Present:**

- Tim Ernst – President- Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Dave Fowler –Second Vice President- CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
- Phil Johnson – Treasurer – Orange County Fire Authority
- Tim Chavez – Secretary, CAL FIRE HQ
- Doug Lannon – CAL FIRE Retired Arrangements Chair
- Don Forsyth – OCFA Retired Safety Chair
- Nick Ferrari- Publicity Chairman- Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
- Tim Dunfee – Angeles National Forest
- Brook Spelman – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
- Josh Black – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
- Jason McDermott- CAL FIRE- Riverside County
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
- Garrett Huff-- Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

- Curt Schwarm –First Vice President- Los Padres National Forest
- vacant – Cleveland National Forest
- Andrew Kennison- Kern County Fire Dept.
- Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
- Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
- Bryan Gaines – Sequoia National Forest
- Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.
- Matt Ahearn-- San Bernardino National Forest

**Guests:**

- Drew Smith- Los Angeles County Fire
- Kevin Fetterman- Orange County Fire
- Mike Page- San Bernardino National Forest

**Minutes:** President Ernst presented the minutes of the December meeting. Motion by Chairman Snow seconded by Chairman Forsyth, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering Dec 2, 2021 to Feb 4, 2022

Balance as of Dec 2, 2021	\$45,653.75
Receipts:	
Dues and Conference Registration	\$156.66

(not yet deposited from PayPal)	
Total Receipts:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	
Total Disbursements:	\$.00
Balance on hand:	\$45,653.75
Last year at this time:	\$40,653.75

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:**

Director Lannon reported that there was some damage from the rain storms in December to the camp. Snow and Lannon visited the camp and they were recovering, Several trees were removed. The camp is open and hosting programs on weekends. Projection screen was received and will be ready for the conference. The WIFI at the camp was not checked. The Radio cache is being handled by Director McDermott. The beverage license will be applied for on 4/5. The facilities were inspected and in good repair. The Amphitheatre was checked and is not large enough for an alternative meeting space. So far no restrictions on use of the camp indoor spaces. Food planning, we would like to bring in an outside vendor for one meal, lunch or dinner Thursday. Example a taco vendor would be \$600 over what the camp charges for 135 meals. The camp would give us a credit for the meal. A motion was made by Director Snow and seconded by Lannon to spend the extra money for an outside meal. Motion carried. Vendors will be explored. The Directors Dinner will be at the Oak Glen Steakhouse. All members are invited.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:**

Vendor Rep Shabro confirmed the charge for vendors at \$150 plus \$75 for each additional vendor rep. Ideas for Demonstrations contact Ed and Dan Snow.

**Registration and Membership:**

A total of 12 members have renewed memberships only. Those memberships will be credited if the register for the conference. Larry is available and will help with registrations. At some point we will need to obtain a commercial off the shelf solution for registrations.

**Entertainment and Raffle:**

Director Johnson not available. Advised by message that he was ready for raffle purchases and bingo.

**Publicity:**

Eric Scott from Los Angeles City Fire gave a short talk on using social media. A discussion of content, podcasts, live streaming and social media presence. Our accounts are under utilized. We need a plan. A meeting with department PIOs will be set up soon to get their assistance. We need a flyer soon as possible.

**Historian:**

Director Whitman not available due to SCE travel restrictions.

**Safety:**

Chairman Forsyth will not be at the conference. Snow will

assume his duties the day of the conference. Contact with CHP will be made closer to the conference. Medic coverage from Yucaipa will need to be arranged.

**Golf:**

Golf off this year. Director Spelman expressed some interest in renewing it for future conferences.

**Newsletter:**

If you have suggestions for content please send to Tim Chavez. Still working on video transfers to our You Tube page.

**Program:**

See attached.

**Old Business:**

Need a nametag order for the conference as soon as possible.

Remember each Board Member can bring a new member to the Conference courtesy the Board.

**Life Membership Recommendations:**

Motion for Life Members proposed at the last board meeting. Motion by Director Snow, second by Forsyth. Motion carried.

**Gary Helming Award Nominations:**

Motion for the GH award amount to be donated in the name of Charlie Morton to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. A new award will be discussed at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

Crew for conference to LA County Fire.

Need to consider speaker gifts for the conference.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held in Santa Barbara County on April 1. Director Huff will make the arrangements.

