

BORDER AGENCY FIRE COUNCIL



The Harris Fire

Year End Report 2007

What is BAFC? – The concerned citizens of the United States and Mexico formed the Border Agency Fire Council. It is a consortium of government and private entities, emergency responders, environmental specialists, law enforcement, fire protection, and elected officials. It began under emergency conditions and has proven to be an extremely successful collaboration. People are alive today because of BAFC. Threatened habitat is protected and even improved because of this program. An unprecedented bi-national mutual assistance agreement is in place and working because of this program. The members of BAFC have worked without judgment or malice toward their fellow human being. From the beginning, their motivation has been primarily to save lives and protect the sensitive habitat of the border area.

Thirty-four organizations make up BAFC; a list of members is at the end of this report. The members meet quarterly during the winter and every six to eight weeks during fire season. They meet at the San Diego headquarters of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in El Cajon, California. Through collaborative effort, they have altered the environment to allow better access into the wildland for emergency responders, while respecting the natural values of the area. They have enhanced communication among emergency responders on both sides of the U.S. - Mexico border. They have reached out to people in both countries with safety messages in Spanish and English. This report provides a brief description of the many projects the Council and agencies have accomplished this year and ongoing projects started in other years yet still active today.

History - For decades, people have entered the United States illegally by crossing from Mexico into San Diego County. They entered on foot from Tijuana. In 1995, "Operation Gatekeeper" tightened security near Tijuana and the immigration pattern shifted to the east. A trip that formerly took a few hours turned into several days and involved a strenuous hike through rugged wilderness. In summer, the heat is sweltering; in winter, the temperature drops below freezing at the higher elevations. Many of these people simply didn't understand the difficult conditions they would face. That lack of knowledge proved to be life threatening.

The Border Agency Fire Council was formally created during the 1996 fire season, with the first meetings conducted in the fall of 1995 due to a dramatic increase in wildfire activity in southern San Diego County. Investigators determined that improperly extinguished campfires left by undocumented migrants were causing these fires, as they traveled into the United States through the San Ysidro Mountains. They also carried torches to guide their way at night. These two activities were responsible for a huge increase in the number of wildfires. This meant hundreds of people were on foot every day in steep, rugged terrain with wildfires around them.

Fire officials believed the threat to human safety was of crisis proportion. Emergency response Vehicles could not travel safely on the narrow dirt paths. There were no safe places for a rescue helicopter to land. People continued to accidentally set fires, apparently not understanding that they were endangering their own lives.

Consequently, the Border Agency Fire Council was formed with the goal of saving lives and property.

Much of the land in the border area of San Diego County is protected wilderness. Special permission was obtained from the Secretary of Interior to make changes in the landscape. Roads were widened and helipads were installed. Additionally, an organized warning/information system was put into place. Lives and property have been saved through the communication and response efforts of this council.

Highlights and Issues of 2007

Fire Season 2007 – The 2007 fire season in San Diego County was declared in April this year due to continued drought conditions. Many agencies, including CAL FIRE, hired additional personnel and added equipment to meet anticipated resource needs for a potentially busy fire season. By Executive Order of the Governor, CAL FIRE San Diego was authorized to staff all engines with four persons every day.

The 2007 fire season proved to be one of the worst that San Diego County has witnessed. The “2007 Fire Siege” as it has been commonly referred to, culminated in five large fires in the month of October under Santa Ana conditions, beginning October 21st. The five largest fires; the Witch Fire, the Harris Fire, the Poomacha Fire, the Rice Fire, and the Ammo Fire together burned over 360,000 acres. Approximately 1,350 dwellings units and 914 accessory buildings were damaged or destroyed in these fires. The total estimated damage was \$294,972,775 to \$464,499,592 depending on the methodology used. It was estimated that 18,142 dwellings were saved for a total estimated replacement value of \$5,474,679,951. Through the Reverse 911 System approximately 500,000 San Diego area residents were evacuated during these fires.

The Harris Fire was of particular interest and significance to the BAFC due to the fact that it was declared a border fire. The Harris Fire was started near Potrero in an area known to be a travel corridor for undocumented migrants. After investigation the Harris Fire was defined as an “undetermined border fire,” meaning that the type of the fire could not be determined initially but later was determined to be an escaped campfire connected with an undocumented immigrant camp. The Harris Fire burned 90,440 acres and caused one (1) civilian fatality and five (5) injuries, including the four (4) Cal Fire firefighters and civilian injured in the October 21st burnover near Potrero. An additional seven (7) fatalities were discovered in the area after the fire, these fatalities are believed to be undocumented migrants.

The Witch Fire burned 197,990 acres and was the largest fire of the 2007 Fire Siege. The Witch Fire started in Witch Creek Canyon near Santa Isabel from a downed power line and burned through communities in Ramona, Rancho

Bernardo, Poway, Escondido, Lake Hodges, Del Dios, and Rancho Santa Fe and surrounding areas.

The Poomacha Fire (50,176 acres), the Rice Fire (9,000 acres), and the Ammo Fire (21,084 acres) were the three other significant fires to occur during the October 2007 Fire Siege. The Poomacha Fire began as a structure fire on the La Jolla Indian Reservation and burned parts of Palomar Mountain where damage to communities and habitat were minimized by prior vegetation management efforts through the Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST). Many members of BAFC are also members of FAST. The Rice fire started in Rice Canyon near Fallbrook and caused extensive evacuations in that area as well as the closure of Interstate 15. The Ammo Fire occurred on Camp Pendleton Marine Base and caused little in the way of property damage.

There were also a number of smaller fires that occurred during and prior to the 2007 Fire Siege. These include the Pine Fire, the Angel 2 Fire, and the In-Ko-Pah Fire, among others. The Pine Fire occurred in September and was the largest of these fires burning approximately 2,170 acres. The Pine Fire was declared a border fire and per USFS investigation was started by an undocumented migrant campfire. The In-Ko-Pah Fire was also a border fire; it burned 1,118 acres in the U.S. and 500 acres in Mexico.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) reported a total of 39 "border related" wildfires in 2007 for a total of 91,817 acres burned in CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The BAFC area includes approximately one-half the county which is roughly the area northerly from the Mexican border from Tijuana to El Cajon, through El Cajon and north toward Ramona, then easterly toward Julian to the Imperial County line.

The cost to suppress 2007 border area fires above normal operational costs was estimated at \$47 million from the Emergency Fund Expenditures. The number of wildfires in the border area remains much less than before BAFC was founded in 1996, although fire statistics regarding the acreage burned in 2007 are above reasonable expectations for a typical fire season in San Diego's border area. The increase in total acreage burned in 2007 compared to ten (10) years earlier may be attributed to ongoing drought conditions. Aside from the increase in acres burned in 2007 many believe that overall the number of fires has decreased because of an aggressive outreach effort on the part of the Council.

In partnership with the County of San Diego, through the San Diego Sheriff's Department, two medium helicopters flown by Sheriff Pilots and staffed with CAL FIRE firefighters remained in service at Gillespie Field and Fallbrook Airport. Copter 10 and Copter 12 were once again valuable resources utilized during the 2007 Fire Season. The County of San Diego through the Department of Planning and Land Use provided Geographic Information System Mapping products for the first forty-eight (48) hours of The Witch Fire and then remained in support of the incident until the Base Camp was terminated. County GIS also provided

maps for the Harris Fire. After the 2007 Fire Siege the County of San Diego sent out 29 damage assessment teams and completed extensive reports on each property damaged that were made available to other BAFC agencies.

In response to a request from the Area Fire and Rescue Coordinator through CAL FIRE, utilizing the BAFC Mutual Assistance Agreement, the Dirección de Bomberos y Protección Civil de Tijuana sent four (4) fire trucks and personnel that worked for 3 days on the 2007 Wildfires. The agency was pleased to be invited to the U.S. to help. There was only a small glitch for the border crossing. In Mexico the top media story was the U.S. fires and the agency's assistance to the U.S. This event proved that the great partnerships exhibited between Mexico, the United States and members of the Border Agency Fire Council are effective.

