



## 2016 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 12, 2016, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2016 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.

16 participants attended from 14 countries:

Bhutan	Botswana	Ethiopia
Guatemala	Haiti	India
Montenegro	Morocco	Namibia
Nepal	Serbia	South Africa
Tunisia	Zambia	

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

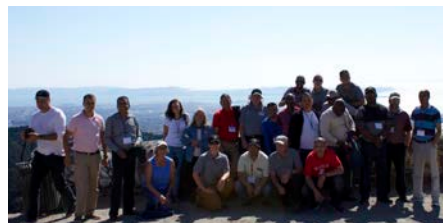
The 17-day seminar showcased disaster management systems at the federal, state, local and private levels. HEF members focused on lessons learned from the 1991 Tunnel Fire. Presentations included an overview of the Tunnel Fire with footage from the fire, background on the HEF and a driving tour of the fire area. The group visited the area impacted by the Tunnel Fire. They also participated in a “live” sand table exercise based on the 2013 Morgan Fire. Strategies for wildfire prevention discussed reflected HEF member organizations diverse missions.

Speakers included representatives from:

- CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- East Bay Municipal Utility 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. Rodriguez



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