

# FIRE LINES

*The California Fire Foundation - assisting families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect.*



/// PAGE 6  
**2022 WILDFIRE SEASON**



/// PAGE 8  
**DONOR SPOTLIGHT**



/// PAGE 9  
**HONORING WITH PURPOSE**





2

**Message from our Executive Director**

**AS 2022 ENDED**, Californians were given a stark reminder of the power of Mother Nature. On December 20, 2022, the quaint town of Rio Dell, in Humboldt County was at the epicenter of a 6.4 magnitude earthquake that killed two people, injured more than a dozen others, damaged homes and left thousands without power. Just as the town began to rebuild and recover, another 5.4 magnitude

earthquake hit nine miles south-east of Rio Dell on New Year's Day, rattling the already impacted area in Humboldt County.

When a large-scale natural disaster hits a community in California, the California Fire Foundation steps up and offers help to those impacted. Whether a community experiences an earthquake, wildfire, a global pandemic, flood, mudslide, or other disaster,

the wide variety of the Foundation's programs support the critical needs of those touched by disaster.

In the aftermath of the Rio Dell earthquake, the California Fire Foundation, in partnership with Humboldt Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), distributed over \$87,000 in disaster relief to survivors in the affected community, whose homes were

*Continued on page 3*



**PIPES & DRUMS OF CPF**  
/// PAGE 11



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

THE TAIL END OF 2022 and start of 2023 has been an extremely tough time for many Californians. Through these many significant challenges of earthquakes and unprecedented winter storms, the fire service responded by being that beacon of light offering hope to those in their darkest hour.

The California Fire Foundation is committed to this same mission of hope. Whether it is a family that lost their home in a fire, the grieving survivors of a loved one that has fallen in the line of duty, or the family displaced by an earthquake, the Foundation offers support to those whose lives can be uprooted in an instant.

Our work is only possible thanks to you, our generous supporters. Donations, of all sizes, provide our Foundation with the ability to help so many.

As we look to the year ahead, the California Fire Foundation will remain steadfast in our commitment to support our dedicated firefighters, their families, and the communities they serve in their hour of need.

On behalf of myself, the California Fire Foundation staff, and our Board of Directors, we thank you.

Rick Martinez



Rick Martinez  
Executive Director  
California Fire Foundation

STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO HONOR THOSE LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The California Firefighters Memorial in Capitol Park serves as a permanent reminder of the heroism of the firefighter profession. The sad reality of the profession is that every year, we lose more of our bravest and most dedicated individuals in the line of duty. The Memorial Wall now carries more than 1,500 names - nearly twice the number when it was unveiled just two decades ago.

Our ability to provide this essential tribute depends on expanding the California Firefighters Memorial. The California Fire Foundation is implementing a plan to expand the current memorial so that all those we lose in the line of duty will be honored and have a place on the wall forever.

The Memorial was built, and is maintained, entirely through private donations — much of it coming from firefighters themselves. We welcome contributions large and small to ensure we can continue to pay tribute to our brave fallen brothers and sisters for generations to come.

This year's ceremony will take place on October 14, 2023.



SCAN THE QR CODE to get more information and to view the video of the expansion plans.

COVER STORY CONTINUED

damaged or who were displaced.

“When the aftershock hit New Year’s Day, it hit harder than the first earthquake for many,” said Alison Sterling Nichols of Humboldt COAD. “Humboldt County faced immediate housing issues in this very rural and now broken town. Thanks to California Fire Foundation’s generosity, we could help our community during this incredibly challenging time.”

MOBILIZING TO HELP OUR FELLOW CALIFORNIANS

Part of the California Fire Foundation’s mission is to support the survivors, firefighters, and communities affected by natural disasters. From December 27, 2022, to January 16, 2023, relentless back-to-back storms pummeled the state. The length and breadth of California was impacted in

some way by one of the nine atmospheric rivers unleashed by Mother Nature, causing extreme flooding, widespread damage, extensive power outages. Tragically 22 people lost their lives because of these storms.

With a fast-moving and chaotic disaster such as this, the California Fire Foundation is ready and able to assist with immediate assistance to those that need it most. During the devastating winter storms, the Foundation announced it was pledging up to \$1 million in disaster relief to under-resourced communities heavily impacted by the deadly winter storms.

“Here at the California Fire Foundation, our mission is to support survivors, firefighters and communities affected by natural disasters,”

said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation. “The unrelenting storms we all experienced across every inch of California had a devastating and disproportionate impact on already under-resourced communities. The \$1 million in relief supports the critical needs of those most impacted by the catastrophic storms.”