Visits - The BAFC through its membership continues to invite guests to participate in the meetings and perhaps to become members of the organization. Visitors for 2007 include; Campo Reservation Fire and Rescue San Miguel Fire Protection District. San Miguel became a member of the BAFC.

International Fuel Break - Otay Mountain, a section of an international fuel break located at the border between the United States and Mexico in San Diego County California, was completed in 2002 and receives annual maintenance work. This on-going project has several goals that include protection of life and property in adjacent communities, improved endangered species habitat, reducing the risk of large scale fire in the protected Tecate Cypress groves on Otay Mountain and enhanced national security due to open areas that deter illegal immigration across the border. Additional special considerations are required due to the rare and endangered Quino Checkerspot Butterfly found in the area. The ongoing work on the International Fuel Break is an excellent example of fire mitigation on an interagency basis that provides multiple benefits to the local communities in both the United States and Mexico. CAL FIRE, BLM, CONAFOR and the private Mexican Conservancy Pronatura work in partnership on both sides of the border to protect citizens and habitat from fire. In 2007 the BLM and CAL FIRE continued work on the international fuel break with major efforts taking place in the Dulzura area. The Dulzura Fuel Break was started on August 6, 2007 through BLM and CAL FIRE with work projected to continue through 2008.

The Sunrise Fuel Break in the Julian area also continues to receive needed maintenance to help protect the greater Julian area from fire. BLM and CAL FIRE work as partners to complete this necessary project.

Rescues – The Border Patrol continued to provide rescue service to undocumented immigrants. They conducted 93 rescues in 2007 to victims of all types, undocumented immigrants and agents included. This was a significant reduction in rescues compared to the 136 rescues conducted in 2006.

Cold and Warm Weather Rescue Kits - Fire is not the only threat to human life in this area. Extreme temperatures in summer and winter have taken lives since the migration pattern has shifted through the rugged mountainous area of San Diego County. During the winter, temperatures drop to well below freezing in the higher elevations. During the summer, temperatures rise to around 100 degrees with no water to be found. Smugglers lead unprepared people into this area and when they fall behind, the smugglers leave them to die. In 2001, the Border Patrol placed emergency rescue kits in specially marked underground sites within the area. Responders can now use a special tracking device to locate the kits and assist stranded or injured people. The kits contain blankets, basic medical supplies, food and water. Kits are checked and maintained annually by the Border Patrol. (See Agency Reports – Border Patrol section for photographs and further details on these kits.)

Fatalities – The US Border Patrol reported that unfortunately there were fifteen (15) migrant deaths within the San Diego Sector in 2007. This was an increase compared to 2006 where there were twenty-one (21) migrant deaths reported. The rugged terrain and variable harsh weather are contributing factors to these sad losses.

Partnership with Mexico – Mexico continues to be a valued partner and member of the Border Agency Fire Council. In keeping with the Mutual Assistance Agreement, U.S. and Mexican firefighters remain available to assist each other automatically for wildland emergencies. Radio and television continue to run public service announcements regarding the dangers faced by those who attempt to enter the U.S. through the remote and rugged terrain of San Diego County. The U.S. and Mexican consulates play key roles in the education information process. In addition, Mexican firefighters continue to receive wildland fire training from CAL FIRE and the US Forest Service. Mexico has been a valued cooperater from the beginning of BAFC.

Mutual Assistance Agreement with Mexico and the U.S. – The Mutual Assistance Agreement was updated in 2007 to reflect changes in emergency contact phone numbers for assistance. This unprecedented mutual assistance agreement has continued since 1998. The agreement between Mexico and the U.S. allows emergency responders, ground resources only, to cross the border to protect lives and property. The Mexican Consulate, Mexican officials and the U.S. fire officials review the document annually. This agreement continues to save valuable time in crossing boundary lines without delays and red tape. Emergency responders call immediately to the U.S. and Mexican authorities through their communications network. The response personnel may proceed directly to the scene for any necessary action without waiting for any approval process. *Air resources are not allowed to cross the border at this time.* The **BAFC is pursuing** a future **change** through the US and Mexican Consulates **to allow aircraft to fly** one (1) mile **across the border** to suppress fires in either country. In 2007, discussion on the use of aircraft on both sides of the border

continued. It is a possibility that a new air operations protocol may be established between countries in 2008 or 2009.

The BAFC Operations Plan is the parent document that allows the detail of the agreement to be developed and implemented

Binational Prescribed (Controlled) Burns With Mexico – Planned prescribed burns continue to be organized by fire agencies on both sides of the border near Tecate Peak and other areas near the border. These projects are undertaken to protect citizens of both countries, protect habitat on both sides of the border and provide training for firefighters in Mexico along with the Mexican Nature Conservancy known as ProNatura.

CAL FIRE Training With Mexican Firefighters (Bomberos) - A major training event was held May 4, 2007 in Bell Valley, USA. This training was organized by the Tecate Fire Department, CAL FIRE, USFS-CNF, CONAFOR, and DPC. During the training, crews from the different agencies had a chance to work side by side. Air tanker training was taking place at Ramona on the same day and so it was incorporated into the joint exercise. It took 1 – 1 1/2 hours for personnel and apparatus to arrive at the scene on the U.S. side of the border. There were three (3) CAL FIRE engines, two (2) USFS-CNF engines, two (2) Mexican units, and (2) handcrews from McCain. Copter 10 and a water tender from Sycuan were also involved in the training and the La Cima kitchen provided meals for the crews. The training included hose lays, mobile attack and hand-line construction. Wildland safety topics reviewed were; entrapments, burnovers, and shelter deployment. The Mexican media and the San Diego Union Tribune covered this event.

The 3rd Border Wildfire Protection Course took place April 22-28 2007 at El Parque Nacional Constitucion in Baja, California. The course was organized by CONAFOR, CAL FIRE, SEFOA, DPC, and CONANP and was based on S-130 and S-190. Eighty-seven (87) volunteers and officials from Sonora, Baja California Sur and Baja California were trained at this event.

These annual training opportunities are allowed through the Mutual Assistance Agreement between the US and Mexico. The Operations Committee of BAFC is now exploring a request to have two training drills a year to improve response capabilities.

Sister Forest Agreement - Cooperative Training with Mexico – The USFS continues to meet with partners in Mexico to increase cooperation between the two countries wherever possible. An example of the training available is a 32-hour Basic Fire Fighter train-the trainer module. Training materials in Spanish are given to participants for them to conduct the Basic Firefighter training at their home units. This type of training is conducted under the Sister Forest Agreement that the Cleveland signed with Mexico in 2001.

Bug Kill, Drought And The Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST) – The council was aware of the drought conditions for the last seven (7) years that created a Bug Kill problem in many areas of San Diego County. BAFC supported the pursuit of grants to address the potential fire problem with thousands of dead, dying and diseased trees. Governor Davis and Governor Schwarzenegger issued Proclamations in 2003 and 2004 to advise the public of the drought and associated bug. Many members of BAFC are also members of FAST.

Coordinating with Other Emergency Groups – Members of BAFC are encouraged to speak out on issues pertaining to the work of the council whenever the opportunity presents itself. BAFC representatives serve on boards, commissions or committees and attend meetings of other organizations, which have similar public safety and environmental missions.

Media Coverage - U.S. and Mexican media have continued to be very helpful in distributing BAFC' messages on both sides of the border. Media outlets accept and broadcast public service announcements with safety messages in Spanish and English. The consulates of both countries and members of the Public Outreach Committee coordinate this distribution of messages.

Environmental Cleanup - Again this year the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management employed crews to pick up garbage left behind by undocumented immigrants. More than three 11,149 pounds of trash were removed from Wilderness Areas.

Operations Plan for 2007 – The Operations Plan was reviewed again this year. The plan is reviewed on an annual basis.

