



2019 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 12, 2019, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2019 International Seminar on Disaster Management through the USDA Forest Service (USFS) 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.

Twenty-three participants attended from 18 countries:

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| Bangladesh | Belarus | Bhutan | Bolivia |
| Brazil | Chile | Ethiopia | Georgia |
| Kyrgyz Republic | Lebanon | Myanmar | Nepal |
| Nigeria | Philippines | Timor-Leste | |
| Ukraine | Vanuatu | Vietnam | |

Attendees were representatives from national, regional and municipal disaster management offices, universities, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), US Embassies, non-governmental organizations and USFS International program. Six of the participants have direct responsibility for wildfire related activities. Other participants are concerned about disaster management and risk reduction from both natural and man-made disasters.

The 15-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 learned about the increased investments in hazardous fuel reduction and the creation of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break. They also looked at the site of the 2017 Grizzly Fire and learned about community evacuation preparedness.

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

Speakers included representatives from:

- CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
- City of Berkeley
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Moraga Orinda Fire District
- Oakland Fire Department
- University of California, Berkeley.



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