

# 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  
December 4, 2020.



## 2021 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 6-7, 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.



### Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information

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### Cover Photo

*MODIS Imagery on September 8, 2020 of the California Fire Situation.*



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

# May 6-7, 2021

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

**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-**



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Dec 4, 2020**



**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 0916 hours in a virtual Google meeting.

**Officers and Directors Present:**

Tim Ernst – President- Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Nathan Judy – First Vice President- Angeles National Forest  
Dave Fowler – Second Vice President- CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.  
Tim Chavez – Secretary, CAL FIRE – Riverside County  
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair  
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept  
Ira Peshkin- Kern County Fire Dept.  
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.  
Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.  
Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.  
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest  
Garrett Huff- Member- Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

Phil Johnson – Treasurer – Orange County Fire Authority  
Don Forsyth – Safety Chair  
Nick Ferrari- Publicity Chairman- Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Stan Hill – Cleveland National Forest  
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative  
Bryan Gaines – Sequoia National Forest  
Matt Ahern- Member- San Bernardino National Forest  
Josh Black- Member-CAL FIRE San Diego Co.  
Curt Schwarm – Los Padres National Forest  
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison

**Guests:**  
**None**

**Minutes:** Minutes approval was deferred until next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Johnson was on a fire assignment and not able to attend. He sent the following report on 12/5/2020

Balance as of 5/1/2020

\$40,653.75

Receipts:

Dues and Conference Registration \$.00

Total Receipts: \$.00

Disbursements:

Total Disbursements: \$.00

Balance on hand: \$40,653.75

Last year at this time: \$49,371.73

Acceptance of the Treasurers report will be deferred until the February meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:**

Chairman Lannon reported that the Pilgrim Pines Camp was heavily affected by the Apple and El Dorado Fire although there was no direct damage to the camp. The danger from debris flow remains due to the steep slopes above the camp being burned severely. The fate of the May conference is still unknown, so it was discussed to get a “drop dead date” for us to let the venue know whether we will be having a “live conference” or not. There was a discussion regarding the meal quality, and it was determined that if we are looking like we are having a live conference, to have some meals prepared to do some quality control.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:**

No report

**Registration and Membership:**

Nothing to report. It was confirmed that the conference fees will remain \$135 for pre-registration and \$150 at the door.

**Entertainment and Raffle:**

Nothing to report, a confirmation of the \$2500 contribution from our treasury for the raffle will continue.

**Publicity:**

Once the raffle prizes are purchased we can advertise by posting pictures on social media etc. We need to get a “Save the Date” message out as soon as possible.

**Historian:**

No report

**Safety:**

No report

**Golf:**

Discussion to probably drop the golf tournament permanently. We will remove it from the agenda.

**Newsletter:**

Nothing to report. Web site still maintained by VNC.

**Program:**

Proposals for programs for the 2021 conference are shown in the table below:

2021 SCAFFW CONFERENCE AGENDA WORKSHEET

CATEGORY	TOPIC (Title to be Confirmed)	PROPOSED SPEAKER	BOARD CONTACT	SPEAKER AVAIL.
KEYNOTE		Brian Fennessy	Ernst	pending
		Don Manning	Ernst	pending
		Kellie Martin	Chavez	pending
M/C		Tony Varela	Ernst	pending
		Chad Cook	Johnson, T	pending
		Vaughn Miller	Johnson, T	pending
COLOR GUAR	Guard	Orange CoFA	Johnson, P	pending
	Bagpipes	CAL FIRE	Spilman	pending
	Guard	LACo Dept.	Johnson, K	pending
OPS	El Dorado Fire Effects	TBD	Snow	pending
	August Fire IMT Ops or IC perspective	TBD	Spilman	pending
	Carr Fire, IA	AC Scott Corn	Ernst	pending
	Boyd Street Fire burn over	Nathan Espinoza	Ernst	pending

Leadership	TBA	Gordon Graham	Lannon	Yes
	The Baseline	Mark Smith	Chavez	pending
	2020 Fire Year	Tom Porter/Bob Baird	Spilman / Judy	pending
	Brining Town & Country	Steven Pyne	Childers	pending

TECHNOLOGY	Trillo App	TBD	Johnson, T	pending
	Fire Modeling	TBD	Spilman	pending
	National Fire Danger Rating	TBD	Chavez	pending
	UAS "Drone" Tech	Woody	Johnson, K	pending

SAFETY; POLICY	May Day, May Day	Damien Giuliani	Snow	Yes
	Mental Wellness	Mynda Ohs	Ernst	pending
	South Cyn Street Fire Aid	Damon Guline	Snow/Chavez	pending

Other	Line of Duty Death	Ashley Iverson	Tony Mecam	pending
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WEATHER	Long-term Weather Outlook	Daniel Swain	Fowler	pending
	Weather Outlook	Drew Smith	Johnson, K	pending