Roads Continue to Serve - The Border Patrol continues to maintain the Otay Truck Trail and associated smaller roads improved through the efforts of the BAFC and all members. These roads have made a huge difference in getting fire engines and other emergency response vehicles into this remote area. Partner agencies in the maintenance process also include the California National Guard and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Guidebook - The Resource Protection Committee (a sub-committee of BAFC) met during 2007 to update the Natural Resources Guidebook. The new

guidebook is completed. Six new areas are being added to the BAFC document. CD's of the Guidebook will be the primary distribution mechanism available to member agencies. Agencies will print hardcopies of the document from their personal CD. The guidebook is a valuable tool to response agencies that work in sensitive habitat within the BAFC boundaries. The goal of the Guidebook is to empower responders to perform their duties and protect the environment at the same time. The guidebook will contain an agency contact list with phone numbers matched to map quads.

Safety Messages - BAFC recognizes the importance of telling people how dangerous it is to travel on foot through this border area. Staff from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Border Patrol and the Bomberos distribute flyers on both sides of the border with the BAFC safety message.

Detention Centers – After they are picked-up by Border Patrol, undocumented immigrants are held in detention centers before being returned to Mexico. While in custody, they watch a Spanish language video produced by BAFC and the Border Patrol, which clearly explains the dangers of being on foot in this rugged terrain. The viewers are warned of extreme temperatures during summer and winter periods, dangerous trails with steep slopes, poisonous snakes, lack of drinking water, and the threat of wildfire. The loved ones of those who have died, while traveling in this wilderness, are featured in the video

Safety Mirrors on Roads – Border Patrol maintains safety mirrors for vehicular visibility and safety on the Minnewawa Truck Trail.

Safety Video for Law Enforcement Officers - Safety videos have been made by BAFC and distributed to the California Highway Patrol and the Sheriff for officer training and awareness of the dangers of wildfire and their required public safety duties. The BAFC members prepared the videos through the Border Patrol with an emphasis on personal safety in a fire situation, including the use of emergency fire shelters. Law Enforcement personnel recognize the need for basic fire safety clothing and personnel protection. They continue to work with the various fire agencies for their needs.

BAFC Website - BAFC's website managed through the Cleveland National Forest has been effective in distributing information about the council. Access to the website is www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland.

Annual Report – The Annual Report for 2006 was completed and distributed at a regular meeting of the BAFC in August 2007.

BAFC MEMBER REPORTS



USDA Forest Service Cleveland National Forest

Sister Forest Agreement Cooperative Training with Mexico – The United States Forest Service (USFS) continues to meet with partners in Mexico to increase cooperation between the two countries wherever possible. An example of this coordination is the joint National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR), the Baja California Department of Forestry (SEFOA), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and USFS wildland firefighter training held in Mexico each spring. In May 2006, the basic training was offered to Mexican firefighters in San Pedro Martir, B.C., Mexico. In 2007, this training was held in Laguna Hansen, Mexico. This type of training is conducted under the Sister Forest Agreement that the Cleveland signed with Mexico in 2001.

In the past, the Cleveland National Forest has provided Basic 32 hour wildland fire suppression and 8 hour refresher training to individuals from various federal, state and municipal Mexican fire service agencies. All written and video materials for the Basic 32 and 8 hour refresher firefighter courses have been translated into Spanish by Cleveland National Forest staff. Thirty firefighters from 15 Mexican states completed a train-the-trainer course in 2003, and are teaching the Basic 32 hour course in the states in Mexico. The Cleveland National Forest and Mexican fire service agencies are looking at ways to expand the cooperative fire training program in the future, including sharing information and resources on prescribed fire and other hazardous fuels treatments.

Border Agency Fire Council Web Site - The Border Agency Fire Council continues to have a web site through the Cleveland National Forest. The page is housed on the Cleveland National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland and is listed on the front page of the site. It provides links and information on member agencies, and accomplishment and annual report information.

Border Fire Prevention and Resource Protection Crew - The Cleveland National Forest, located some five miles north of the international border with Mexico, is the southernmost of the national forests in California. Unauthorized travel, camping, and campfires in the southernmost portion of the Forest create significant resource impacts. The Cleveland National Forest staffs a border fire prevention and resource protection crew that hikes daily on user created trails to pick up trash, extinguish abandoned campfires, and rehabilitate damage to the land. The accomplishments of this crew have been the detection of over 6200 illegal campfires of which 241 escaped and burned 18,599 acres. The likely wildfire suppression cost savings of this early detection and suppression action is \$1 to \$5 million annually. Since 1997, more than 128,000 pounds of refuse has been collected and removed. In the past, the crew has also assisted the Bureau

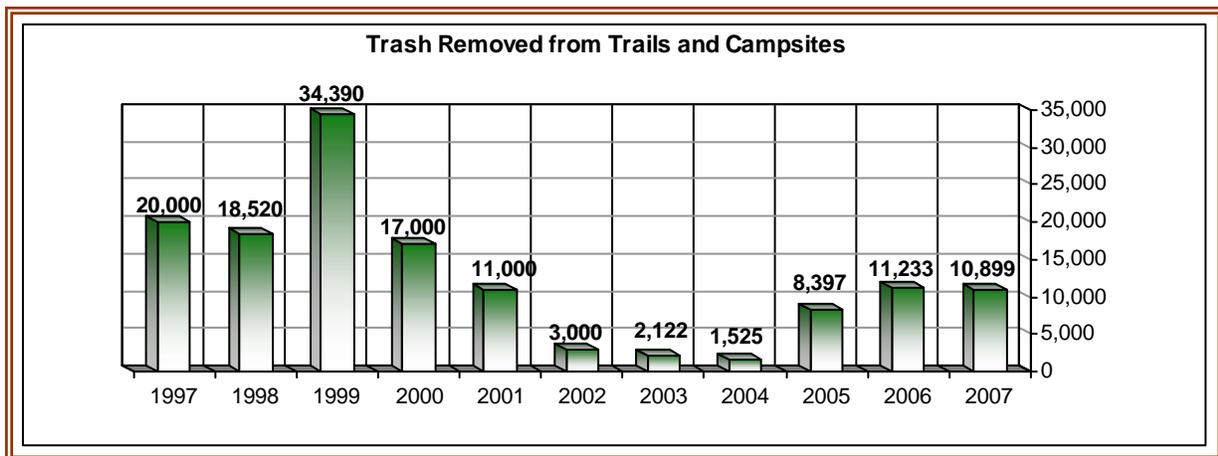
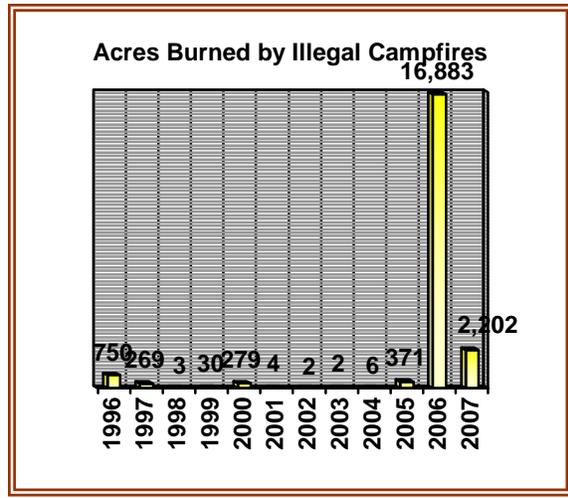
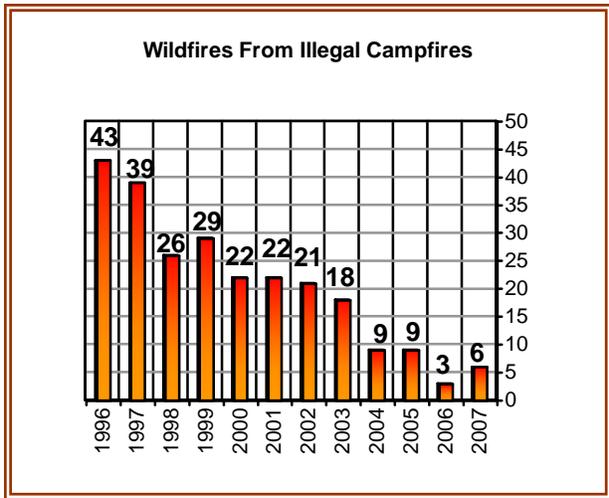
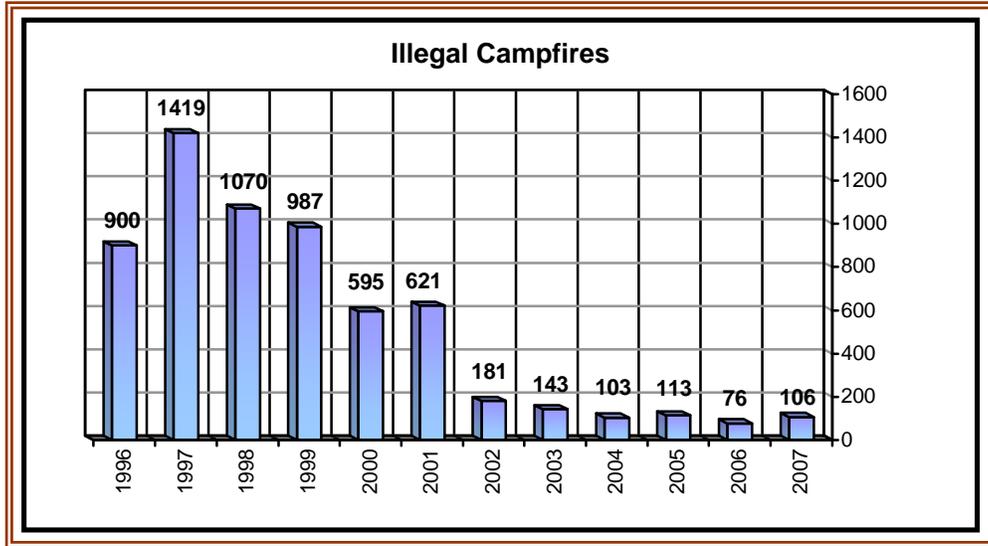
of Land Management with resource protection work in the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area.

