

# Newsletter



## Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2019-2020

#### OFFICERS

President— Tim Ernst—LFD  
First Vice President — Nathan Judy—ANF  
Second Vice Pres.— Dave Fowler—SLU  
Secretary Tim Chavez—RRU  
Treasurer Phil Johnson—ORC

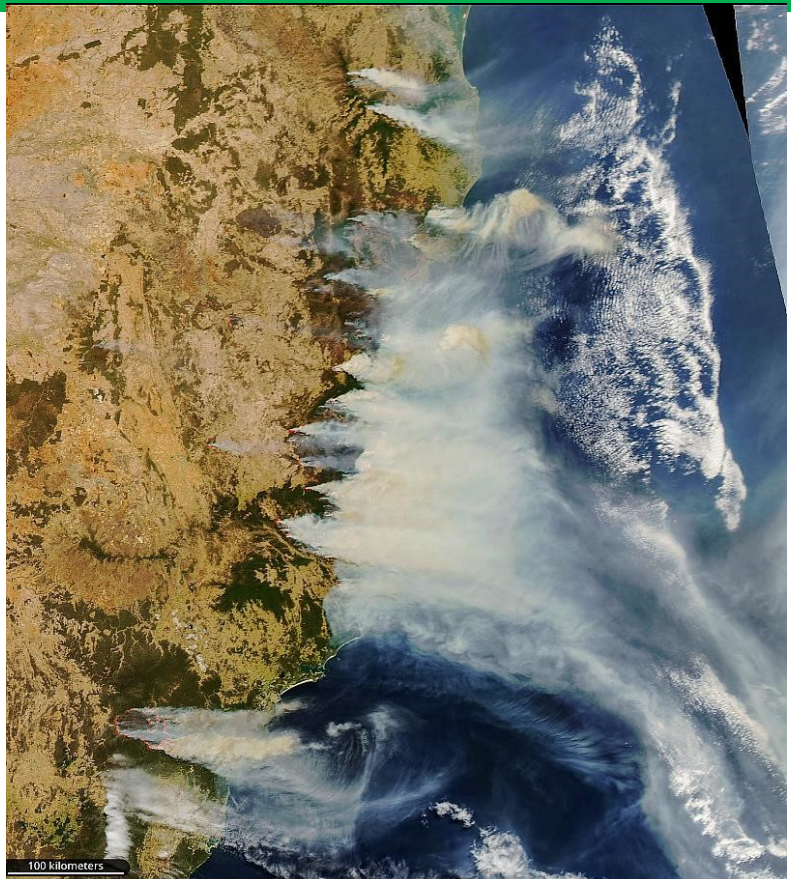
#### DIRECTORS

Dan Snow—BDF  
Trevor Johnson—VNC  
Kevin Johnson—LAC  
Troy Whitman—SCE  
Curt Schwarm-LPF  
Erick D'Amico-SQF  
Rusty McCulley—BDU  
Chris Childers - SBC  
Brook Spellman—CSR  
Stan Hill—CNF  
Kurt Zingheim—MVU  
Ira Peshkin—KRN

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 90 years.**



100 kilometers  
Bushfires in New South Wales, Australia  
November 15th, 2019 - Enhanced natural colors

Aqua MODIS data through NASA Worldview  
Processed by Pierre Markuse

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the Southern  
California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens  
December 6, 2019, Bakersfield, California



Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information

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*Did you or are you thinking of changing your E-mail address? Please remember to contact the 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 Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on **May 7-8, 2020** 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**

*Fires in Australia on November 15, 2019 as seen from the MODIS sensor aboard the Aqua Earth Orbiting*

*Satellite EOS PM-1 at over 430 miles above the earths surface . Credit NASA*



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

**May 7-8, 2020**

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

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
December 6, 2019**



**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 0900 hours at Bakersfield, California on December 6, 2020. Kern County Fire Dept. Deputy Chief Dean Bohler welcomed the Board. A round of introductions were made. President Ernst thanked Director Peshkin for making the arrangements for the meeting and dinner.

