

# FIRE LINES

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

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MEET THE CALIFORNIA  
FIRE FOUNDATION TEAM



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9/11  
REMEMBERED

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LENDING A  
HELPING HAND

# HOPE IN THE FACE OF DISASTER



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## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are currently in the midst of yet another unprecedented wildfire season. The fires we are experiencing in recent years are much larger ...

**AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE 2021**  
wildfire season started much earlier than years gone by and set somber records in size and destruction. The fast moving and unpredictable wildfire season burned over 1.9 million acres and destroyed over 3,000 structures across California and the season is not over yet.

Thousands of people evacuated their homes and as the evacuation orders lift and many start to return home, there are those who have no home to return to.

Many residents of the town of Greenville know exactly what that feels like. Their beloved mountain town lost its battle with the Dixie Fire, leaving most of this historic Gold Rush town in ashes.

The Dixie Fire began on July 21 and became California's second-largest wildfire in modern history, raging across 5 counties. The fire damaged or destroyed several small towns in its wake, including the town of Greenville on August 4.

Along with many homes in the town, the fire also destroyed the Indian Valley Fire Department (IVFD), a volunteer department dedicated to serving the rural community of Indian Valley. John Hunter, the Assistant Fire Chief at IVFD is a second-generation firefighter with 45 years of service at the department. He and his fellow firefighters had been battling the fire for weeks as it inched ever closer to their town and as the fire began

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A LITTLE HELP  
FROM OUR FRIENDS  
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CALIFORNIA  
**FIRE**  
FOUNDATION

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### DEAR FRIENDS,

We are currently in the midst of yet another unprecedented wildfire season. The fires we are experiencing in recent years are much larger, unpredictable fires and are sadly becoming the norm.

To add to the challenges of these large fires, many fire departments are still dealing with limited staff and significantly increasing call volume due to the pandemic. To meet this unprecedented demand firefighters are working extreme schedules and answering the call to not only protect the communities they're sworn to serve but

firsthand the effectiveness of our state-wide mutual aid system at work. While delivering SAVE cards to the Caldor Fire in Placerville, CA, I came across an Engine Company from Los Angeles County Fire and one from Ventura County Fire. Both hundreds of miles from home, tirelessly protecting their distant neighbors.

This year's fire season has once again proven to be record breaking, scorching more land than in the same period of 2020's record season. However, here at the California Fire Foundation we remain hard at work getting aid into the hands of those that need it most.

Our Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) program

brings immediate, short-term relief to victims of fire and other natural disasters throughout California in the form of \$250 gift card and it is one of the most practical ways we help those affected by natural disaster. People often flee with nothing more than the clothes they stand in and this gift card allows them to purchase some much-needed basics such as medicine, food, gas and clothing to get them through the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

For the first time, the Foundation is working with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) on the ground to assist with the distribution of the SAVE cards to those in need, ensuring they reach



**Rick Martinez**  
Executive Director  
*California Fire Foundation*



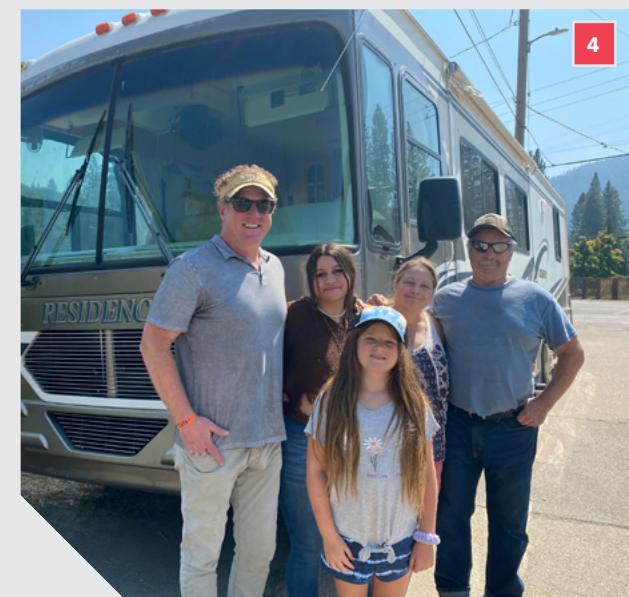
Photo: John Ellis

*Rick Martinez*

## COVER STORY CONTINUED



**1.** Remains of Indian Valley Fire Dept – Photo courtesy of Indian Valley Fire Department  
**2.** George Wolley and Woody Faircloth and daughter from Emergency RV **3.** Hunter's Hardware store has been an important part of the tight knit community for almost 100 years - Photo courtesy of Kim Price **4.** Woody Faircloth with his young daughter and John Hunter and family with the donated RV



victims as quickly as possible.