Safety Patrols - During stormy conditions, Cleveland National Forest personnel along with Border Patrol crews check the roads and trails in the Forest for people who might have been caught unprepared. These interagency efforts have significantly reduced the deaths of immigrants during winter storms in the mountains. Unfortunately, the number of deaths from exposure increased significantly last year.

Mutual Assistance Agreement with Mexico and the U.S. - CAL FIRE and the Cleveland National Forest recently updated the Mutual Assistance Agreement with Mexico. This important agreement establishes dispatching and resource utilization procedures that enable participating agencies to work cooperatively to suppress fire and take appropriate actions on floods and other emergency situations on border lands of the U.S. and Mexico.



Cleveland National Forest Border Impact Statistics





California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

For 1.5 million acres of San Diego County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the fire department. CAL FIRE maintains a joint emergency command center with the U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE shares the supervision of inmate firefighters with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at four conservation camps. There are 25 CAL FIRE fire stations providing fire protection and other emergency services within the county. CAL FIRE fights fire from the air with helicopters and airtankers stationed at Ramona and Gillespie Field.

Fire Season 2007 – CAL FIRE San Diego, along with San Bernardino and Riverside CAL FIRE units, received augmentation funding from the Office of the Governor to hire personnel to have four persons on each engine instead of three due to the projected fire season potential. The severe drought and bark beetle infestation continued to cause an increase in mortality rates in the pine-forested areas and some associated brush fields. In many areas, like Julian, it was still estimated that 35% to 40% of the conifers were dead. Similar percentages were affecting other types of vegetation. CAL FIRE San Diego hired additional firefighters in May 2007 to staff engines with both seasonal and permanent personnel. The increased staffing has been extremely useful during prior year fires like the Cedar Fire in October/November 2003 and the fire siege that was experienced in October 2007.

The number of border related fires increased slightly when compared to the previous year. The acreage burned also increased significantly when compared to 2006. The total number of “border related” fires in the BAFC area during 2007 was thirty-nine (39) compared to thirty-four (34) in 2006. The total number of acres burned in 2007 was 91,207 compared to 590 in 2006 in CAL FIRE SRA lands within the BAFC boundaries. The total estimated suppression costs required from the State Emergency Fund in 2007 was \$21,000,000 compared to \$277,697 required in 2006. The largest fire at the border was the Harris Fire, which was identified as a statistical “Border Fire due to the cause being presumed to be a campfire. The Harris Fire burned 90,440 total acres. The fire was caused by an illegal campfire.

CAL FIRE and the County of San Diego through the Department of Planning and Land Use entered the third year of an “Amador Agreement” for staffing at eight (8) CAL FIRE facilities during the winter period of 2007. CAL FIRE personnel at a staffing level of three (3) persons per engine provided year-round fire protection and EMS response to designated rural communities through County funding.

Binational Prescribed (Controlled) Burn With Mexico – Prescribed burns conducted by fire agencies are still planned around Tecate Peak near the border and other similar areas. The project protects life, property and sensitive habitat on both sides of the border. A fire brigade from Rancho La Puerta and Pronatura (Nature Conservancy) members in Mexico participated with CAL FIRE and CONAFOR. This is a continued partnership of this type to enhance the habitat and to protect citizens of both countries. Prescribed fire will be a key element of a successful program. CAL FIRE San Diego continues to work with partners in Mexico that control acreage adjacent to the U.S. property. Mexico has embarked on a new era to protect the environment on private lands that matches well with CAL FIRE goals. Another example of BAFC working to protect people and the environment.

Protecting the Environment and Preventing Fires – Determining how to remove fire hazards (weeds, brush, dead trees, etc.) while protecting threatened and endangered plant and animal species continues to be the challenge for BAFC. The Quino Checkerspot Butterfly survives in the Coochama State Forest (west of Tecate). CAL FIRE in cooperation with San Diego County, planned a series of “test plots” in which various methods of fuel reduction was to be implemented. These methods may include the burning of small blocks under low intensity fire, hand clearing of selected vegetation, and possible use of goats to reduce fuel load. The intent of the project is to discover which of these methods has the least impact, if any, on the Quino habitat. Another goal is to determine if Quino habitat can be improved or created through any of these methods. This is another example of BAFC working to protect people and the environment.

Firefighters Use the Border Guidebook – When CAL FIRE firefighters respond to a wildfire in this area, they consult the Guidebook created in 1998 by BAFC. This publication provides information to the firefighters on how to extinguish fires, while minimizing harm to the environment and the endangered species that live there. The book is expected to have a complete revision in 2008.

International Fuel Break-Otay – CAL FIRE continues to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and to maintain the necessary work needed on this fuel break parallel to the Otay Truck Trail. Fire crews from McCain Valley Conservation Camp under the direction of an on-site BLM representative conduct this work. The project also creates habitat within the Otay Wilderness.

Training Video – CAL FIRE has provided videos for the CHP and Sheriff on shelter deployment and wildland fire dangers that may affect officers of these departments. In an effort to make the CAL FIRE fire safety training more available to all agencies in need, CAL FIRE and the Border Patrol produced a video of the training. CAL FIRE provided the training and the Border patrol taped, edited and copied the video. The product was then distributed by CAL FIRE. Since the beginning of BAFC, CAL FIRE has provided fire safety training

