



Border Agency Fire Council



The History and The Future



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CAL FIRE

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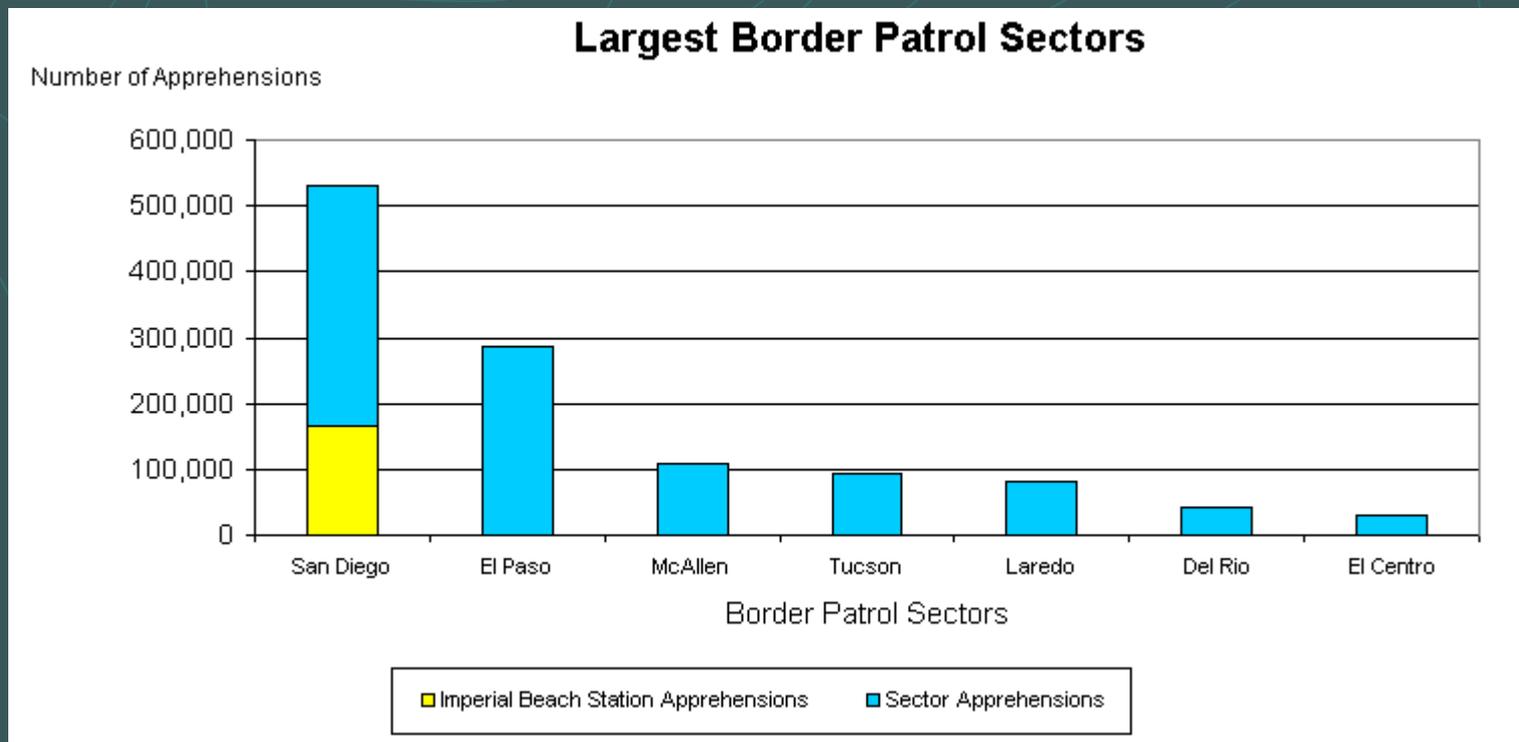




Summary

- In 1995, U.S. Border Patrol launched "Operation Gatekeeper." They focused their efforts on eliminating easy access along the U.S. - Mexico border from Tijuana into San Ysidro.

