

Newsletter



Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2020-2021

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
Bryan Gaines-SQF
Rusty McCulley—BDU
Chris Childers - SBC
Brook Spelman—CSR
Stan Hill—CNF
Josh Black—MVU
Ira Peshkin—KRN

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



Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens
May 5, 2021, Arcadia, California



Mesa Fire on Pala Mesa from Red Mountain Camera

Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information

Mailing: SCAFFW

c/o Tim Chavez 132 S. San Jacinto Ave., San Jacinto, CA 92583

E-mail: SCAFFW@gmail.com



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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 and let us know so we can send you your newsletters and other important infor-



2022 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 5-6, 2021** 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 Southern Fire burns in the CALFIRE San Diego Unit on May 1, 2021. Captured by the SDG&E Alertwildfire System cameras.



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

May 5-6, 2022

Check our web site for further information www.scaffw.org



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 0906 hours at Arcadia, California on May 5, 2021. A round of introductions were made. President Ernst thanked VP Nathan Judy for making the arrangements for the meeting and dinner.

All the Directors present gave a short summary of their department status and preparations or changes for the coming fire season.

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 – Riverside County
- Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair
- Nick Ferrari- Publicity Chairman- Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
- Stan Hill – Cleveland National Forest
- Ira Peshkin- Kern County Fire Dept.
- Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
- Curt Schwarm – Los Padres National Forest
- Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
- Garrett Huff- Member- Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.

Officers and Directors Absent:

- Nathan Judy –First Vice President- Angeles National Forest
- Don Forsyth – Safety Chair
- Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
- Brook Spelman – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
- Josh Black – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Brian Gaines– Sequoia National Forest
- Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.
- Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest

Guests:

None

Minutes: President Ernst presented the minutes of the March 11 and April 2, 2021 virtual meetings. Motion by Chairman Lannon seconded by Director Phil Johnson, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering April 2 to May 7, 2021.

Balance as of 4/2/2021	\$40,653.75	
Receipts:		\$83.38
Dues and Conference Registration	\$.00	
Total Receipts: (registration refunded)		\$86.38
Disbursements:		

Total Disbursements:	\$.00
Balance on hand:	\$40,653.75
Last year at this time:	\$43,522.53

(A grant was awarded from Southern California Edison to the Association, in the amount of \$5,000 however it has not been received.)

Motion by Director Childers , second by Director Hill to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements:

San Bernardino county still in an Orange Tier, will probably drop to lowest level Yellow soon. Programs at Pilgrim Pines have started up at 75% capacity. The camp hopes to be fully open in July. Our deposit for the conference has been rolled over for next year. The camp is anxious to have us back next May.

Exhibits and Demonstrations:

Second VP Fowler has spoke to Ed Shabro and all the vendors were contacted and invited for next year.

Registration and Membership:

We have received 7 \$5 payments for 2021 membership. We will explore a way to get a membership card to people who renew their membership.

Entertainment and Raffle:

No report

Publicity:

Discussion to follow

Historian:

No report

Safety:

No report

Newsletter:

Posting on multiple platforms as the newsletter comes out. Looking to post videos from past conferences on our You Tube Channel to keep interest.

Program:

No report due to no program.

A lengthy discussion of the future of the Association occurred. Notes are as follows:

As a quick recap of the big-picture items we discussed for the future success of the Association and the Conference, the following are the main bullet points I captured - which Secretary Chavez will add on to with his regular report. Please continue to give these areas further thought, and we will continue the discussions at our November (additional) meeting. In the meanwhile, please feel free to reach out with any thoughts that may assist in our expanded vision of improvement...