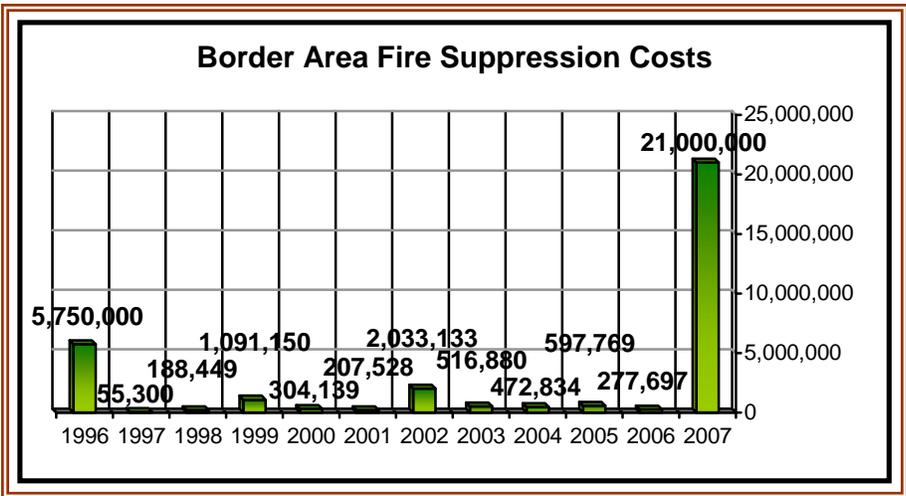
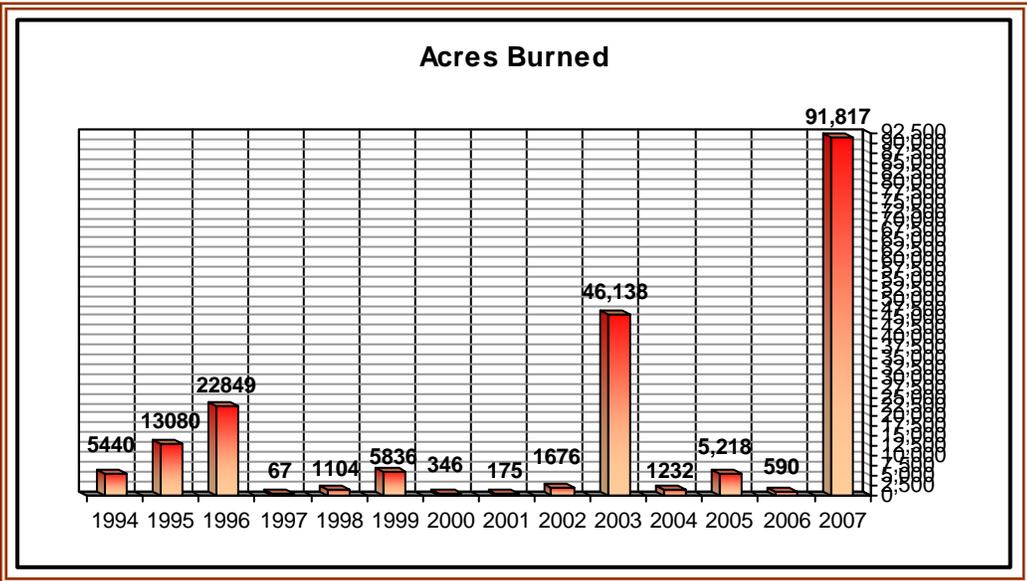
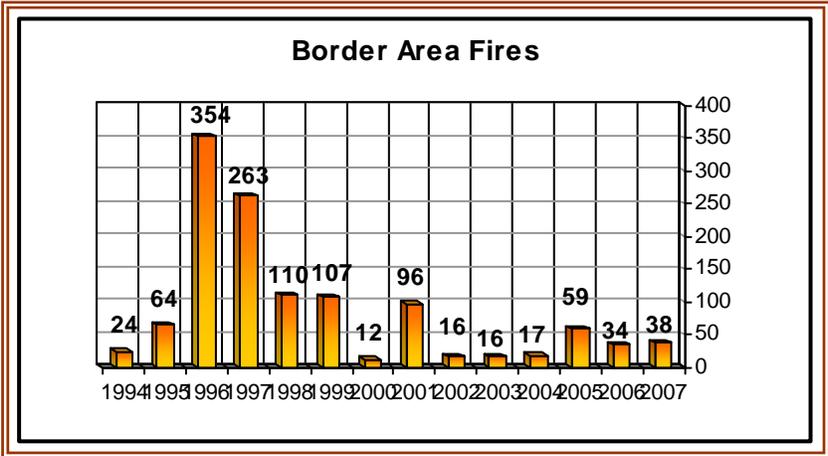
to law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical technicians who might be exposed to wildfire. This video supports that effort.

Mutual Assistance Agreement - A positive relationship between the fire agencies from both countries continues to grow and improve. CAL FIRE personnel have also crossed the border to train firefighters in Bonita/Juarez Mexico. Firefighter Training generally includes the following subjects: Fire Behavior S-190, Introduction to the Incident Command System, First Aid, Hand Tool Use, Fire Line Construction, Chainsaw Use and Maintenance and Use of hoselays in wildland fire suppression. In 2003, CAL FIRE fire personnel translated the Incident Command System (ICS) I-200 course, an introduction to Incident Command, into Spanish. In both cases, Spanish speaking CAL FIRE employees provided the training to the “Bomberos” and has continued to be most effective. CAL FIRE also held meetings with fire agencies and the US and Mexican Consulates to update and finalize the Mutual Assistance Agreement as part of an annual review process.

This year firefighters from Tijuana entered the US to assist in fire suppression on the Harris Fire. The Mutual Assistance Agreement was the tool that allowed the firefighters to send a strike team of engines (5) with a strike team leader to work with CAL FIRE personnel for the duration of the fire. CAL FIRE appreciated and complemented the Mexican firefighters for the support and professionalism during this emergency. The Mexican Fire authorities were most pleased to assist their neighbors to the north. This fire event once again proved the great partnership exhibited between Mexico, the United States and members of the Border Agency Fire Council is effective.



CAL FIRE Border Impact Statistics





California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

The year 2007 marked the sixty first year of cooperation between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the Conservation Camp Program. Our state pioneered the employment of incarcerated individuals in wildland fire protection. Since its inception, the program has expanded into a highly mobile work force engaging in all forms of risk disaster mitigation, pre-fire fuel management, the development and maintenance of fire defense improvements and facilities; and the performance of conservation related projects for local, state, and federal agencies. This program provides convicted felons with the opportunity to give something back to California citizens while paying their debt to society.

In addition to the missions listed above, the Camp Program is an active participant in the Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC). There are three Conservation Camps located in San Diego County that act as first responders to border fire emergencies. These camps are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| • Puerta La Cruz (Female) | Warner Springs | 132 inmates/5 Crews |
| • La Cima (Male) | Julian | 90 inmates/4 Crews |
| • McCain Valley (Male) | Boulevard | 110 inmates/5 Crews |

Combined, these camps have the ability to provide a total of fourteen hand crews in a very short time to isolate, contain, and mitigate wildland fires. Puerta La Cruz also houses a Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) that is dispatched to larger fires to provide full meal service to the participating agencies.





San Diego County Sheriff's Department

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is proud to be one of the founding members of the Border Agency Fire Council. Working in partnerships with our communities as well as fellow members of BAFC, deputies assigned to the Rural Law Enforcement Division continue to provide quality service to the citizens of the rural areas.

Working with our partners in the fire service, we assisted in numerous fires that occurred throughout the backcountry portion of San Diego County, including the massive Cedar Fire that took place in October of 2003 and the "Fire Siege of October 2007".. Our goal to provide services at fire scenes resulted in a massive activation of Sheriff's personnel for the 2007 Witch/Harris/Poomacha/Rice Fires and the 2003 Cedar/Paradise/Otay fires. These fire emergencies were truly a team requiring effort and partnership with our fire department colleagues in these historic critical incidents.

The Sheriff Departments' excellent working arrangement with the various fire and law enforcement agencies in the backcountry areas has proved very useful at both fire and disaster scenes. Deputies assigned to the Rural Law Enforcement Division of the Sheriff's Department carry fire turnout gear, extra water for rescue personnel and victims, as well as the ability to utilize common radio frequencies to talk to other agencies.

Adhering to our mission statement of ***"In partnership with our communities, we provide the highest quality public safety services"***, the Sheriff's Department continues to support the Border Area Fire Council by actively participating in the regular meetings and various projects.





U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) suffered significant fire effects in 2007, related to wildfires along the area encompassed by the Border Agency Fire Council. In 2007 we initially were busy with the In-Ko-Pah Fire that started in Mexico and burned over 1,180 Acres of BLM Lands. Much like 2003, the fire season was relatively quiet until later in the year. The Pine Fire on the Cleveland National Forest which originated along a remote trail and believed related to immigration was the first of several challenging wildfires and as part of BLM's contribution several BLM Fire employees supported the firefighting effort including the Incident Commander, Ron Woychak. The Border 34 Fire occurred south and east of the community of Potrero the same day in an immigration corridor in a remote location. October and foehn winds led to the over 90,000 acre Harris Fire that included three of eight fatalities unfortunately found burned and to have perished on BLM lands at Barrett Smith Road. Numerous destroyed homes, immense property damage and significant civilian and firefighter injuries and deaths marked this tragic fire that is believed to have started along an immigrant trail. The Witch Fire among several burning concurrently stretched firefighting resources.