FY '93 Apprehensions

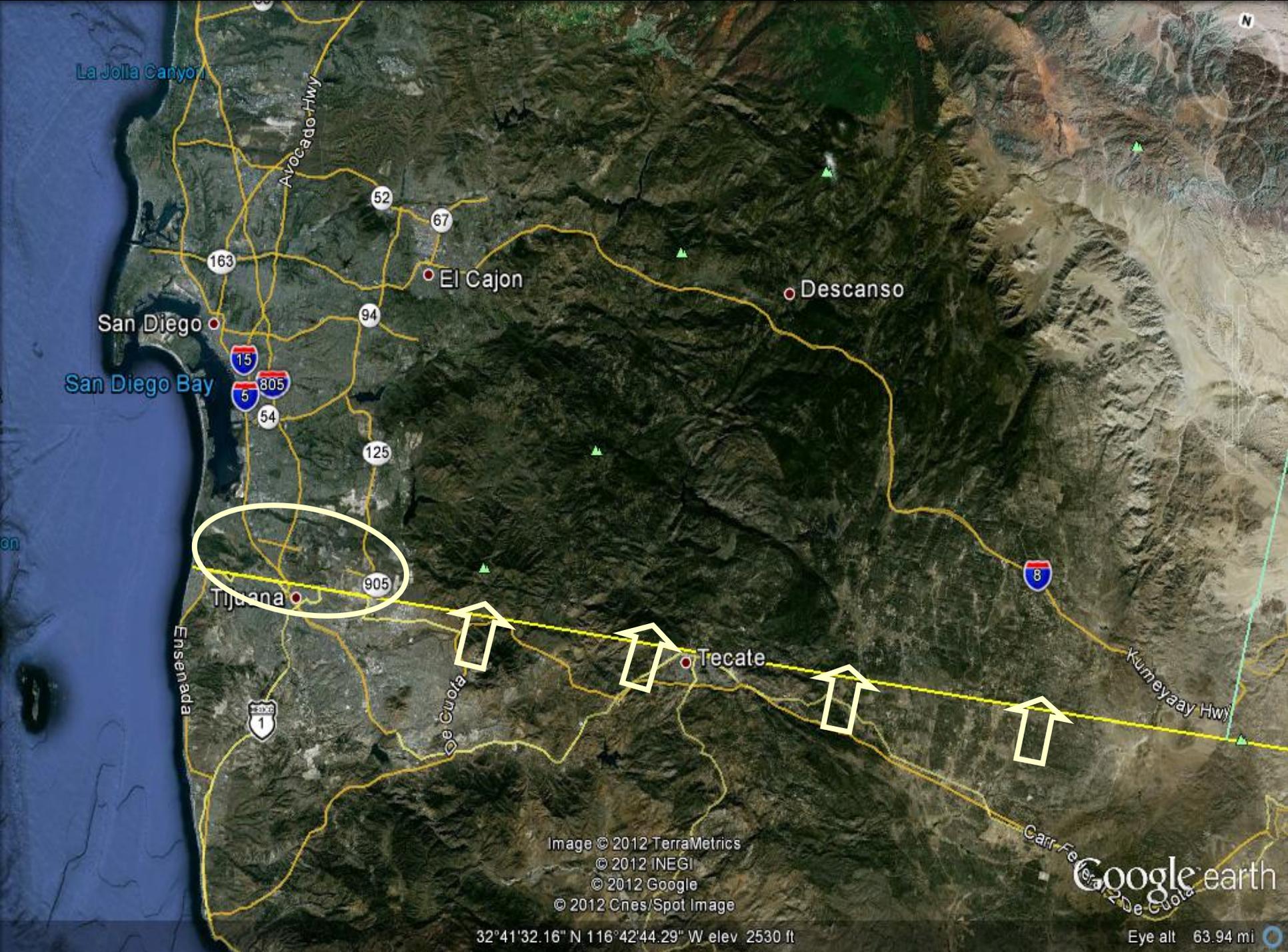


Source: <http://www.justice.gov/oig/special/9807/gkp01.htm>

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines and a road network, representing a rugged mountainous area.

Summary

- This had an unintended consequence of shifting the movement of undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S., into the rugged mountainous area of San Diego County.