**Officers and Directors Present:**

Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept  
Ira Peshkin – Kern County Fire Dept.  
Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.  
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair  
Dave Fowler – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.  
Phil Johnson – Treasurer, Orange County Fire Authority  
Don Forsyth – Safety Chair  
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison  
Tim Chavez – Secretary, CAL FIRE – Riverside County  
Dan Johnson – CAL FIRE – Southern Region  
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest  
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.  
Kurt Zingheim – CAL FIRE – San Diego County

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

Stan Hill – Cleveland National Forest.  
Erik D'amico – Sequoia National Forest  
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.  
Nathan Judy – Angeles National Forest  
Curt Schwarm – Los Padres National Forest  
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative

**Guests:**

Tony Caezza, Ventura County Fire, Past President and Life Member  
Nick Ferrari, LAFD  
Garrett Huff, Santa Barbara County Fire

President Ernst gave some remarks regarding the goal of shadowing several positions on the Board. Director McCulley will shadow Arrangements Chair Lannon, Garrett Huff will shadow Director Shilders, Nick Ferrari is shadowing President Ernst. All Directors were encouraged to have a person shadow for succession purposes. President Ernst also aired some concerns about attendance of Directors. In that vein President Ernst said he would be writing a letter to the Department Heads soon emphasizing the meeting dates and importance of attendance at the meetings.

**Minutes:** President Ernst presented the minutes of the May 3, 2019 meeting. Motion by Director Trevor Johnson seconded by Director Zingheim, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering 4/25/19 to 12/4/19.

Balance as of 4/25/19	\$30,561.93
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Dues and Conference Registration	\$5941.85
Conference Raffle/Merch/Bingo	\$4140.80
Paypal balance transfer (registrations)	\$12,881.85
SCE Grant	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>\$27964.50</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Dan Snow (Conference giveaways)	\$1345.76
A and H (tent rental)	\$700.00
Dave Fowler (registration supplies) (pending)	\$35.00
Doug Lannon (microphone rental)	\$218.95
UCCR (meal overage)	\$27.83
Doug Lannon (night one speaker meals)	\$138.00
Camp Luther Glen (rooms)	\$675.00
UCCR (2020 Conference first installment)	\$5768.68
Paypal-(attendee reimbursement for double pymt)	\$145.45
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b>\$9054.67</b>
Balance on hand:	\$49471.76
Last year at this time:	\$40,355.92

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:**

Chairman Lannon reported that recent storms have caused heavy tree damage in Pilgrim Pines Camp. 30" of heavy wet snow fell in last storm and 10 trees are down. Oak Glen Camp has been called to assist. Luther Glen Camp is reserved for the May conference dates. There was a discussion of having the Directors dinner at the oak Glen Steakhouse again. It was decided to rent microphones again as this seemed to work well. The camp will hopefully have better wifi signal this year. This is important for surveys, and social media photos and tags.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:**

Both Director Judy and Director Shabro were absent. President Ernst encourage all to find more equipment and displays for the conference. Trade shows are a good time to talk to vendors. A short discussion of the vendor interaction time occurred. It seems to the board that the normal breaks and mealtimes are sufficient without taking too much time from the program.

## Registration and Membership:

Director Fowler reported the web page was very effective for memberships and conference fees, and some memberships are already coming in. Abby Srader will be available this year to assist with registration. As shown in the Treasurers report there was one error on conference fee payments. It was resolved. We should compose a disclaimer and set a time limit for refunds and put it on the web page. Registration this year will remain the same so far unless the board changes it: \$135 Pre-registration, \$150 at the door. There was a discussion of the giveaway costs. No decision has been made on the giveaway this year. If we obtain an additional Square device this will speed up registration and eliminate lines. We should get a space heater for the registration room.

## Entertainment and Raffle:

Director Trevor Johnson encouraged the board to again remit \$2500 for purchase of raffle prizes as this has worked well the last few years. We would like to purchase several tablecloths for the registration and the raffle tables. Bingo was a moneymaker again. There was a discussion of whether to get a band for entertainment for the 90<sup>th</sup> conference. Lannon will check with the some bands. The tent was discussed and should be purchased again in case of inclement weather.