- Consider moving the Conference periodically to different hosting jurisdictions. No opposition voiced, other than discussion of the difficulty in identifying venues that may be suitable.
- Consider moving the Conference to a different site/location if research/inquiry finds a link to participation.
- Modern communication has made in person conferences less vital.
- Why don't people from our fire camps attend? They would seem to be the target audience. The question is how to increase interest/attendance. A one-day conference? Inspirational speakers that cost \$\$\$? Different evening entertainment other than bingo?
- How can we better identify topics that our audience would be interested in (not necessarily what Board members are interested in?)
- Different or better accommodations and food.
- A workshop component with a final product
- Early May is a terrible time for federal fire folks due to onboarding of temporaries.
- Suggestion to increase number of Board meetings due to the amount of future development work needed. Will add an earlier start to 2022 Conference Planning - Virtual November Board Meeting, (Friday Nov 5)
- Need a way to obtain more support/buy in from Agency Chiefs, including support for board member attendance. Maybe sponsor an agency head side meeting at the conference?
- Future board members need to be "influencers"... we need to draw in an active audience throughout the year with a constant social media presence. Ernst introduced intent to appoint a "technology chair"... all members/agencies welcome to submit recommendations/nominations.
- Consider moving Conference up to April due to concurrent commitments/challenges with USFS participation. Will be discussed further and considered for 2023 Conference.
- Need to finalize and release Conference curriculum earlier in year to allow earlier participant planning
- Need to modernize the registration process
- Add/include a professional virtual platform (regardless of COVID status), with appropriate pay structure
- Incorporate 2-phase philosophy in Conference planning: Content & Networking
- Highlight the diverse agency Board participation by posting an early-season picture (December meeting) of Board members in green shirts and agency hats; and regular Conference picture without separate agency hats
- Look for connections to other fire service organizations that attendees might be drawn from. Ernst introduced intent to appoint a liaison chair, from existing Board members. Discussion of need for all Board members to have regular presence at Board meetings. Schedule for further discussion at November BoD meeting.



Old Business:

Life Membership Recommendations:

Gary Helming Award Nominations:

Charlie Morton family of the big Bear Hotshots was nominated. Motion by Lannon, second by Schwarm. Motion passed.

New Business:

A discussion of the slate of officers for the 2021-22 year occurred. It was decided by consensus to continue with the current slate since no conference has been held. Several additions are planned:

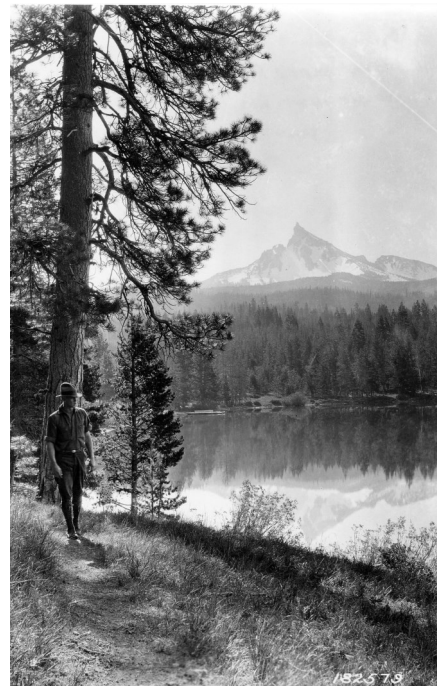
An Association Liaison to make connections with other organizations

A Technology Chair

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held on November 5, 2021 (special meeting). Details to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 1247.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Chavez,
Association Secretary



'Quick Reaction Force' helicopters deployed for firefighting in Southern California



A Quick Reaction Force CH-47D during a press event on June 14. Photos by Skip Robinson

Local power company Southern California Edison (SCE) provided around \$18 million in funding for the QRF aircraft, which are being operated under an exclusive-use contract that started June 15. The contract will run for up to 180 days through the summer and fall, when the ferocious Santa Ana wind events arrive with the ability to cause the fast spread of fires.

The helicopters include two Boeing CH-47D Chinook "very large helitankers" capable of carrying up to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant, one Sikorsky S-61N with a 1,000-gallon belly tank, and a Sikorsky S-76 "Firewatch" helicopter for command and control (HLCO) purposes.



The intent of the QRF concept is to achieve overwhelming suppression power by working the helitankers together under the direction of the S-76 HLCO platform.

Orange County Fire Authority will be the host agency for one CH-47, the S-76, and a mobile retardant plant. Los Angeles County Fire Department will host the other CH-47, while Ventura County Fire Department will host the S-61.

