



2014 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 15, 2014, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2014 International Seminar on Disaster Management through 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.

19 participants attended from 15 countries:

Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Georgia
Haiti	Indonesia	Jamaica
Kenya	Morocco	Namibia
Oman	Panama	Rwanda
South Africa	Turkey	Zambia

Attendees were representatives from national and regional disaster management offices, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the non-governmental organizations Audubon Society and Red Cross. Five of the fifteen participants have direct responsibility for wildfire related activities. Other participants are concerned about disaster management (national or regional) from both natural and man-made disasters, risk reduction, food assistance, security and emergency medicine.

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:

East Bay Municipal Utilities District
East Bay Regional Park District
Oakland Fire Department,
Moraga Orinda Fire District
University of California Berkeley

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

Photos courtesy of C. Miller and L. Schmit



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

9/30/2014