



## 2017 DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

On August 11, 2017, HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the 2017 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.

23 participants attended from 19 countries:

Bangladesh	Bhutan	Botswana	Columbia
Ethiopia	India	Lebanon	Morocco
Myanmar	Namibia	Nepal	Philippines
South Africa	Tunisia	Ukraine	Uzbekistan
Vanuatu	Vietnam	Zambia	

Attendees were representatives from national, regional and municipal disaster management offices, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), NGOs and Universities. Nine of the 23 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 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 also participated in a computer simulated wildfire exercise based on the Tunnel 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.



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