Excerpts from "Vertical" Magazine

Photo right courtesy of Edison International



Each host agency will manage their assigned helicopter as they would their own aircraft. If an agency is experiencing a wildland fire with the potential for rapid spread, then all four helicopters can be mobilized as a QRF to apply maximum force in the early stages of the fire.



The QRF aircraft will be staffed 24 hours per day and available to fight fires throughout the night.

All of the aircraft are equipped for flight under night vision goggles (NVGs), enabling them to continue operations at night when favorable temperature and humidity changes tend to slow the spread of fires. Although Southern California agencies have been conducting nighttime aerial firefighting operations for years now, this will be the first time that a helitanker as large as the CH-47 has been used to fight fires after dark.



The S-76 is equipped with onboard cameras and sensor systems that will be used to document firefighting activities and provide support to incident decision-makers in Southern California.



OCFA, LA County Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department and SCE recently held an event at Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos to debut the aircraft fleet.



WildfireSAFE

Description

Abstract

WildfireSAFE provides an intuitive platform to access fire weather, hazard and behavior information from the Wildland Fire Assessment System (WFAS) for specific incidents. It supports the greater interagency fire community in the planning, response, and recovery phases of wildfire management.

Website:

<https://wfsafe.technosylva.com/>

Authors:

[Jolly, William M.](#)

Research Staff:

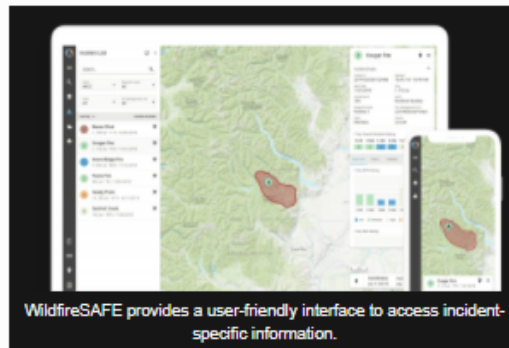
[Freeborn, Patrick](#)

Purpose

WildfireSAFE was designed to increase firefighter & fire manager situation awareness and enhance risk mitigation planning in wildland fire operations.

Overview and Applicability

WFAS is an integrated, web-based resource to support fire management decisions that was developed by Forest Service fire behavior researchers as an avenue to increase the utility of remote sensing and spatial data in fire management. It provides multi-temporal and multi-spatial views of fire weather and fire potential, including fuel moistures and fire danger classes from the U.S. National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), drought indices, lower atmospheric stability, and satellite-derived vegetation conditions. It also provides access to fire potential forecasts over various time periods.



WildfireSAFE integrates this information to provide targeted resources for specific fire incidents. The application allows users to view weather analysis for any active incident, compare active incidents within an area of interest, and capture observations about fire behavior. It also automatically analyzes the fuels, terrain conditions, and values at risk in the area surrounding the incident. The analysis is updated regularly as incident and WFAS data changes.

WildfireSAFE is designed to be used by the Forest Service as well as private industry, local and state firefighting organizations and the general public.

Inputs

WFAS data and federal incident information.

Outputs

Dynamic, incident-level analysis in an accessible and intuitive format.

Requirements

WildfireSAFE has been designed to work on mobile and desktop devices, giving users access to critical fire weather information while in the office, on-scene and in the field. Users must register to obtain an account and access the applications. Registration is free and available to all.

Publications

[Severe Fire Danger Index: A forecastable metric to inform firefighter and community wildfire risk management](#)
Jolly, William M. ; Freeborn, Patrick ; Page, Wesley ; Butler, Bret W. , 2019

Links

[WildfireSAFE](#)

[WFAS](#)

[WildfireSAFE webinar](#)

Research Topics: Environment and People; Decision making, public involvement; Fire; Fire detection; Fire suppression, pre-suppression; Wildland/urban interface
National Strategic Program Areas: Wildland Fire and Fuels
National Priority Research Areas: Forest Disturbances; Localized Needs
RMRS Science Program Areas: Fire, Fuel and Smoke
RMRS Strategic Priorities: Fire Sciences; Human-Landscape Interactions
Geography: National