Working with a variety of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Fire Departments and the California Office of Emergency Services, the Foundation distributed over 2,160 disaster relief cash cards (\$250 each) totaling over \$540,000 in immediate aid to those impacted by the winter storms in Merced, Sacramento,

Continued on page 4



California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Director Nancy Ward at the Disaster Recovery Center in Galt.



Rick Martinez, Exec Dir. California Fire Foundation supporting disaster relief card distribution in Monterey.



City of Merced Fire Department stepping up to help personally distribute Disaster Relief Cards to community members impacted by the back-to-back storms.

COVER STORY CONTINUED



Humboldt COAD, (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) distributing a \$250 Disaster Relief cash card to Rio Dell resident.

Continued from page 3

Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, and Santa Barbara counties. The Foundation continues to support local organizations in affected areas helping to rebuild communities with their mid and long-term recovery projects.

"Our Disaster Relief Cash cards can be used for a number of items," explains Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation. "What I think most of us lose sight of is that people

have lost everything, or their lives have been turned upside down, so to have that money in hand so that they can go down the street and buy whatever they need is extremely important. When the dust settles, the wind stops blowing, waters recede, and fires quit burning, communities in crisis look a lot alike and the California Fire Foundation is there to start the process of healing and hope to help communities get back on their feet."

Save the Date  
10 | 14 | 2023

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

SHERATON BALLROOM • SACRAMENTO, CA



HONORING THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The California Fire Foundation honors our state's fallen by sharing memories from their lives, both inside and outside the profession. We take a moment to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



PARAMEDIC MATTHEW CLAPSADDLE

Ventura City Fire Department

Ventura Fire Department and Local 3431 are saddened to announce the loss of one of their own. Firefighter-Paramedic Matthew Clapsaddle, 59, passed away on August 20, 2022. He served the Ventura Fire Department for 28 years. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and son, Tanner.



FIREFIGHTER BRIAN FALK

Kern County Fire Department

Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Firefighters Local 1301 are saddened to announce the loss of one of their own. Captain Brian Falk, 47, passed away on July 14, 2022, while on active duty at Kern County Fire Department Station 23. Brian served the Kern County Fire Department with distinction for 20 years. He is survived by his wife Jennifer and two sons.



FIRE ENGINEER MIGUEL CERVANTES

Rancho Cucamonga Fire District

It is with broken hearts that the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District and Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters' Association, Local 2274 share news of the passing of one of their own. Fire Engineer Miguel Cervantes, 45, passed away on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, following a courageous battle against work-related non-Hodgkin's Follicular Lymphoma (NHL), a cancer of the lymphatic system. He served the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District for 17 years and began his fire service career in 2000 with Norco Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, Cyline, and their three children.

# 2022 WILDFIRE SEASON

**CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE** season is almost a year-round event, but here at the Foundation, we are fortunate to be able to offer much-needed help during these traumatic disasters.

Last year, the state once again battled some major, deadly wildfire disasters, including the Oak, McKinney, Mosquito and Fork Fires. Through our Disaster Relief programs, the California Fire Foundation activated thousands of its Disaster Relief cash cards and distributed over \$650,000 in direct aid to survivors of these fires.

The harsh reality of disasters is that individuals often evacuate their homes with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. Under-resourced communities and economically disadvantaged populations and vulnerable populations, including the uninsured and under-insured, the elderly, and the disabled, often experience greater barriers to resources and, therefore, worse outcomes when disasters strike. The \$250 cash cards distributed at Local Assistance Centers and Discovery Recovery Centers by our CBO partners, offer assistance

during the immeasurable hardship and provide immediate relief so survivors may purchase basic necessities such as medicine, food, gas, lodging, or clothing.

"When we see people walk through our assistance center doors, they are traumatized and overwhelmed. The Disaster Relief cards from the California Fire Foundation offer them immediate hope and comfort in these darkest of times, and for that, we are so grateful." Alison Tudor, Executive Director of Alliance for Community Transformations-Oak Fire.



Rick Andrews



Michael Darcy



John Bensley



Angel Becerra

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## FLOUR DUST PIZZA PAYING IT FORWARD.

When the owner of Roseville's Flour Dust Pizza Company, Mano Vrap, walked into work on June 28, 2022, he discovered that every one of his 17 windows was smashed by someone deliberately targeting his business.