To date, we have distributed over 2,080 SAVE cards totaling more than \$520,000 across the Dixie, River and Caldor Fires.

I am proud to be part of an organization that not only helps its own, the brave firefighters protecting our state, but we are in the fortunate position to be able to also help those in the community impacted by these large fire events and we are in that fortunate position because of supporters like you who graciously donate to the Foundation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the staff here at the California Fire Foundation, we thank you for your unwavering support of the California Fire Foundation - it really does make a tremendous difference to those impacted by such disasters.

*Rick Martinez*

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getting too close for comfort, John and his family evacuated to stay with friends in Quincy. They soon heard the bad news.

He lost everything, including his house and 90-year-old family hardware business when the fire ripped through the town of Greenville.

Along with John Hunter, three other firefighters from IVFD also lost their homes that day.

"A fellow firefighter living next door to me, married with three little kids lost his home, another one parked his car at the station to go fight fires and his car got destroyed. The town is gone," said George Wolley, one of the four firefighters from IVFD to have lost his home that day.

Part of the California Fire Foun-

dation's mission is to take care of our own and through the foundation's disaster relief programs and corporate funded grants from Edison International, Pacific Gas & Electric and Chevron, the California Fire Foundation offers grants for prevention, preparation and response to major disasters offering a much-needed helping hand to fire departments, firefighter associations, fire safe councils and other community organizations throughout California.

One such organization to benefit from these grants is EmergencyRV.org, a 100% volunteer-based nonprofit providing emergency and transitional RV housing to survivors of natural disasters. The organization had already been working with those

displaced after the Camp Fire in 2018 and once again stepped in to help other firefighters displaced by the Dixie Fire in their time of need.

Woody Faircloth, Founder of Emergency RV, called John and George with the good news that two donated RVs would soon be making their way to them. "The RV means we have a roof over our heads of our own", said John Hunter, Assistant Fire Chief, IVFD.

Woody drove for eight hours with his young daughter late into the night to personally deliver the RV to George Wolley and when asked what the donated RV means to him, George said, "The RV means everything, it really does and now I have a place to go – not having a place to go is not good."

Woody Faircloth said, "This generous grant from the California Fire Foundation enables firefighter families to get back on their feet and gives them hope for the road ahead."

"When one of our own loses their home, the California Fire Foundation is in the privileged position to be able to help. Whether that is through grants like these or the Benevolent Fund, our Foundation is there to offer our Brothers and Sisters help when they need it most," said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation.

Despite the unfathomable events that changed his town forever, George Wolley remains defiant, "Greenville will be back... Indian Valley will be back."

# MEET THE CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION TEAM



**Rick Martinez**  
Executive Director

*"After spending most of my adult life in fire and emergency services, it's very personally rewarding to be working with an organization that provides support to firefighters and their families and the communities they protect."*



**Kara Haynes**  
Program Manager

*"Every day I consider myself very lucky and thankful that I am able to be a part of a team that is so creative while still keeping with tradition. By working with communities and giving back to our brave California firefighters and their families is truly what it is all about."*



**Joslyn Beile**  
Program Manager

*"I'm excited to join the California Fire Foundation and support the hardworking firefighters of California and their families. It's an honor to serve those who sacrifice so much for the safety and well-being of our communities."*



**Ruqayya Al-Attiyeh**  
Administrative Assistant

*"Being a part of the Foundation staff is such a blessing because we get to meet and help Californians from all walks of life, thanks to our wonderful supporters. Every day I think of how lucky I was to land an internship with CFF, and now, two and a half years later, I'm so pleased to be continuing my work as an administrative assistant."*



**Mike Feyh**  
Relief Assistance Field Coordinator

*"Having served our nation, state and my local community for 30 years I feel grateful to be able to continue that work with the California Fire Foundation."*



**Sarah Howard**  
Philanthropic Services & Community Engagement

*"Every decision made at the California Fire Foundation is about putting community first. It's inspiring (and even fun!) to work with such a passionate and dedicated team."*



**Amy Howard**  
Philanthropic Services & Community Engagement

*"I truly value the Foundation's purpose-driven mission and deeply appreciate the ability to engage in meaningful work each day, playing a small role in serving the families of our state's fallen firefighters, as well as firefighters and the communities they are sworn to protect."*



**Emily Best**  
Public Relations and Communications Support

*"It's a joy working for the California Fire Foundation and an honor to help raise awareness of such an amazing organization so the public at large can truly understand just how tirelessly the firefighters of California work to keep us safe."*



At the California Fire Foundation, we have a dedicated team working to make sure our mission of providing emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect, remains at the core of everything that we do.