The past few years have seen an increase in fire severity in this highly fire adapted ecosystem, the fire recurrence interval threatens to modify the natural environment and the species that live there.

Increased reports of Border related crime have reduced BLM Fire Prevention efforts directly along the Border. Efforts are currently pulled back along the

Highway 94 corridor as far as Spanish Language Prevention signs are concerned. Past efforts including Radio Spots in Mexico and Video Taped safety messages are believed to have ended. Patrol efforts and education efforts this year have been directed to willing residents and cooperating FireSafe Councils.



Recommended efforts are to increase fire mitigation efforts and traditional fire prevention messages in the area. Increase detection efforts. Rehabilitate Fuel Breaks and Fire Truck Trails and create community defensible space and safety zones. We will investigate the possibilities to educate the public on both sides of the border in a wildfire safety initiative.





U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

In November 2007, the California and Nevada Operations Office (CNO) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) officially changed its name to Region 8. The Fire Management Program in Region 8 includes National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries throughout California, Nevada, and Oregon's Klamath Basin. In San Diego County, FWS manages about 15,000 acres of wildlands on a complex of four National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) which provide 12 critical habitat areas that are home to 21 threatened or endangered species in San Diego County. FWS representatives attend the Border Agency Fire Council to facilitate communication and coordination for fire and law enforcement between all BAFC agencies.

2007 Fire Season Summary - Weather and fuels in southern California remained at critical levels at the end of the 2006 fire season. As a result, the potential for wildland fires within the FWS Southern California Fire Management Zone remained high as the year began. With no significant rainfall predicted, the San Diego NWR Complex submitted an early season severity request to staff initial attack coverage. The significant drought, which amplified the critically low fuel moistures, continued throughout the fire season cumulating in the Santa Ana wind season which brought the 2007 October fire siege. The conditions which created the need for severity funding continued throughout most of the fire season. This was an above average fire season for the Zone which conducted initial attack and/or support actions on 28 wildfires totaling 6,648 acres (on or threatening refuge lands). Most of the acreage, 6,500 acres, was burnt during two separate fires which occurred during the October fire siege.

Three fires stand out during the 2007 fire season due to their size and location- the Island Fire, Ranch Fire and Harris Fire.

During the Island Fire on Santa Catalina Island (10,000 acres), FWS Zone firefighters assisted with suppression efforts. Fire engines and crews were moved to the island via Marine Corps hovercraft operated out of Camp Pendleton.

The Ranch Fire began 8 miles east of the Hopper Mountain NWR in Ventura County and burned 58,400 acres which include 2,471 acres of refuge land including a large portion of the California condor's historic foraging habitat and several refuge outbuildings.

The Harris Fire started 21 miles east of the San Diego NWR during a very intense Santa Ana wind event and burned a total of 90,345 acres of southern San Diego County. Approximately 50% of the San Diego NWR was burned (4,137 acres). About one-half of the coastal sage scrub and two-thirds of the chaparral habitats protected on the NWR were burned and numerous special status species were affected including coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and Otay tarplant. The Harris Fire also burned San Diego NWR infrastructure including fencing, signs, guardrails, the newly installed emergency radio repeater and parts of the San Miguel weather station. FWS fire crews and support personnel from the local area, as well as San Luis and Sacramento NWRs and regional office, assisted with suppression and efforts.



*FWS Refuge Engine 58 responds to Harris Fire.
FWS Photo*



*FWS Refuge Engine 56 responds to traffic accident on Otay Lakes Road.
FWS Photo.*



*Harris Fire aftermath, Nov. 2007
Photo © escphoto.com*



*Wildflowers follow in same area, March 2008.
Photo © escphoto.com*

In addition to usual operations, FWS Zone fire crews responded to five out-of-area fire assignments; Bill Molumby, Fire Management Officer, participated in four fire assignments on a incident management team as the Incident Commander; Merriam Aranzanso, Budget Technician, participated in two fire assignments at Southern California GACC as a Expanded Dispatch Recorder; Javier Saldivar, Fire Engineer, accepted a 30 day detail as helicopter crew member on the Las Vegas Interagency Helitack crew; and Larry Wade, Assistant Fire Management Officer, participated in four fire assignments including assignments to the state of Georgia and Okeefenokee NWR.

Fire crews participated in two interagency prescribed burns for 92 acres. Fire program staff also provided refresher training and fireline fitness testing to refuge and ecological services staff members. In addition, the Zone fire crew also conducted basic firefighter training for soldiers of the 163rd Ordinance Company of the US Army, based out of Irvine, California. Twenty-one soldiers and two civilians attended this live fire, classroom, and fire shelter practice training. Lead instructor was FWS Fire Captain Jim Mitchell.

BAER and ESR Programs - There was a sizeable workload associated with the Burned Area Emergency Response and Emergency Stabilization (BAER) and Rehabilitation (ESR) Programs. The San Diego NWR Emergency Stabilization Plans totaled over \$730,000 for the Harris Fire and about \$40,000 for the 14-acre Millar Fire of July 2007. Most of the work for these ES Plans was completed in 2008. A long-term Harris Fire Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan for the San Diego NWR has been submitted.

Removing the Hazards - The San Diego Rural Fire Protection District accomplished 2,900 acres of chipping around 270 homes through a \$100,000 FWS community assistance grant. This project funds two FWS chippers and the personnel to operate them. San Diego RFPD employees worked with homeowners who cut the brush creating a defensible space around their homes.

The San Diego NWR mechanically treated 160 acres of refuge fuelbreaks at strategic Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) locations at a cost of \$6,000. Various other hazardous fuel reduction and invasive species removal projects, under the direction of James Roberts, Southern California FWS WUI Coordinator, were also completed which resulted in defensible space for 270 homes adjacent to the refuge.

Collaboration and Partnerships - Region 8 fire management staff was actively involved in the California Fire Alliance and provided technical assistance and support to numerous fire-safe and fire-wise partners. The Fire Alliance is interagency forum of local, tribal, state and federal agencies coordinates statewide pre-fire management efforts and provides assistance to local communities at risk to wildfire.

The San Diego NWR Complex has partnered with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSC) on various WUI projects. With funding provided by the FWS, the FSC has worked to promote fire safe projects in communities adjacent to FWS managed land. We have also been successful in supporting existing community FSCs in San Diego and encouraging many interested and emerging communities to establish local FSCs.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are still in progress for many of the southern Oregon, California, and Nevada WUI areas associated with NWRs. In support of CWPP planning and partnerships, three National Fire Plan WUI grants were funded to help develop CWPPs and provide collaborative fire outreach and education in southern California and the Bay Area.



United States Border Patrol

"To enforce the rule of law along the border, enhancing the quality of life of the people we proudly serve."

The San Diego Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol is responsible for 66 linear miles of the U.S./Mexico border, and nearly 7,000 square miles, roughly corresponding to the boundaries of the County of San Diego. Since the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper in 1994, illegal entries in San Diego County have steadily declined.

The success of Operation Gatekeeper has enabled the San Diego Sector to appropriate more resources to the development of search & rescue teams, anti-smuggling investigative units, public outreach programs, and border safety initiatives. The availability of personnel and resources has enabled the sector to become more proactive and the leader in innovative uses of new technology. San Diego Sector has evolved from the most neglected area of the southwest border to the flagship of the U.S. Border Patrol and a model of effective, efficient, and humane border control.

Department of Homeland Security - The President has charged the new Department of Homeland Security with the mission of stopping another terrorist attack on American soil. Securing our borders is a crucial aspect of that mission. Border security can no longer be an immigration issue alone. It can no longer be a Customs issue alone. It can no longer simply be about air or port security. Instead, it must encompass all of these issues. And so, on March 1, 2003 the United States Border Patrol joined the new Department of Homeland Security under the Bureau of Border and Transportation Security.

