

Relearning old lessons...



- "It'll never happen here"
- Get our teeth kicked in during extreme weather
- Mitigation occurs only *after* teeth gets kicked in
- We easily forget

"Who knew you could get hurt playing rugby???"

Fires are necessary,
fire disasters are not...

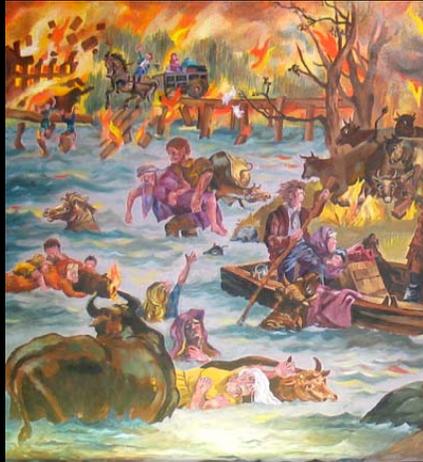


Eucalyptus sprouting, Victoria

Former dining room in Marysville



THE GREAT PESHTIGO FIRE OF 1871



- Wisconsin
 - Great Lakes Region of north-central USA
- Largest fire disaster in U.S. history
 - 1600 dead (at least)
 - Same conditions by descendants of Mirimici Fire
- Little press (why???)
 - Same day as Chicago fire

20 Largest California Wildland Fires (By Structures Destroyed)						
	FIRE NAME/CAUSE	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1	CEDAR (HUMAN)	October 2003	SAN DIEGO	273,246	4,847	15
2	TUNNEL (REKINDLE)	October 1991	ALAMEDA	1,600	2,900	25
3	WITCH (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN DIEGO	197,990	1,650	2
4	OLD (HUMAN)	October 2003	SAN BERNARDINO	91,281	1,003	6
5	JONES (UNDETERMINED)	October 1999	SHASTA	26,200	954	1
6	PAINT (ARSON)	June 1990	SANTA BARBARA	4,900	641	1
7	FOUNTAIN (ARSON)	August 1992	SHASTA	63,960	636	0
8	SAYRE (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	November 2008	LOS ANGELES	11,262	634	0
9	CITY OF BERKELEY (POWERLINES)	September 1923	ALAMEDA	130	584	0
10	HARRIS (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN DIEGO	90,440	548	6
11	BEL AIR (UNDETERMINED)	November 1961	LOS ANGELES	6,090	484	0
12	LAGUNA FIRE (ARSON)	October 1993	ORANGE	14,437	441	0
13	LAGUNA (POWERLINES)	September 1970	SAN DIEGO	175,425	382	5
14	HUMBOLDT (ARSON)	June 2008	BUTTE	23,344	351	0
15	PANORAMA (ARSON)	November 1980	SAN BERNARDINO	23,600	325	4
16	TOPANGA (ARSON)	November 1993	LOS ANGELES	18,000	323	3
17	49ER (BURNING DEBRIS)	September 1988	NEVADA	33,700	312	0
18	ANGORA (HUMAN)	June 2007	EL DORADO	3,100	309	0
19	SIMI (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2003	VENTURA	108,204	300	0
20	SLIDE (UNDER INVESTIGATION)	October 2007	SAN BERNARDINO	12,759	272	0

Note that this list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 within California, regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility. Also note that "structures" is meant to include all loss - homes and outbuildings, etc.



1/12/2009

Tunnel Fire (Oakland/Berkeley Hills) – October 1991

- Same area that burned down in 1923
- 25 die while evacuating
- 2900 structures consumed
- Directly led to Bates Bill
 - Locate "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones"
 - Class-B roof
 - 30' minimum clearance



Laguna Fire (SoCal) – October 1993

- 1000 homes over 10 days
- Directly led to Class-A roofs in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones



2003 SoCal Fire Siege

- 4847 homes
- 15 die while evacuating
- Directly led to 100' clearance
- Directly led to new WUI Building Standards



2007 SoCal Fire Siege

- 1650 homes
- 2 deaths
- Directly leads to...
 - Shelter-in-place alternative???
 - At least until Black Saturday

An aerial photograph showing a large, multi-story house that has been completely destroyed, leaving only a skeletal frame of concrete and steel. The house is situated on a green lawn, which is surrounded by a dark, charred landscape. A road and some trees are visible to the left of the house.

Extreme Weather Down Under...

A satellite image of the state of Victoria, Australia, showing a large area of white clouds over the land and sea. The clouds appear to be a result of extreme weather, possibly a storm or a large fire. The coastline is visible on the right side of the image.

Victoria, February 2009

California dreamin'...

- Build it and they will burn (2003)

Never again!!!

4803 Homes lost

A satellite-style map of California with red markers indicating wildfire impact. The markers are concentrated in the northern and central regions of the state. The map shows the coastline, major cities, and the surrounding terrain.

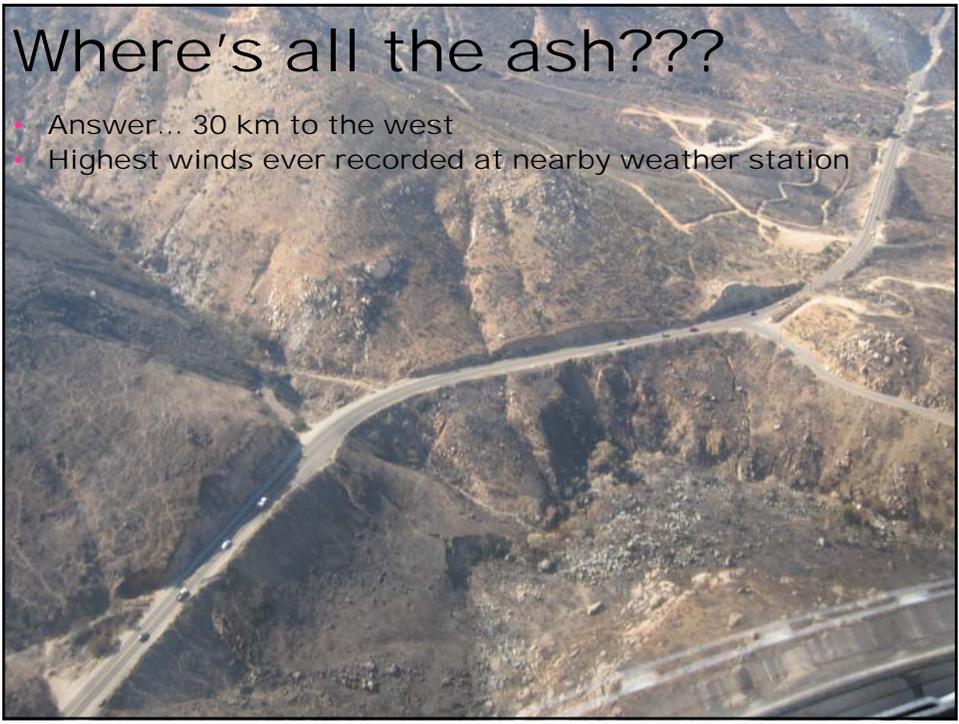
California dreamin'...

- Build it and they will burn (2007)

Never again!!!

>3000 Homes lost

A satellite-style map of California with red markers indicating wildfire impact. The markers are more widespread than in the 2003 map, covering a larger area of the state, particularly in the central and southern regions. The map shows the coastline, major cities, and the surrounding terrain.



Causes???

- People...
 - Power-lines
 - Arson
 - Accident



Arroyo Grande, CA 2009



Cal Poly fire bug...



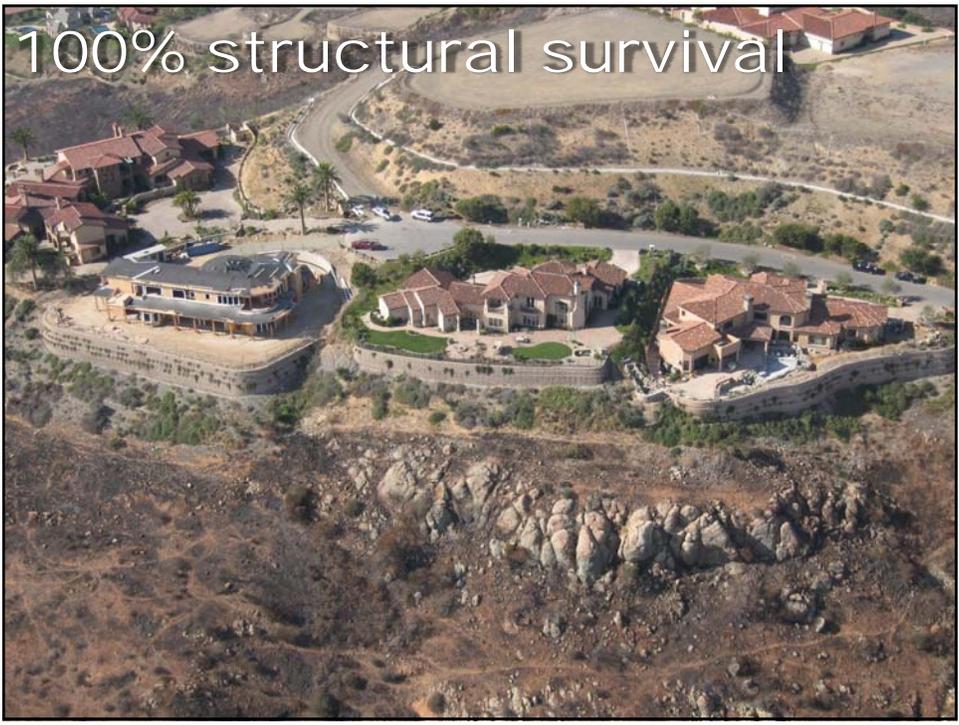
King Lake, Victoria

The complex block contains four images and a list. At the top left is the title 'Causes???' in green. To its right is a list with a yellow bullet point 'People...' and three sub-bullets: 'Power-lines', 'Arson', and 'Accident'. Below the title is a photograph of a large fire with a power line tower in the background, captioned 'Arroyo Grande, CA 2009'. To the right of this is a photograph of a charred bird, captioned 'Cal Poly fire bug...'. Below the fire photograph is a photograph of a weathered sign that reads 'FIRE RESTRICTIONS NOT IN FORCE' with a CFA logo, captioned 'King Lake, Victoria'.

Exhibit A:
Rancho Santa Fe



The image is a collage of three photographs. The top-left photo shows a polo player on a dark horse, wearing a red and white striped shirt, swinging a mallet. The middle photo is an aerial view of a large, multi-story resort building with a red-tiled roof and a swimming pool. The right photo shows a decorative sign on a post that reads: "The Crosby is a SHELTER-IN-PLACE COMMUNITY. A joint project of The Crosby and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District."





Evacuations ordered well in advance via Reverse-911

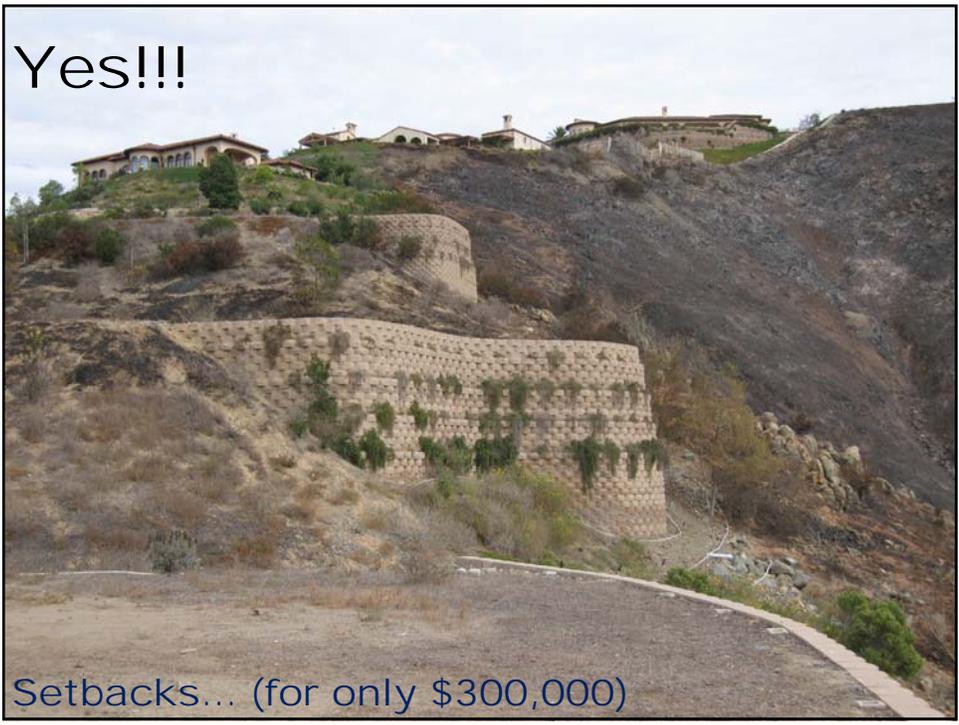
- "But I thought this was shelter-in place"
- "True, but we don't know what YOU'RE gonna do when it hits the fan"

We're all human...



Marysville, Victoria











Complexities

- Many protection agencies = Many mandates = Many policies
 - Policies are inconsistent and often conflicting

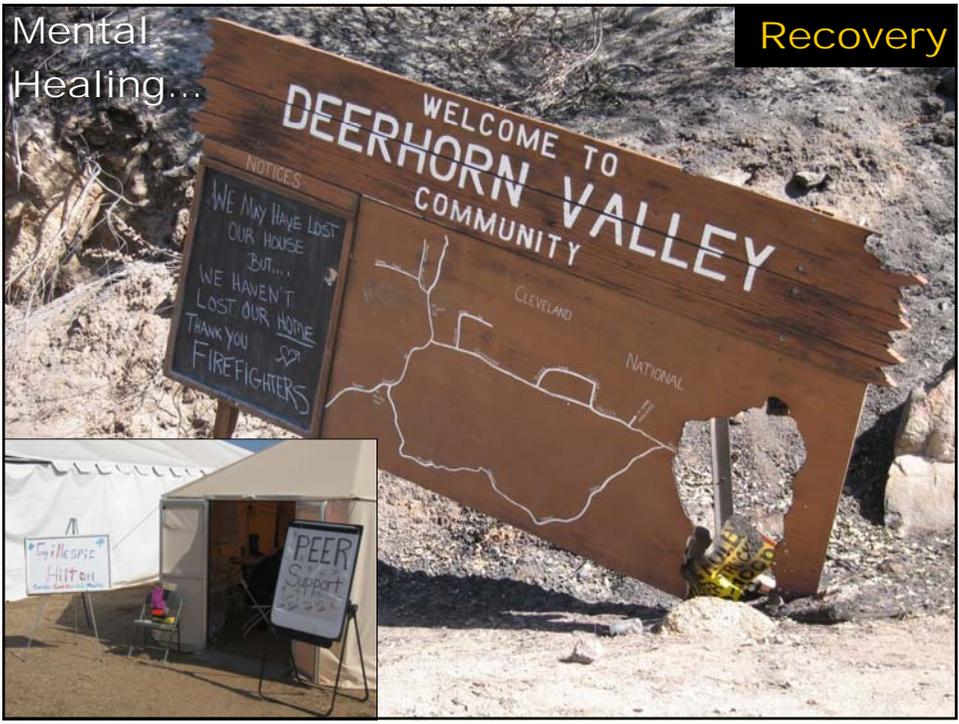


Exhibit B: Not quite Rancho Santa Fe...

- 3 days without sleep
- Firefighter injuries and resident fatalities







My experience down under...

Much help to the masses

Much less to individuals



Pre-fire changes Do work...

- Prevention
- Mitigation
- Preparation

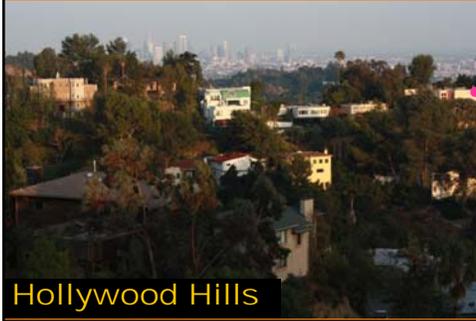


We must shape the battlefield!!!

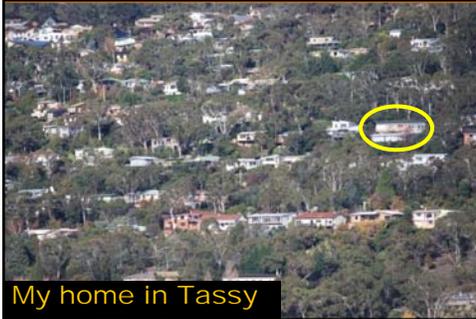


Thanks Kate Dargan & Tonya Hoover!

If I were a betting man...



Hollywood Hills



My home in Tassy

Going to get worse before it gets better

- Still have existing communities
- Still moving to the bush
 - Western USA will start experiencing more "California fires"
- Humans still have attention spans of gnats

We CAN break the cycle...

Fires are necessary, fire disasters are not

- Biophysical critical
- