

HILLS EMERGENCY FORUM

HEF LEADS AN AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION MOBILE WORKSHOP

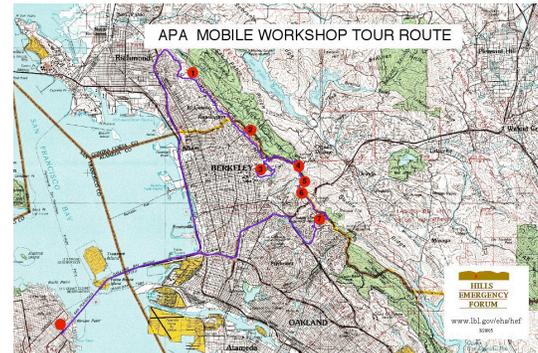
March 20, 2005

National Exposure: The American Planners Association (APA) national conference was held in San Francisco from March 19 - 23. HEF sponsored a mobile workshop addressing Wildland Fire Preparedness and Risk Management.

Participants: Twelve planners (from California, Alaska, Washington State, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Nevada and Arizona) participated in the workshop. They represented a wide range of professional experience from managing watershed lands to a planning commissioner.

Workshop Highlights: From 11:00- 5:00 the group toured East Bay urban wildland intermix sites historically affected by catastrophic wildfires. Their goal was to learn about fire management tools that can be applied to similar western ecosystems.

- ❑ The tour began in El Cerrito with an introduction to the urban wildland interface and hazard mitigation programs that included watching the goats at work.
- ❑ In Berkeley they heard about a recent Federal Emergency Management Agency fire safety and protection grant.
- ❑ Lunch was served at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBL) where Jerry Kent captivated the group with a presentation of the issues faced in the hills. Further information was provided about LBL's activities.
- ❑ Back in the field they visited Frowning Ridge fuel reduction projects jointly coordinated by East Bay Regional Park District, University of California Berkeley and City of Oakland.
- ❑ Participants watched a high-lead operation moving cut eucalyptus on the steep East Bay Municipal Utility District lands.
- ❑ Next they stopped at the overlook above the ignition site for an operation perspective about the 1991 Tunnel Fire.
- ❑ At the last stop they learned about Oakland's recently formed Wildfire Prevention District as a means to fund future wildland fire management.



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