Border Safety Initiative - The Border Safety Initiative (BSI) began in San Diego in 1998 as an effort to make the international border safer for everyone. BSI addresses related concerns in the following areas: **Prevention** of illegal entries through potentially hazardous areas, **Search and Rescue** capabilities and commitments, and interactive support in situations requiring the **Identification** of deceased persons.

The San Diego Sector began issuing emergency response supplies to agents in 1998 as one facet of the Border Safety Initiative. Backpacks were loaded with a variety of items appropriate for summer or winter emergency aid. Each bag is packed with enough supplies for more than one individual. Easily digestible food, such as special granola "trail mix," dried "tropical fruit mix" and carbohydrate energy gel replaces earlier food items. "Gatorade" is included along with water and electrolyte tablets. Basic medical response supplies as well as first aid guides are included. Additional instant "cold-packs" were added. The San Diego Sector supplied deputies from the Alpine Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Rural

Enforcement division with these same packs in the event they encounter individuals in remote areas suffering from dehydration, heat stroke or malnutrition.

Enforcement Technology Department (ETD) - The San Diego Sector created the U.S. Border Patrol's first Enforcement Technology Department (ETD) in January of 2000. ETD is charged with researching emerging technology that can enhance the capability, effectiveness, and efficiency of border enforcement and management activities. ETD was envisioned to enhance the sector by strengthening technology capabilities and awareness while serving as a coordinating tool within the agency.

The office has several collaborative efforts underway, including:

San Diego State University / NASA Trail Extraction Project. This effort uses remote sensing to extract trail network from imagery

San Diego Police Department / San Diego Sheriff's Department Data sharing. ETD is working with both agencies to develop a common operating picture for emergency response in the area.

San Diego County Border Agency Fire Council Mapping Project. ETD is facilitating the production of new maps for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The maps contain over thirty layers of information.





San Diego County Office Of Emergency Services

The mission of the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is to coordinate San Diego County's response to disasters. Ron Lane, Director, has overall responsibility for managing OES and for directing the Emergency Operations Center in times of an emergency; co-chairing the Terrorism Working Group; and representing the county with state and federal agencies. OES assists public and private organizations in San Diego County with preparing for, responding to and recovering from major emergencies, including terrorism.

County OES has been an active supporter of the Border Agency Fire Council. OES has:

- Received approval by the County Task Force on Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services on a spending plan of \$400,000 for twelve fire protection agencies to meet their capital needs and improve the fire protection services to the public.
- Secured \$30,589,666 for the San Diego Operational Area in Homeland Security Grant Program funds since 2003. These grant programs were:
 - State Homeland Security Program
 - Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program
 - Emergency Management Performance Grant
 - Metropolitan Medical Response System
- Coordinated with the City of San Diego to secure \$16,653,618 for FY 2005 in other grant programs:
 - Urban Area Security Initiative
 - Buffer Zone Protection Program
 - Transit Security
 - Intercity Bus Security Grant Program

As a member of BAFC, staff from OES provided technical assistance in the original development of the Operating Plan. OES also assisted with the update of the plan each year. The BAFC Operating Plan coordinated medical and rescue response to any multi-casualty incident. OES continues to support the BAFC and the Operational Area to respond to and recover from disasters.



San Diego Gas & Electric



San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is pleased to be a member of the Border Agency Fire Council and shares the council's commitment to work cooperatively with all agencies involved in protecting life, property, and threatened habitat in the border area of San Diego County. SDG&E has been an active participant since the council's beginning and became a formal member in June 2005.

SDG&E has a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Cal-Fire to complete fuels management and hazard mitigation along the path of the Southwest Power Link where appropriate. The goal is to coordinate with Cal-Fire's vegetation management work along the border to reduce the fuel loading within SDG&E's right-of-way. The utility has approved funding for this project for the next five years and likely will continue to support these efforts as long as necessary.

SDG&E has worked extensively to improve fire coordination efforts with all fire agencies throughout its service territory. This year, SDG&E increased its electrical safety awareness training for fire department and law enforcement personnel and developed a Substation Emergency training video focused on safety awareness around critical electrical infrastructure. The utility provided a copy of the video to all fire service agencies, along with on-site training as requested. The Border Agency Fire Council has been an excellent conduit to foster these kinds of cooperative relationships.

SDG&E will continue to expand our coordination efforts with fire agencies, law enforcement personnel, land management agencies, and other private entities within the border area to provide for the safety of the public on both sides of the border. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this dedicated and vital organization.



Department of Planning And Land Use

Who We Are - Mission Statement: Maintain and protect public health, safety and welfare, and the quality of life for County residents by maintaining a comprehensive plan as required by statute and administration and enforcement of codes and ordinances.

Vision Statement: We will consistently provide the highest quality of service to all customers.

We remain dedicated to working in partnership with all and to be responsive, flexible and solution-oriented.

The County's General Management System is based on three strategic initiatives:

Improve Opportunities for Children

Promote Natural Resource Management Strategies that Ensure Environmental Preservation,
Quality of Life, and Economic Development

Promote Safe and Livable Communities



San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District

Fire Season Preparation

- Annual County Wildland Drill — Hosted by Barona this year
 - o Aerial operations and working with helicopter,
 - o Progressive hose lays,
 - o Structure triage
 - o Entrapment avoidance safety training

- RT-130 — In-house wildland refresher conducted during May and June
 - o Ten Standard Firefighting Orders
 - o Eighteen Watch Out Situation
 - o Fire shelter use
 - o Fire behavior and weather
 - o Tactics and Strategy
 - o Situational Awareness
 - o Fatigue Awareness

- Fire Season Concept of Operations
 - o Readiness considerations for anticipated wildland fire
 - o Alert phases during red flag condition
 - o Response levels base on size of the fire

- Resource Deployment Guide
 - o Strike Team deployment criteria
 - o Single resource deployment criteria
 - o Move-up matrix for covering fire stations

- I-Zone wildland Preplanning
 - o Identifying areas of concern within the District
 - o Preplanning response levels
 - o Identify safety zones within the District

- Fire Prevention Mailings
 - o Independent Action Plan that provided residents with information on ways to reduce vulnerability to wildland fire and identified emergency escape routes

- Firewise garden at Cuyamaca College



COMISIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL

Comisión Nacional Forestal Gerencia Regional I Península de Baja California

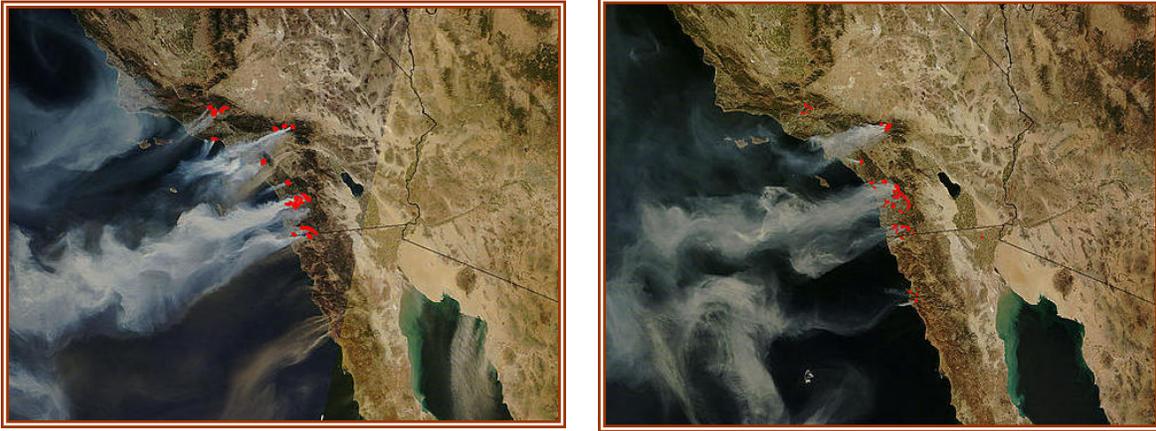
The National Commission of Forestry (Comisión Nacional Forestal-CONAFOR) was created as a decentralized federal agency, as depending from SEMARNAT (Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources) on April 4, 2001. Its mission is to inspire the participation from Mexican society to make the necessary changes to create a new sustainable forestry development policy in Mexico. Its general goal is to develop and to impulse productive activities and forest conservation and restoration.