Although devastating, he knew the insurance would help cover the damage, but the local community still wanted to help. While Mano was grateful for the offers of donations, he instead asked people to donate to the California Fire Foundation.

"If you are feeling compelled to help, here are some places to donate that always need assistance with their great work: California Fire Foundation — with wildfire season around the corner, let's help them get prepared to help families who will need it," wrote Flour Dust Pizza Company in a Facebook post. Thank You Mano for paying it forward!



## DOORDASH

*Thank you, DoorDash, for your generous donation. DoorDash gift cards were distributed to people displaced by flooding at the Lodi Shelter site, offering much-needed help during such a difficult time for many.*

# HONORING WITH PURPOSE



**ON APRIL 25, 2021,** Caylie Valenta's life as she knew it changed forever when her husband, a firefighter with Vista Fire Department, passed away after a brave 3-month battle with melanoma. Andy Valenta, a loving husband, and father to two young daughters, was just 33 years old.

A year after his passing, Caylie and fellow Vista firefighter, Mark Gaffney, founded the Andy Valenta Melanoma Foundation with the goal of preventing other families from going through the heartbreak of losing a loved one to melanoma.

Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation, recently met with Caylie to present her with a donation to assist her in her work raising awareness of the heightened occupational risk of melanoma for firefighters and providing annual skin checks to as many fire departments as possible.

"Thanks to this generous donation from the California Fire Foundation, we can remain focused on our mission to help find melanoma before it spreads and hopefully save the lives of the men and women who already risk their lives to help us and prevent families from experiencing the nightmare that my family endured. This money will allow us to provide skin cancer screenings for more departments and continue to raise awareness about cancer in the fire service," said Caylie.

To find out more about the Andy Valenta Melanoma Foundation, visit [avmelanoma.org](http://avmelanoma.org).

GRANT NEWS



# GRANT NEWS

The need to address fire prevention and preparedness is an integral part of living in California. In 2022, we awarded over \$1.95 million in statewide grants to 116 California fire departments, associations, and nonprofit organizations. Funding directly supports local fire prevention planning, specialized firefighting and personal protective equipment, fuels reduction and defensible space efforts, community safety initiatives, and disaster relief and recovery projects.

Applications are now open through March 24 for California Fire Foundation Wildfire Preparedness & Wildfire Prevention grants in partnership with Edison International.

Wildfire Preparedness & Wildfire Prevention funding of up to \$15,000 is open to California fire departments, firefighter associations, and nonprofit community-based organizations in Edison International's Southern, Central, and Coastal service areas.

**APPLY NOW** and find out more at [cafirefoundation.org/grants](https://cafirefoundation.org/grants).



DID YOU KNOW?



# PIPES & DRUMS

OF CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS



**SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1999**, the Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters has been honoring our brave fallen brothers and sisters in the great tradition of Scottish bagpipe bands, lending an air of dignity and honor to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters was created to perform at funerals and memorial services honoring California firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Each musician is a paid, career or retired firefighter, whose participation in the Band is entirely on a volunteer basis.

Their traditional presence at the annual California Firefighters Memorial in California State Capitol Park, in Sacramento is a fitting tribute at this most solemn remembrance.

To find out more, visit [cafirefoundation.org/what-we-do](https://cafirefoundation.org/what-we-do).

California Fire Foundation  
1780 Creekside Oaks Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Sacramento, CA  
Permit No. 1824



CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff, thank you for supporting the California Fire Foundation - we are truly grateful.*

**Brian K. Rice**  
Chair, California Fire Foundation  
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (retired)  
President, California Professional Firefighters

**SECRETARY: Mike Lopez** - CAL FIRE (retired)  
Secretary-Treasurer, California Professional Firefighters

**DIRECTOR: Daniel A. Terry** - President Emeritus, California Professional Firefighters  
Stanislaus County Supervisor (retired)  
Modesto Fire Department (retired)

**DIRECTOR: Freddy Escobar** - Los Angeles City Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Dave Gillotte** - Los Angeles County Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Jair Juarez** - Modesto Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Rex Pritchard** - Long Beach Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Darrell Roberts** - Chula Vista Fire Department

**DIRECTOR: Tim Edwards** - CAL FIRE

**DIRECTOR: Vince Wells** - Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

**DIRECTOR: Charlie Martinez, Jr.** - Vandenberg AFB Fire Department

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



@CAFireFound



@CAFireFound



@cafirefound



CALIFORNIA  
**FIRE**  
FOUNDATION

[www.cafirefoundation.org](http://www.cafirefoundation.org)

[cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org)