La Jolla Canyon

Avocado Hwy

52

67

163

San Diego

94

El Cajon

Descanso

San Diego Bay

15
5
805
54

125



905

Tijuana

Tecate

8

Ensenada

1

De Cuofa

Kumeyaay Hwy



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Google earth

32°41'32.16" N 116°42'44.29" W elev 2530 ft

Eye alt 63.94 mi

Remote Area of San Diego



Campfires



Many of these campfires escaped and caused wildfires

Remote Area of San Diego

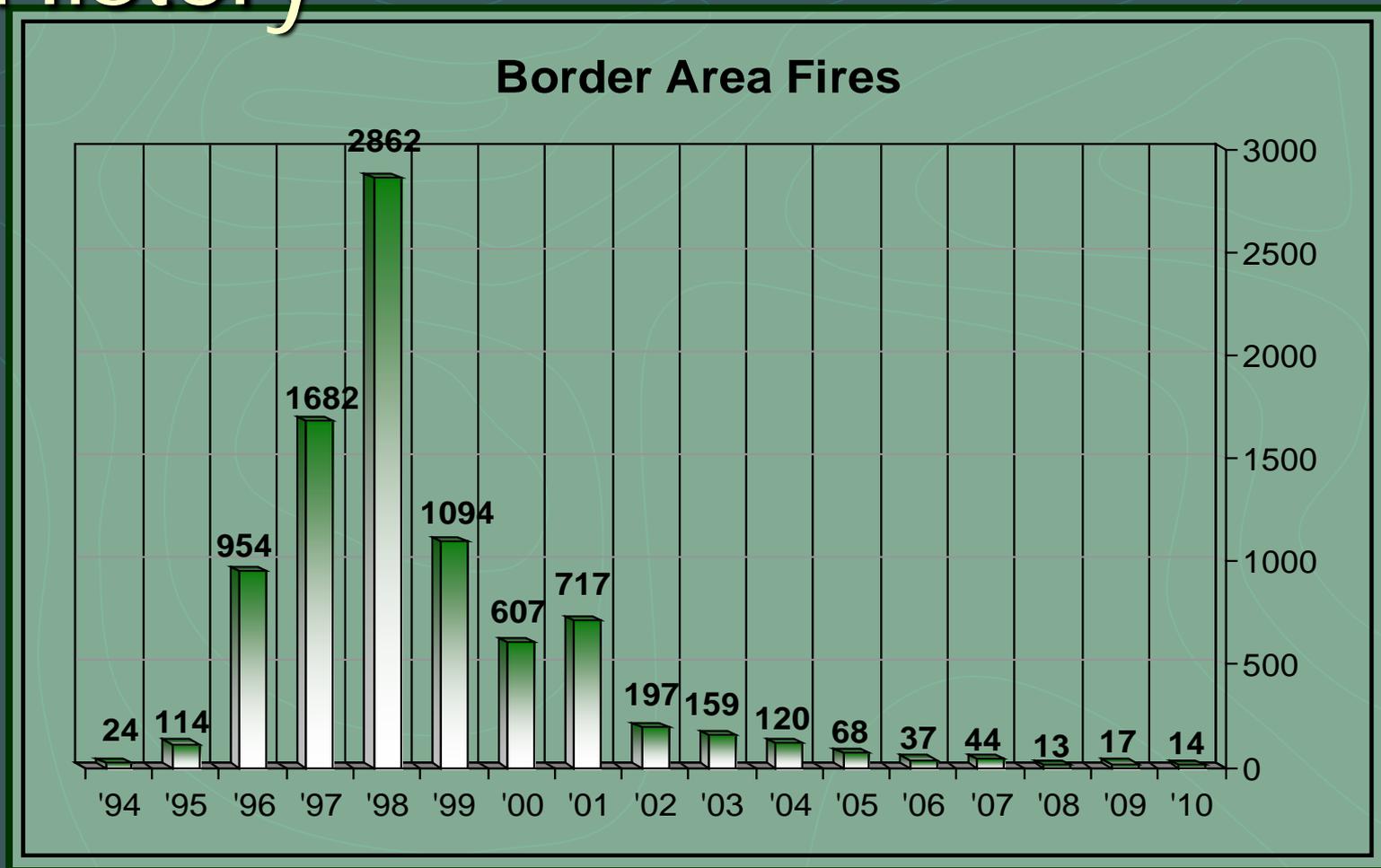


A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of the San Ysidro Mountains. The map features contour lines, a road network, and a yellow line indicating a specific path or boundary.