According with the Mexico's General Law of Forestry Sustainable Development, CONAFOR is the federal agency responsible for the coordination of the wildfires prevention, detection and suppression in whole country, with the assistance of other federal, state and county public administration agencies, including volunteer groups.

2007 Baja California Fire Season Statistics - In the 2007 Wildfire Season registered 137 fires in Baja California, which burned 73,322 acres.

MUNICIPIO	# FIRES	BURNED VEGETATION (Acres)				TOTAL
		GRASSES	SHRUBS	TREES		
				YOUNG TREES	ADULT TREES	
TECATE	75	418.66	4,179.73		7.41	4,605.80
ENSENADA	60	507.58	65,492.37	30.87	1,512.87	67,543.69
TIJUANA	1		864.50			864.50
ROSARITO	1		288.99		19.76	308.75
TOTAL	137	926.24	70,825.59	30.87	1,540.04	73,322.74
%		1.26	96.59	0.04	2.10	100.00

When the wildfire emergencies were happening in October 2007 in Tecate, Tijuana and Ensenada, there were 12 fires which burned 60,000 acres. This represents 82% of the total area burned in the 2007 season. Only one of these fires burned 56,014 acres south of Ensenada.



October, 21 – 23, 2007



Binational Activities

5th Binational Children's Camp – Forest Environmental Education - For the fifth consecutive year took place the Binational Children's Camp in Rancho Cienega Redonda, in Tecate, Mexico, which was organized by USFS, CDF, SEFOA and CONAFOR. It was a great party-education day for children from both sides of the border.



3rd Border Wildfire Protection Course - As part of the binational activities from May 22 to May 27, 2006 was held the 2nd Border Wildfire Protection Course, in San Pedro Martir National Park, in Baja California, Mexico. In that course were trained 87 people, both, volunteers and officials from Sonora, Baja California Sur y Baja California. This training course was organized by CDF, USFS, SEFOA and CONAFOR and was based on S-130 and S-190.



3er Curso Fronterizo de Protección contra Incendios Forestales



3rd Border Wildfire Protection Course

Parque Nacional "Constitución de 1857"
Ensenada, B. C. 23 al 28 de abril de 2007



2nd Binational Fire Simulation - On May 4th, 2007 was held the second fire training session (simulation) as a part of Tecate-Tijuana/San Diego Emergency Mutual Assistance Program. In this event fire agencies from both sides of the border participated. It was held in Bell Valley, California and was commanded by Cal Fire.





Office of State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, 40th District

“As the State Senator for California’s 40th Senatorial District, I have had the opportunity to work with my fellow Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC) members to address fire safety concerns along the California/Baja California Border, and throughout California.

As our Binational region continues to experience years of extended drought and growth of fire prone exotic plant species, we must continue to work together to foster interagency cooperation between participating BAFC agencies, and elected officials from both sides of the border. It is imperative that elected officials work with the fire and safety agencies to address both short-term and long-term remedies to California’s burgeoning wildland/urban interface zones. This will include addressing the fiscal costs associated with protecting life and property, coupled with the protection and sustainability of our natural resources.

I look forward to continuing the working relationship we have built with the Border Agency Fire Council to advance its mission of protecting our border region’s natural resources by fostering open binational communication.” **Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny**

Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, a Democrat, was re-elected to the California State Senate on November 7, 2006, to represent the 40th District. As a native Californian, Senator Ducheny has been involved with neighborhood issues such as jobs, education, and improving the quality of life in her district for over 25 years.



40th Senatorial District - The district incorporates portions of San Diego and Riverside Counties and all of Imperial County, spanning the entire California/Baja California border from Imperial Beach to the Colorado River. Senator Ducheny Chairs the Senate Budget Committee and Joint Legislative Budget Committee, is Vice Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, and a member of the

Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Senator Ducheny chairs the Senate Select Committees on California-Mexico Cooperation, the Colorado River, and Oversight of UC Energy Labs. Senator Ducheny served as Chair of the Senate

Budget Sub-committee on Health and Human Services from 2004 to 2006, and of the Committee on Housing and Community Development from 2002 to 2004.

Background - Ms. Ducheny was born in Southern California, where she attended public high school and received a four-year scholarship from Twentieth-Century Fox Film Corporation to attend Pomona College. While in college she studied Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History. She went on to study economic history at the University of Lund, Sweden.

While attending the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, Ms. Ducheny served as student director of the Southwestern Clinical Law Center. She has been practicing law in South San Diego since 1979, when she earned her Juris Doctor and was admitted to the California State Bar.

Accomplishments - Prior to her election to the California State Senate, Senator Ducheny served in the California State Assembly from 1994 to 2000. While in the Assembly, Senator Ducheny served as Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee from 1997 through 2000, and as Vice-Chair in 1996. In both Assembly and the Senate, she was the first woman, and first Latino to be appointed to this powerful position overseeing the state's \$100 billion spending plan. As a legislator, she also served as Chair of the Select Committee on California-Mexico Affairs, Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Welfare Reform, Vice-Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus.

As a legislator in both houses, Senator Ducheny has worked diligently to improve California's bi-national relationship with the Republic of Mexico by coordinating various meetings and tours with U.S. and Mexican officials, to discuss cross-border business, transportation, education, environment and health issues. During the 1999-2000 legislative session, she authored legislation that created a permanent Office of Binational Border Health to facilitate cooperation between health officials and health professionals in California and Mexico to reduce the risk of disease in the border region. She also spearheaded organization of the Border Legislative Forum, a project of the Council of State Governments, composed of legislators of the 10 U.S.-Mexico Border States, and the Legislative Forum of the Three Californias.

Senator Ducheny previously served as an elected trustee of the governing board of the San Diego Community College District, as a member of the board of directors of the California Community College Trustees Association, and as Founder and Chair of the Association of Latino Community College Trustees. From 2000 to 2002, Senator Ducheny served as a Presidential Fellow at San Diego State University, Board Member of the San Diego Natural History Museum, Trustee of the Anza-Borrego State Park Foundation, Commissioner for the State Commission of the Californias, Commissioner for the San Diego

County Regional Governance Efficiency Commission and member of the California Border Environmental Cooperation Commission.

During her career in the Senate, Senator Ducheny has been recognized for her legislative achievements by many organizations, including the San Diego County Medical Society, the California State Association of Counties, the California Primary Care Association, California State Parks Foundation, the California Child Development Administrators Association, the Family Health Center, the California State Sheriffs Association, the California Community College League, and the Association of California School Administrators.

Senator Ducheny's Capitol and District Offices contact information:

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Imperial Valley Office

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El Centro, CA 92243
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Fax: (760) 335-3444

BAFC Membership

Thirty-four organizations and elected officials are active members of the Border Agency Fire Council. Each contributes staff and funds to this unique collaborative effort.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Office of the Governor
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Border Patrol
Office of Supervisor Dianne Jacob
San Diego County Office of Emergency Services
U.S. Attorney's Office
Office of Congressman Duncan Hunter
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Highway Patrol
San Diego County Department of Health Services Agency
San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use
Rural Fire Protection District
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
San Diego County Sheriff
Office of Senator Bill Morrow
Office of Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
Office of Senator Denise Ducheny
San Diego Gas and Electric
Joint Task Force 6
California Department of Fish and Game
San Diego Trauma Hospital Administrators
California Department of Corrections
Southern California Watershed Fire Council
U.S. Consulate General Tijuana
San Diego Fire and Rescue Department
FireSafe Council San Diego
CONAFOR (Comician Nacional Forestal), B.C., Mexico
Director de Proteccion Civil del Estado, B.C. Mexico (Baja OES)
Estatad de Forestal y Fauna Ensenada, Mexico
Tecate Fire Public Safety (Bomberos de Tecate)
Mexican Consul General San Diego (Associate Member)
Direccion de Bomberos de Tijuana

Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC) Area of Concern