The meeting was adjourned at 1233.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Chavez,  
Association Secretary



MC	Varela	Chief Cook	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
Keynote	Chief Fennesse	Kelly Martin	LA County Fire	LA County Fire	LA County Fire
Color Guard	OCFA	CAL FIRE	LA County Fire	LA County Fire	LA County Fire
Name	Name: Dr. Mark Finney	Name: Gordon Graham	Name: Joaquin Ramirez	Name: So Cal Edison/NWS/ Sm	Name: Dr. Myrda Ohs
Agency	Agency: Missoula Fire Lab	Agency: Techosyva	Agency: LAC/ Edison	Agency: Bear Divide H.S.	Agency: Bear Divide H.S.
Topic	Topic: El Dorado Accident	Topic: 5 Themes for Success	Topic: Wildfire Analysis/Tactical	Topic: Seasonal Outlook	Topic: Mental Health
Assigned	Assigned: Dan Snow	Assigned: Doug Lammon	Assigned: Tim Chavez	Assigned: Drew Smith	Assigned: Tim Ernst
Presentational	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60
Overseer	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Name	Name: Tom guzman	Name: Steve Pyle	Name: Damian Gilliani	Name	Name: Brian Anderson
Agency	Agency: ANIF	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:
Topic	Topic: Route Fire Entrapment	Topic: Burning Town & Country	Topic: Mayday	Topic:	Topic: Work w/ TI H.S. Crew
Assigned	Assigned: Tim Duntee	Assigned: Chris Childers	Assigned: Dan Snow	Assigned:	Assigned: Tim Chavez
Presentational	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60
Overseer	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Name	Name: Nathan Espinosa	Name: CAL FIRE Director	Name: Dione	Name	Name
Agency	Agency: LAFD	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:
Topic	Topic: Pico Street Entrapment	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:
Assigned	Assigned: Tim Ernst	Assigned:	Assigned:	Assigned:	Assigned:
Presentational	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60
Overseer	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Agency	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:	Agency:
Topic	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:	Topic:
Assigned	Assigned:	Assigned:	Assigned:	Assigned:	Assigned:
Presentational	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60
Overseer	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Name	Name: Victor Aguirre	Name: Mike Ryan	Name: Dr. Neil Dtsical	Name:	Name:
Agency	Agency: LAFD	Agency: LAC	Agency: ALERT/Wildfire	Agency:	Agency:
Topic	Topic: Boyd St. Burnover	Topic: Team of Teams	Topic: ALERT/Wildfire System	Topic:	Topic:
Assigned	Assigned: Tim Ernst	Assigned: Drew Smith	Assigned: Brook Spellman	Assigned:	Assigned:
Presentational	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60	20 45 60
Overseer	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4



CALIFORNIA  
FIRE SCIENCE  
CONSORTIUM



June 2020

Jon E. Keeley (559) 565-3170 jon\_keeley@usgs.gov  
Marti Witter (805) 370-2333 marti\_witter@nps.gov Liz  
van Mantgem evanmantgem@usgs.gov

## Weather Impacts on Fire Thresholds: A recipe for Big Fire

Pausas, J.G., and J.E. Keeley. 2021. Wildfires and global change. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 9 pp. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2359>

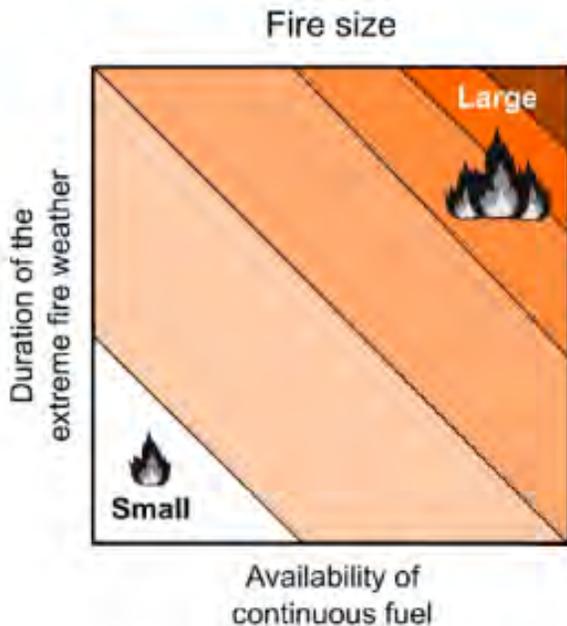
Large wildfires need four key ingredients to burn, not just one. Ignitions, fuels, and drought thresholds must be crossed at the same time, enhanced by anomalous weather events such as foehn winds. But how do these ingredients, or drivers, fit together in various ecosystems? In this important concept paper, Pausas and Keeley (2021) outline the mechanistic flow of these complex drivers for fire prone ecosystems and illustrate this in the figure below (Fig.1). In brief, the fire weather for a given ecosystem helps to push the other three essential driver thresholds, or saturation points, down. With ignitions, fuel continuity, and drought saturation points simultaneously lowered by the right weather, wildfire will be triggered. Around the world, both natural and human ignitions patterns (Fig.1a Blue) vary in their predictability, but with climate change in the form of drought and wind, fewer ignitions need to occur to result in large wildfires. However, an ignition by itself is harmless without extensive, flammable biomass. Such fuel continuity (Fig.1a Green) is affected by topography, vegetation type, vegetation structure, human

land use and fragmentation patterns. Similarly, some level of drought (Fig.1a Red) is required for biomass to ignite, but this particular driver threshold differs dramatically by ecosystem. For instance, some ecosystems will benefit from increased drought when it kills invasive grasses and reduces fuel connectivity. Not only does fire weather directly affect fire behavior by making the thresholds easier to cross, it also influences the duration and size of fires (Fig.2)

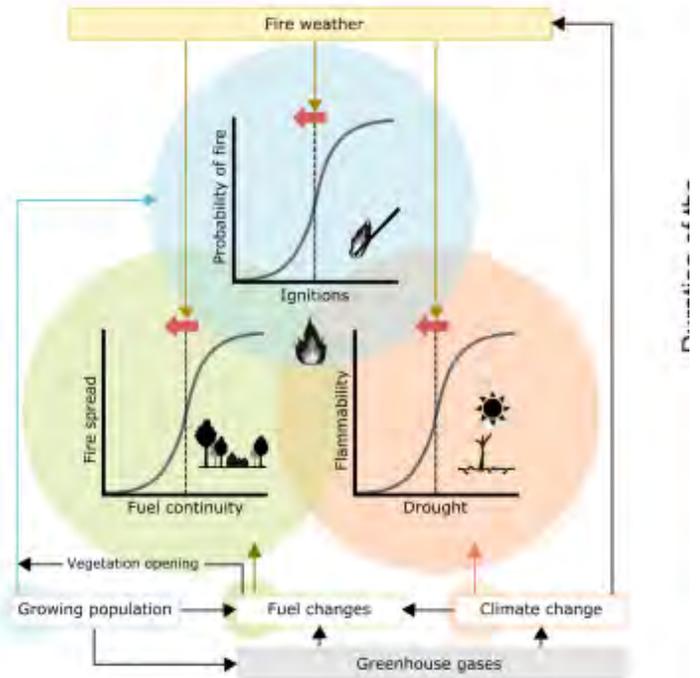
### Management Implications

- ◆ Because three key thresholds must be crossed all at once for a wildfire to start, avoiding just one of these thresholds— ignitions, drought, or continuous fuels (Fig.1)— could significantly reduce the likelihood of wildfire.
- ◆ As climate change makes fire weather more common everywhere, managing ignitions where wind is problematic and managing fuels where drought is problematic will help to keep stochastic, out-of-regime fires contained.
- ◆ Where fire management tools won't help, a fire danger zone should be designated to reduce human activity and development, much like volcano or flooding zone designations.





**Fig. 2. Fire Size:** is determined by both duration of the extreme fire weather (y axis), and availability of continuous fuels (x axis).



**Fig. 1. Conceptual model of the relationships between fire parameters and their drivers:** probability of fire occurrence vs ignitions (blue); fire spread vs landscape fuel continuity (green); & fuel flammability vs drought (pink). In these graphs, vertical lines indicate the thresholds. In all cases, fire weather moves the curve (and the threshold) towards lower values (thick red arrow; i.e., saturation is reached at lower value of x axis), with the consequence of increasing the probability of an ignition resulting in a fire, the fire spread, and the flammability of the vegetation, respectively. The flow chart indicates the main factors affecting the fire drivers: growing population; fuel changes in the landscape; and climate change. Arrows indicate positive interactions except for the cases of fuel changes that can increase or decrease fuel continuity depending on the system. Once all thresholds have been crossed, the size of the fire is determined by the duration of the extreme fire weather and the availability of continuous fuels in the landscape.

**90th Annual**  
**Wildland Fire Training**  
**and Safety Conference**

**MAY 5-6, 2022**

**Register Now!**  
**[www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)**

**Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens**

*Protecting California Since 1930*