Summary

- In 1994, there were only 24 fires in the San Ysidro Mountains where the immigrants were crossing. The year Operation Gatekeeper began there were 64.

History



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map with contour lines and a yellow path. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

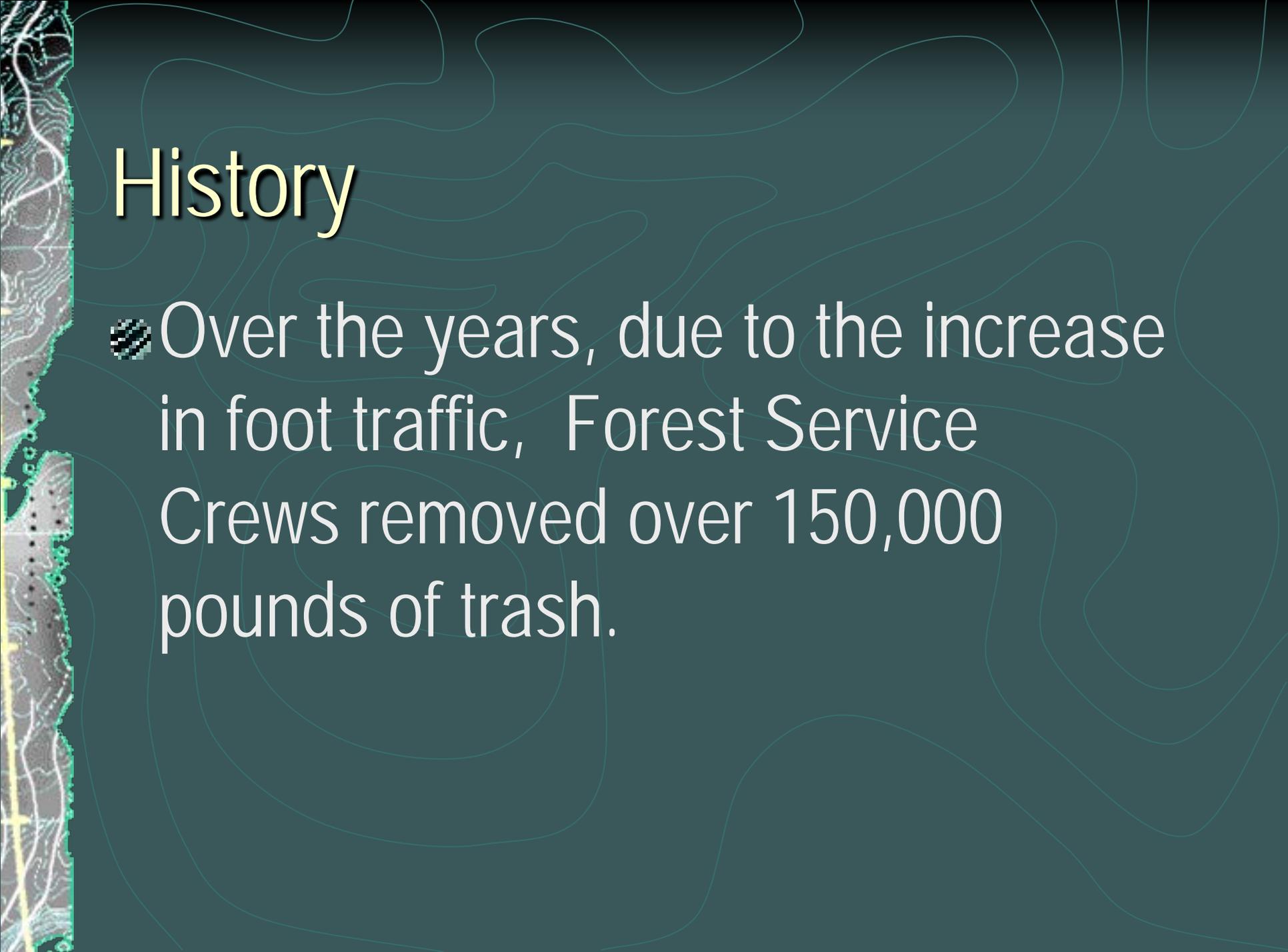
Summary

- In 1996, the Border Agency Fire Council was formed with the goals of saving lives, protecting property and natural resources.