## Publicity:

Nick Ferrari is going to volunteer to help out with publicity. We will have a flyer design change, and produce a "save the date" and a program flyer for social media. The online flyers will include our social media accounts and hashtags. We talked about ads in fire service magazines/union magazines/online publications. Contact your agency PIOs and have some content on your agency web pages and social media. The Chief videos hopefully will increase in numbers. Nicks contact is [Nicholas.ferrari@lacity.org](mailto:Nicholas.ferrari@lacity.org)

## Historian:

Director Whitman is working on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book. We need a good list of the life members that are still with us. We will make 300 copies of the book as before.

## Safety:

Chairman Forsyth had not much to report yet. He will make contact with BDU for medic coverage and CHP for the pep talk.

## Golf:

Director Snow initiated a discussion of whether to continue the golf tournament. Last few years it has been difficult to get enough golfers to make it worth the effort to produce the tournament. No decision was made, the discussion will continue at the February Board Meeting.

## Newsletter/Web Page:

Director Trevor Johnson advised that we would like to get some video content on the page. We also have a You tube Channel [@SCAFFW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSCAFFW) with the Chief videos. We can have more. Please send content to Director Johnson. The newsletter will be out before the end of January.



## Old Business:

President Ernst will work on a standardization for presenters or a style guide, especially for powerpoint presentations (font size, colors etc.). A discussion of a timer or some form of signaling presenters so we can keep the program moving and on time. Chairman Forsyth said he would look into a timer. Last year we discussed an introductory video for our web page. Director Phil Johnson will look into it. A new screen for Pilgrim pines was discussed. Director Dan Johnson said he may have one at south Ops that is not being used. A discussion of sponsoring a new member for the conference for each director.

## New Business:

The Directors uniform polo was discussed for the conference. The Nike dark green shirts. A shirt and jacket order will be collected by Director Snow. A discussion of the member and speaker giveaway was had, no decision was made. A lengthy discussion of the meal quality at Pilgrim Pines occurred. Chairman Lannon will talk to the Camp about the issue. We will explore an outside vendor for the dinner meal. The issue of censorship of questions for presenters occurred. Also we talked about the layout of the main room for the conference. A discussion of the Directors/Life members dinner occurred. Director Zingheim and Director Phil Johnson discussed having a BBQ at the Camp on Wednesday night. A decision will be made at the next meeting. A discussion of using Amazon Smile charitable donations will be explored. People can buy normal items from Amazon Smile and 0.5% would be donated to us.

## Life Membership Recommendations:

Nancy Koerperich was nominated for life member. She meets the criteria.

## Gary Helming Award Nominations:

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held February 7 at the new South Ops in Riverside. Dinner and hotel arrangements will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 1200

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Chavez,  
Association Secretary





**Program:**

Here is the spread sheet of the tentative program following today's meeting.

	<b>MC</b>	<b>Honor guard</b>	<b>Keynote</b>	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>Tech</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Presenter</b>	Tony Varela	OCFA	Shawna Legarza	Carr Fire	Mark Smith	19th Watch-out	FIRIS	Ashley Iverson/ Tony Mecham
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Ernst	P. Johnson	D. Snow	T. Ernst	T. Chavez	D. Snow	P. Johnson	K. Zingheim
<b>Presenter</b>	Steve Martin	LA Co.	CAL FIRE Executive	Ridgecrest EQ	S. OPS Leadership	Gordan Graham	Matt Jolly	Predictive Services
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Ernst	K. Johnson	D. Johnson	I. Peshkin	D. Johnson	D. Lannon	T. Chavez	D. Snow
<b>Presenter</b>	Chad Cook	CPF		Saddleridge	Steve Pyne	Kim Lightly		Air Ops
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Johnson	D. Forsyth D. Lannon D. Johnson		N. Ferrari	C. Childers	P. Johnson		Open to anyone, looking for ideas
<b>Presenter</b>	Vaughn Miller			Hotshot Assn.		Mynda Ohs		C-130
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Johnson			T. Ernst		T. Ernst		K. Zingheim





# Publication Brief

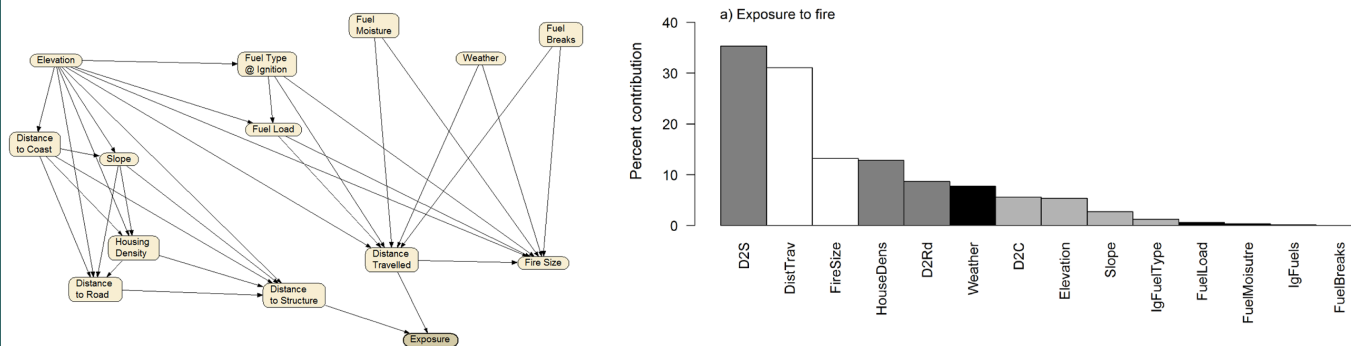
## The Built Environment Is More Influential Than Fuel Breaks in Exposure to Wind-Driven Chaparral Fire

In San Diego County, California, approximately 5,000 homes have been destroyed by fire since 2000. Although billions of dollars have been spent on fuels treatments to reduce fire losses, it has not been demonstrated that fuel breaks reduce the exposure of lives and property to southern California wildfires.

Fuel breaks are designed to physically stop fires as well as to facilitate fire suppression actions. While research has shown fire breaks can be useful in certain conditions, such as backfire operations, there is a lack of landscape-scale evidence to support their effectiveness at reducing the risk of wildfire exposure to lives and property. To examine this question, Australian and U.S. researchers used a Bayesian Network model to evaluate the relative importance of fuel and fuel treatments compared to weather and variables of the built and natural environment on wildfire risk at the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in San Diego County. The final conceptual model was agreed upon by 12 fire experts during three USGS workshops over three years.

Conditional probabilities used in the model were calculated by a combination of empirical data and 11,944 Fire Area Simulator (FARSITE) fire simulations which examined all combinations of fire weather (low, high and Santa Ana), live fuel moisture (LMF 60% and 90%), fuel loading (low and high) and the presence or absence of maintained fuel breaks. The analyses found several significant relationships: 1) fire size and distance traveled were most sensitive to fire weather, 2) fuel breaks did not alter the risk of exposure under any weather scenario, and 3) housing exposure was most influenced by fire size, distance travelled, and the nature of the built environment, i.e. distance to structure, housing density and distance to road.

The findings suggest that weather determines the risk of exposure for assets in the landscape. Under extreme weather, where the risk of fire is greatest, landscape fuel treatments are unlikely to have a significant influence on risk. These results suggest that managing the occurrence of fire and the spatial distribution of the built environment across the landscape is likely to be the best way to alter the risk profile. Further research is needed to examine the cost tradeoffs of each of these approaches.



### This Brief Refers To:

Penman, TD, L Collins, AD Syphard, JE Keeley, RA Bradstock. 2014. **Influence of fuels, weather and the built environment on the exposure of property to wildfire.** *PLOS ONE* 9(10): e111414. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0111414 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5136>

### MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Bayesian risk modeling shows that fuel breaks did not alter the risk of fire exposure to homes in southern California wildfires, under any weather scenario. Managing for fire prevention and managing for the spatial distribution of the built environment across the landscape are likely more effective ways to alter the fire risk profile.

### RESEARCH CONTACT

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