**Old Business:**

None

**Life Membership Recommendations:**

Dan Johnson

Kurt Zingheim

**Gary Helming Award Nominations:**

None discussed

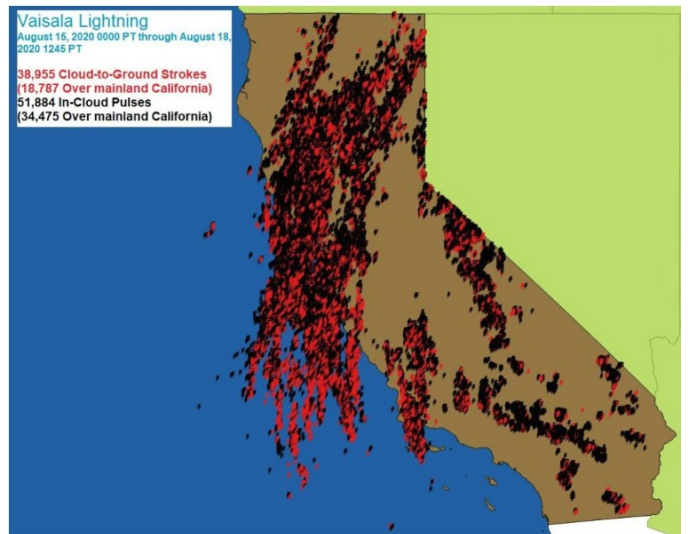
**New Business:**

None

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held second Friday in February. Location and whether it will be in person or virtual will be determined as the date comes closer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jim Chavez,  
 Association Secretary





# CALIFORNIA FIRE SCIENCE CONSORTIUM



## Two Big Fire-drivers (Fuel vs. Wind) Mean Different Management Strategies Across California

Keeley, J.E., and A.D. Syphard. 2019. Twenty-first century California, USA, wildfires: fuel-dominated vs. wind-dominated fires. *Fire Ecology* 15:24

[doi.org/10.1186/s42408-019-0041-0](https://doi.org/10.1186/s42408-019-0041-0)

Since the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, large wildfires have become increasingly more frequent in California. To explain these fire patterns, this paper contrasts the two most important factors driving large fires: fuel-dominated vs. wind-dominated wildfires. These two fire types differ significantly, with lightning-ignited, eastern California forest fires typically being **fuel-driven (i.e., bottom-up control)**, the result of long-term fire suppression, or forest management practices while western California shrubland fires are overwhelmingly **wind-driven (i.e., top-down control)**, the result of foehn wind events that coincide with human ignitions in densely populated areas. Other significant ways that these two types of fire differ include: past fire and management history (effective fire suppression vs. less effective suppression), ignition sources (lightning dominated vs human dominated), seasonal timing, (summer vs. fall), type of resources most at risk (forests vs. human lives and property), and the need for dramatically different management responses (fuel reduction vs. fire prevention).

Although high intensity forest fires are traditionally blamed, the reality is that frequent, wind-dominated fires are the most catastrophic in terms of total lives lost and structures burned.



This paper demonstrates that because anomalous fuel loads are not associated with these wind-driven events, future management should focus on what is called “**the Five P’s**”: 1) **People**, rather than fuels, should be the primary focus. 2) **Prevention** will be far more effective than fuel treatments. This includes controlling both direct human ignitions, as well as those from human infrastructure, such as powerline failures. 3) **Planning** communities should incorporate smart regional planning along with local fire safety needs. 4) **Protection** of structures through hardening of homes will help avoid ember-ignited fires. 5) **Prediction** of wind-driven fire trajectories combined with rapid communication of those predictions to agencies and the public to reduce fatalities.

### Management Implications

- It is widely recognized that management of fuel-dominated fires requires pre-fire fuel manipulations, including prescription burning, managed fire for resource benefit in wildlands, and mechanical treatments of understory fuels.
- Less well appreciated is the conclusion that wind-dominated fires, which cause the largest loss of lives and property, require a very different approach, labeled the **Five P’s**: People, Prevention, Planning, Protection, and Prediction.

### Research Brief for Resource Managers

**Release:**  
September 2019

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## NEW HIGH TECH WILDFIRE TOOL LAUNCHED AND FLYING SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS

*Provides Enhanced Situational Awareness in  
Minutes to Protect Lives and Property*

### FIRE CHIEF BRIAN FENNESSY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Alamitos, CA – September 23, 2019 – Knowing where a wildfire is, and the direction it is burning is of paramount importance to decision-makers on the ground. It is critical to saving lives and protecting property. With the new Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System (FIRIS), that launched September 1, this enhanced situational awareness is now available and has already flown successful missions.

The system utilizes a fixed-wing aircraft equipped with infrared and radar sensors that can see through smoke. The plane provides real-time fire perimeter mapping and live high definition video to support a supercomputer based wildfire predictive spread modeling for first responders.

The 150-day FIRIS pilot program got off the ground thanks to funding secured in the 2019-20 state budget by Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach).

“The State of California must shift strategies to address the constant crisis of wildfires – this is no longer a seasonal threat,” stated Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris. “I am proud to have partnered with the Orange County Fire Authority in securing \$4.5 million in state funds for technology that will protect lives and property by giving first responders better, stronger tools to use against the threat of wildfires.”

Accurate real-time perimeter mapping with frequent

updates gives the size, scope, and impact of developing fires. The University of California San Diego WIFIRE wildfire spread modeling projects where and how large a wildfire will become over a 6-hour time period. The wildfire spread model will adjust for successful fire suppression actions by firefighters on the ground and in the air. This intel allows for more timely and accurate decision making for resource allocation and evacuations.