Cause: Warming Fire



Border Fire

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountain range, with contour lines and a yellow line indicating a path or road. The rest of the slide has a dark teal background with faint, light blue contour lines.

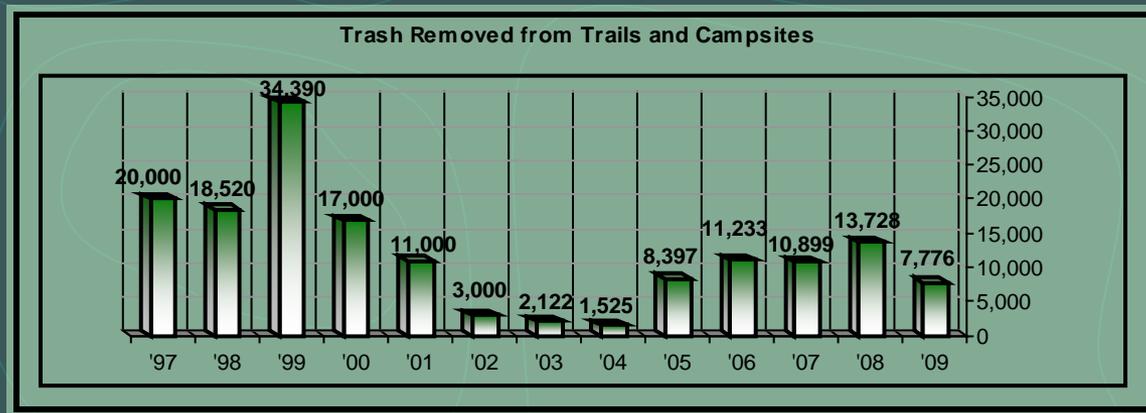
History

- Over the years, due to the increase in foot traffic, Forest Service Crews removed over 150,000 pounds of trash.

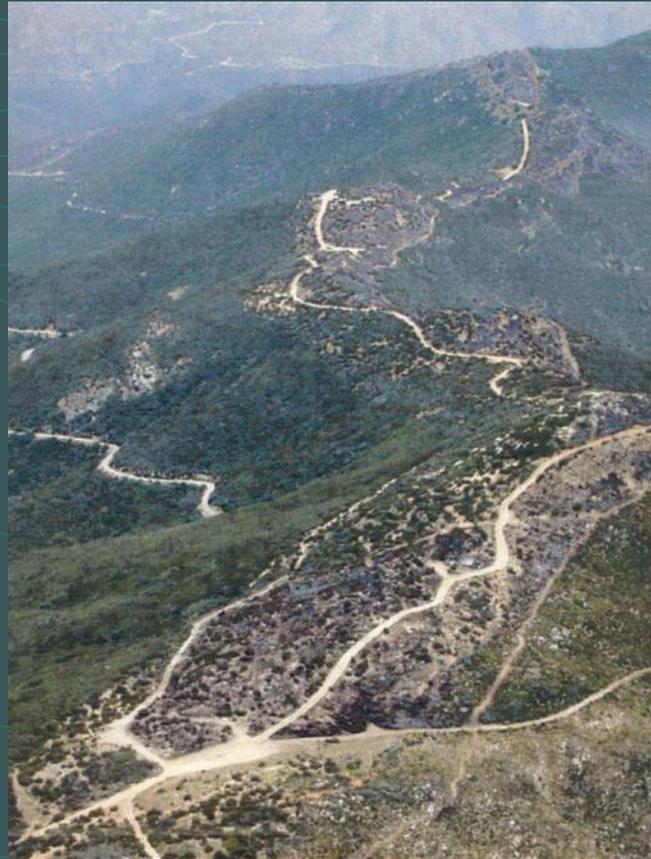
Garbage Collected



Garbage Collected



International Fuel Break



Border Fence



Rescue & Fire Helicopters



Helispots are restored and maintained for rescues and firefighting

Warning! Do Not Expose Your Life To The Elements. It's Not Worth It!



Since 1996, over 250 fatalities have been recorded in this area

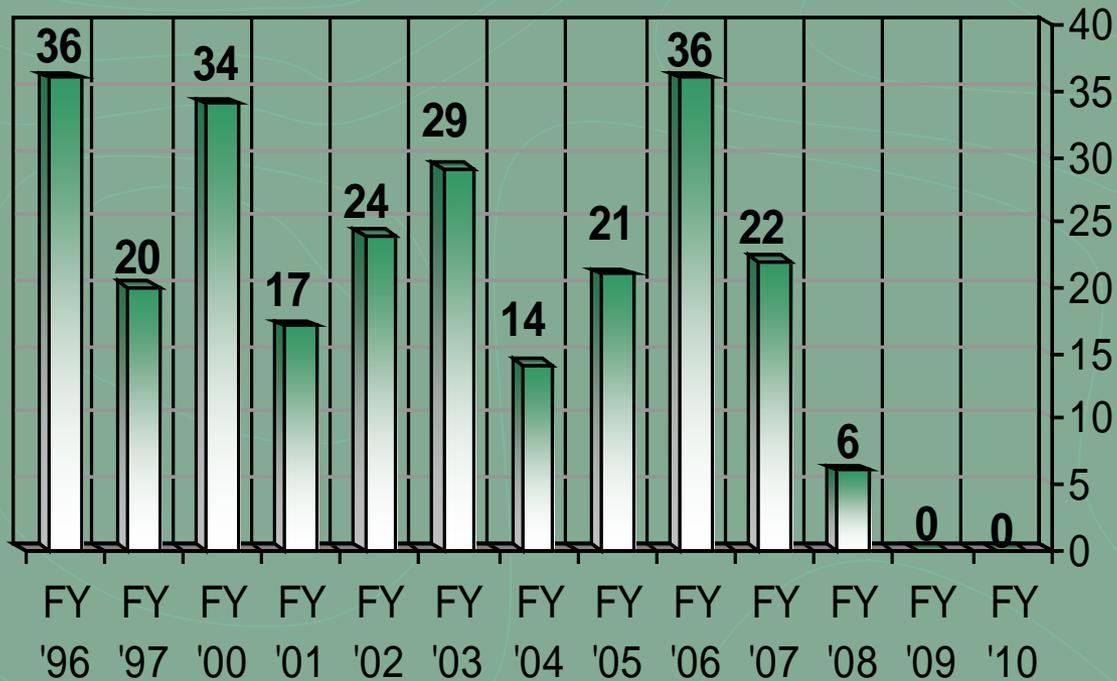
Safety Patrol



The extreme weather changes in the backcountry can be hazardous

Fatalities

San Diego Sector Border Crossing Deaths



Emergency Backpacks



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountainous region. The map features contour lines, a network of roads, and a river. The colors range from brown and tan to green and blue, indicating different elevations and water bodies.

Preventing Casualties

- Dozens of people have been trapped and burned, when a major wildfire swept through this area.
- People need to be prepared for the extreme weather.

Harris Fire '07, 16 Fatalities



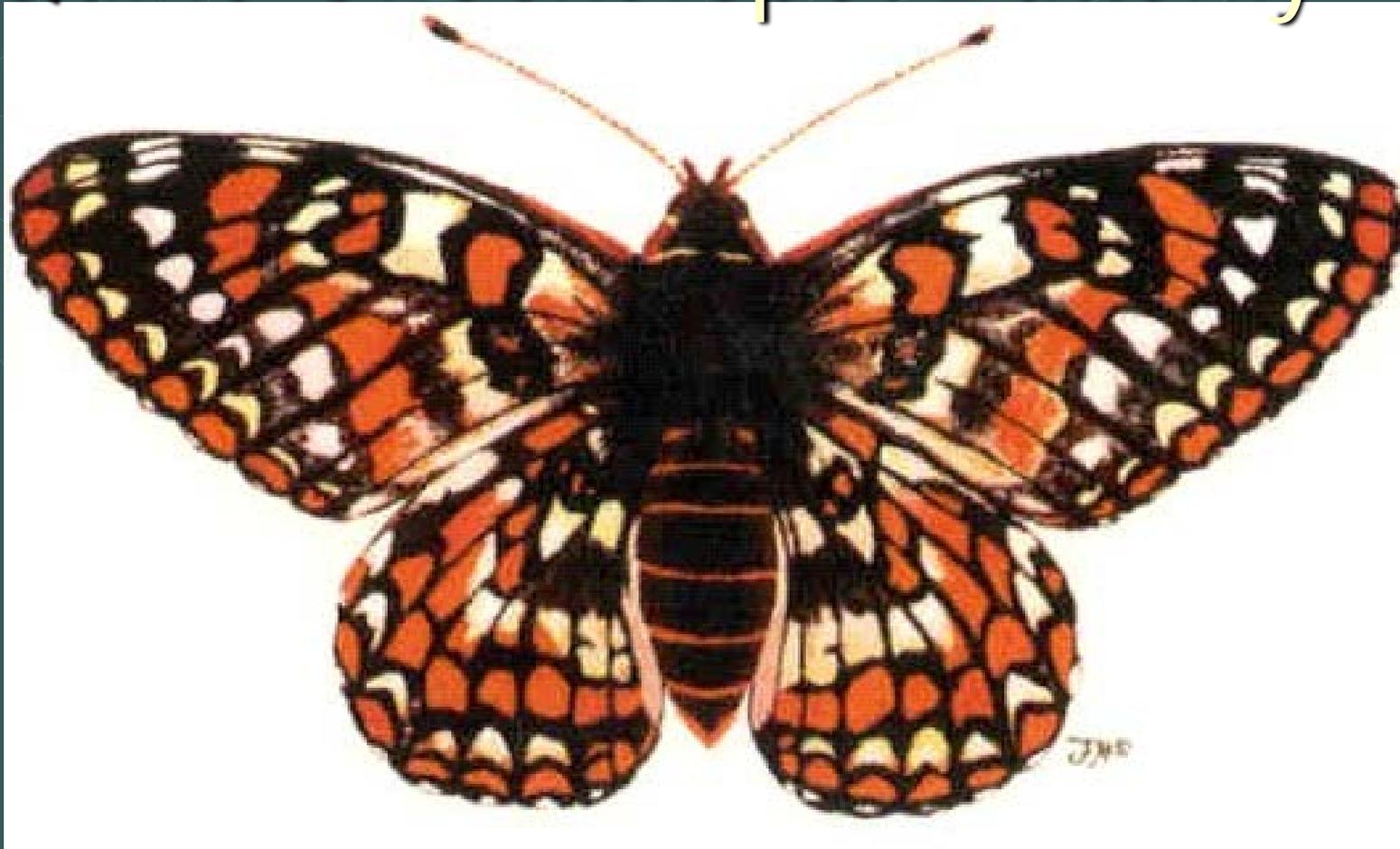
This has been the most deadly border fire to date



Effects on Environment

- Vegetation gets trampled, trails become created and sometimes cross into threatened and endangered species habitat and riparian areas.

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly



One of many on the Threatened and Endangered Species list



Travel Patterns

- Travelers camp and set their fires under the tree canopy to be less conspicuous.
- They travel at night and sleep during the day when wildfires are most likely to flare up.

Torches Used For Travel



Extra Costs

- Member agencies have provided funding for additional staffing, fire lookouts, Resource Protection Guidebooks, public service announcements and emergency backpacks.



The Future

- Meeting and networking is critical to keep up to date on the current situation along the border.
- Consistent contact will help prevent future incidents.



Trends

- With the success of Operation Gatekeeper and the building of the Border Fence, travel into the U.S. has now shifted back west via the Pacific Ocean.

Harris Fire - 2007



Cause: Warming Fire

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountainous region, with contour lines and a road network. The map is partially obscured by the dark green background of the slide.

Spreading The Message

- Establishing and maintaining relationships with U.S. and Mexican Government Agencies.
- Continue effective fire prevention, suppression and emergency response.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountain range, with contour lines and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary.

Spreading The Message

- Flyers, coloring books, and videos with safety messages have been distributed along the border, at binational events, in schools, libraries, etc...

Coloring Sheet for kids

SMOKEY & MAPY



Partners In Prevention

Binational Camp



Training & Recognition



Policia Federal Preventiva



Fire Safety Training



Multi-Casualty Drill



Lake Morena 2008

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map of a mountain range, with contour lines and a yellow line indicating a path or boundary.

Golden Smokey Bear Award

- In 2001, BAFC received the Golden Smokey Award, the most prestigious national fire prevention award, for its international and multi-agency approach to reducing the impact of escaped campfires.

Golden Smokey Bear Award



State and County Proclamations

Environment & Economic Leadership Award





Wildfires Impacting BAFC

BAFC

Border #12 Fire - 2003



Border #50 Fire - 2005



Horse Fire - 2006



Harris Fire - 2007



Cowboy Fire - 2010





Mutual Aid



Assisting our neighbors

San Pedro Martir - 2006



The Request

- CDF received notification from the State of Baja Civil Protection, making a formal request for help.
- They were advised to have the Governor of Baja contact the Governor of California directly.

San Pedro Martir Fire



Engines Arrive



This support allowed municipal fire engines to go back to their cities

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a topographic map. The map features brown and tan terrain with white contour lines. A green line traces a path along the left edge of the map, likely representing the perimeter of a fire. The background of the slide is a dark teal color with faint, light blue contour lines.

The Fire

- The fire was 4,000 acres and 70% contained. The remaining 30% was in very steep rough terrain. That is where CDF firefighters were deployed. Helicopters were used to ferry them in.

Making The News

Reconocen labor del Cuerpo de Bomberos de California

Por participar en la sofocación del incendio en Ensenada

TIJUANA.- Elementos del cuerpo de bomberos de California que colaboraron para sofocar el incendio en el Parque Nacional San Pedro Mártir y Ejido Bramadero en Ensenada, recibieron ayer reconocimientos de la Dirección Estatal de Protección Civil.

El coordinador de la Dirección Estatal de Protección Civil en Tijuana, José Luis Rosas Blanco, comentó que luego de que el incendio se sofocara al 100%, los bomberos

de San Diego, California, retornaron al vecino país, momentos después de que se les reconoció su labor en las instalaciones del Cuerpo de Bomberos Tijuana.

Mencionó que a petición del gobernador Eugenio Elorduy Walther a su homólogo Arnold Schwarzenegger, bomberos de California se unieron a las labores de sofocación del incendio en el Parque Nacional San Pedro Mártir y Ejido Bramadero, en cuyas tareas participaron 350 personas de Protección Civil del Estado, Protección Civil de los cinco municipios, Sedena, Conafor y Sefoa.

Fueron 60 elementos de San

Diego con 10 bomberas y 10 pick up's, lo que participaron en estas tareas, estando al frente de este grupo el director de la Unidad del Condado de San Diego, Rick Hensen, así como Rubén Hernández y Peter Scully, del Departamento Forestal de California. Rosas Blanco informó que actualmente el incendio está sofocado al 100% y afectó a 2 mil 104 hectáreas, de las cuales 100 corresponden a zonas arboladas y el resto a arbustos.

El reconocimiento a bomberos de California se efectuó en las instalaciones de la Central de Bomberos, y posteriormente regresaron a San Diego. (hom)



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In Conclusion

- This cooperative response was made possible through the relationships and agreement developed by the Border Agency Fire Council and its members.

BAFC Members

- California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection California
- San Diego County Department of Health Services
- San Diego County Department of Planning & Land Use
- San Diego County Office of Emergency Services
- San Diego County Fire Authority
- San Diego County