



2013 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 30, 2013, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2013 International Seminar on Disaster Management, a pilot program developed by the USDA Forest Service International Programs. The seminar shared U.S. expertise with an international audience helping them build capacity in their own countries and develop a network of disaster managers worldwide.

15 participants attended from 12 countries:

Brazil	Ethiopia	Georgia
Honduras	Kenya	Morocco
Oman	Sudan	Turkey
Uganda	Ukraine	Yemen

Attendees were representatives from national programs, U.S. Embassy, USAID and the non-governmental organizations Red Cross and World Vision. They included resource managers, training specialists, environmental analysts and emergency managers responsible for coordination of humanitarian and emergency response for natural and man-made disasters, food security and displaced persons.

The 17-day seminar showcased disaster management systems at the federal, state, local and private levels. HEF members focused on the 1991 Tunnel Fire and lessons learned. Presentations included the disaster preparedness cycle, an overview of the Tunnel Fire with footage from the fire, background on the HEF and a driving tour of the fire area. The group visited the area impacted by the Tunnel Fire and hazardous fuel reduction project sites. Various strategies for wildfire prevention were discussed reflecting HEF member organizations and their diverse missions.

Speakers included representatives from:

- El Cerrito Fire Department,
- Oakland Fire Department,
- CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- University of California Berkeley
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- East Bay Regional Park District

The day provided a variety of opportunities for interaction and highlighted the Hills Emergency Forum cooperative approach.

Photos courtesy of K. Corcoran, O. Iritas, C. Miller, D. Orbus



The Hills Emergency Forum facilitates a cooperative approach among nine governing organizations addressing urban wildland interface fire issues in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.