We said a sad farewell to a wonderful team member, Sara Rogers, who has gone on to pursue a new project and we wish her all the very best with her new role. We also welcome Joslyn Beile to the team!

# 9/11 REMEMBERED

California Fire Foundation's Executive Director, Rick Martinez recounts his own personal experience of 9/11 on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of these tragic events.



**MOST PEOPLE** across the globe can recall where they were the moment the news hit about September 11. The shocking events that unfolded that day are forever etched into our memories. September 11, 2021, marks 20 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks killed 2,977 people and injured thousands at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

To assist in the massive response hundreds of California firefighters were deployed to help with disaster efforts, standing shoulder to shoulder with their NYFD brothers and sisters. The California Fire Foundation's Executive Director, Rick Martinez was one such firefighter. At the time he was the Fire Chief for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and serving as the

incident team leader for FEMA's National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System.

"Having been to other events like the Oklahoma City bombing, Ground Zero was just enormous by comparison. Fire engines were twisted and destroyed, the building was still burning in places, the sun was partially obscured by the smoke. Everything that we'd come

Center, Rick was standing at Ground Zero. Twenty-seven hours after the first plane hit the World Trade

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to know as normal was not there – it was overwhelming."

Much of the fire department leadership in New York City perished when the towers collapsed, and their internal capacity was diminished. "It was daunting, but you put on your game face, roll up your sleeves and you do what you do – that's what firefighters do."

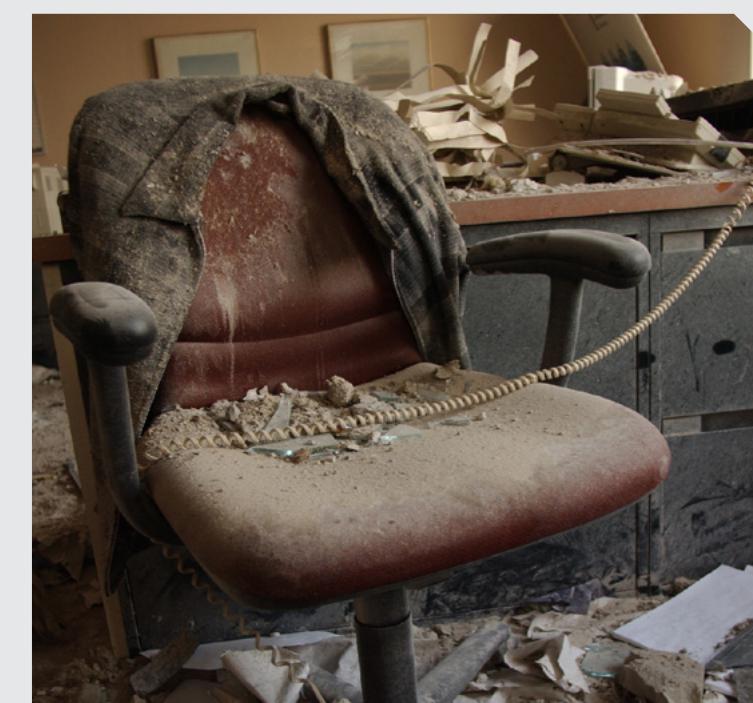
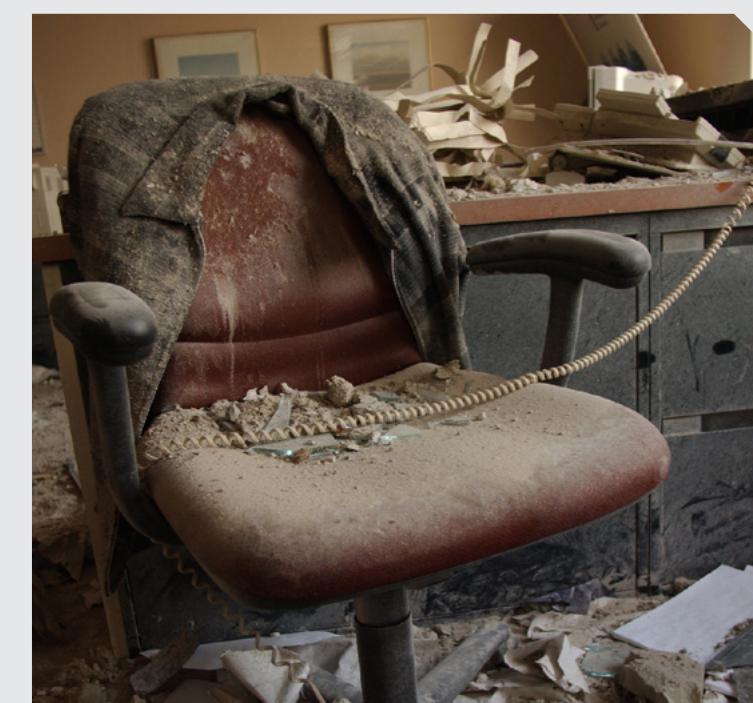
Approximately 1,000 rescuers were under Rick's leadership cycling through five to seven day periods as part of their deployment.

Twenty-seven hours after Tower 1 collapsed the last person was pulled alive from the rubble, but work had just started for the search and rescue teams as they continued to bring out victims for the weeks following. "The work is meaningful and important; however, as a rescue worker

it can be depressing because you want to bring out a live survivor," said Rick Martinez.

The dust fell for days. Heavy machinery worked to clear debris. Loved ones continued to desperately search for news of family and friends, knowing only that their last known location was the World Trade Center. Handwritten notes were drawn in the dust on the windows pleading for help to find loved ones.

"The interesting aspect of recovery at the Trade Center was bringing out firefighters and police officers that did what they do every day - they go into a burning building; they go into unfathomable loss, hope and resil-



ience shone through and as the world remembers the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, we salute those that made the ultimate sacrifice. We will never forget.

But 343 firefighters did not come out and lost their lives on that day.



## CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION: LENDING A HELPING HAND

Part of the California Fire Foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance to firefighters and the communities they protect and that is why the Foundation offers grant opportunities to fire departments, firefighter associations, fire safe councils and other community organizations in California that serve our state's residents in preventing, preparing and/or responding to major events, including wildfires, floods and climate-caused disasters. These grants are possible due to the generosity of our partners, Pacific Gas & Electric, Chevron and Edison International.

To date, the California Fire Foundation has awarded over \$1.6 million in disaster relief & fire prevention/preparedness grants to over 123 grantees in 2021. Projects funded include: disaster relief, preparedness, education & community outreach, emergency go bags, firefighter/fire victim behavioral health, personal protective equipment, specialized firefighting equipment, vegetation mitigation and fuels reduction across the entire state.

Here is how some of the grant funding is put to good use:



Tulare County Resource Conservation District & Sequoia Fire Safe Council's funding helped purchase and site 5,000 gal. water tanks in strategic fire prone areas for rapid water deployment and suppression support. Over 4,500 residents populate the "at-risk communities" within the grantee's service area, with eight communities within wildlands being designated as under-resourced.



Newman Fire Department's grant funded the installation of transfer switches at their town's fire house to help when power goes out.

*"CRFPD would like to thank the California Fire Foundation for their generosity in allowing us to successfully complete our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Acquisition Project through the Fire Prevention Grant Program. The awarded grant has assisted us in providing our personnel with modern wildland PPE in order to enhance our wildfire mitigation efforts and keep communities safe."*

- Campo Reservation Fire Department

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# A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

**THE SAYING GOES,** ‘it takes a village’, and when fast moving disaster strikes a community, this sentiment could not be more fitting.

One of the California Fire Foundation’s long-standing programs, Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE), brings immediate, short-term relief in the amount of a \$250 gift card to victims of fire or other natural disaster throughout California. When a fire or natural disaster strikes, victims are often left with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and this \$250 provides immediate relief so they may purchase basic necessities such as medicine, food or clothing.

For the first time, the California Fire Foundation is working with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) on the ground to assist with the distribution of the SAVE cards to those in need, ensuring they reach victims as quickly as possible. The CBOs the California Fire Foundation identified, are in a unique position to understand and recognize the immediate needs within their communities and with their involvement in the distribution of the SAVE cards, we can act quickly.

With the Dixie Fire, California’s second-largest wildfire in modern history, raging across five counties (Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama), the fast-moving Caldor Fire in El Dorado County and the River Fire spanning Placer and Nevada counties, this fire season is impacting large numbers of people across the northern part of the state but with the assistance from the CBOs we can identify communities affected quickly, ultimately resulting in getting more aid out to those in desperate need.

To date, we have partnered with the Plumas Crisis Intervention Resource Center (PCIRC) and Northern Valley Catholic Social Services who assisted with SAVE card distribution to those impacted by the Dixie Fire, the Nevada County Relief Fund in supporting the distribution of cards to River Fire victims and the El Dorado Community Foundation who helped distribute SAVE cards to those affected by the Caldor Fire. Across these major fires, the California Fire Foundation has distributed over 2,080 SAVE cards totaling over \$520,000 in aid, to survivors of the River, Dixie and Caldor Fires.

*“The SAVE cards from the California Fire Foundation are a lifeline to people when they need it most.”*

- Bill Roby,  
Executive Director, El Dorado  
Community Foundation



## SUPPLY AID TO VICTIMS OF EMERGENCY

### CALDOR FIRE

California Fire Foundation’s Relief Assistance Field Coordinator, Mike Feyh and CFF Executive Director, Rick Martinez personally delivering SAVE cards in El Dorado County to those impacted by the Caldor Fire.



*“We are witnessing first-hand the devastation and trauma people are experiencing when they come through our doors but the SAVE cards from the California Fire Foundation are like sending angels to allow us to help others.”*

- Cathy Rahmeyer, Director of Operations  
Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center



*“My family, pets and myself were evacuated from our home and my job in Fresh Pond, California early afternoon on Tuesday, August 17 due to the Caldor Fire. This has been one of the most terrifying experiences in my whole life. Being given emergency aid through the California Fire Foundation’s SAVE card has not only been an enormous blessing but also a huge weight lifted in a time where I feel like I’m drowning. Drowning in the midst of a wildfire. Thank you, sincerely from my family to each and every human who helps with your program.”*

- Ashlee R. - SAVE card recipient



### RIVER FIRE

CFF's Mike Feyh delivering SAVE cards to CBO Nevada County Relief Fund and Connecting Point in Colfax for those impacted by the River Fire.

*“Thank you to the California Fire Foundation. We appreciate all your hard work and generosity on behalf of our community and others. Thank you for the SAVE gift card – we are not back in our house yet, but this will help.”*

- Michael and Diane Pollock Pines - SAVE card recipient

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Mendocino Fire Safe Council, a fire preparedness/prevention grantee, with their evacuation kit give-aways at a local community meeting.

*"This award allowed Monterey Firefighters Association to purchase an emergency vehicle to help support evacuation efforts of community members who don't otherwise have vehicles or transportation available. This is a MUCH-needed resource and we're so grateful for CFF's help in making it possible."*

- Andrea Scott

Community Foundation for Monterey County

*"This grant enabled us to purchase medical training equipment to be better able to serve our community. Thank you again California Fire Foundation!"*

- Central Calaveras Fire Protection District



The California Fire Foundation awarded a grant to Community Emergency Response Volunteers of the Monterey Peninsula (CERV) to aid residents impacted by mudslides and debris flow resulting from the 2020 wildfires in Monterey County.

*"The Strawberry Fire Protection District thanks the Foundation for their support. Your generosity has allowed us to outfit our volunteers in the proper gear and upgrade our communications. Our volunteers are now better prepared for the upcoming fire season."*

- Dee Martin

Strawberry Fire Protection District (SFPD) Board President



## FIREFIGHTERS IN ACTION

► Jim Czerniec, Fire Captain, Santa Clara County Fire at the CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Northern California in August 2020. The fires started as the result of a thunderstorm that produced close to 11,000 bolts of lightning and started hundreds of fires throughout California.



## FUNDRAISER SPOTLIGHT



The children of Rescue Elementary School raided their piggy banks and raised money and donated gift cards for the victims of the Caldor Fire.

*"We are a tight knit community here in Rescue Elementary and the Caldor Fire was close to home. Many of our school families had relatives or friends directly impacted by the Caldor Fire. It's a wonderful thing for our kids to understand what it means to give back to those in need."*

- Principal Todd McGinnis, Rescue Elementary.

## CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL



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# CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL 2021 POSTPONEMENT

Following the announcement by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to postpone their own memorial in September, the California Fire Foundation Memorial 2021 will be postponed until 2022. Increased COVID 19 cases and the Delta variant's ability to break through the vaccinated population means holding an in-person memorial poses too great a risk. The safety of all family members, firefighters, and attendees is of upmost importance and therefore, out of an abundance of caution, this year's memorial will move to next year.

## 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*

**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)

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**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

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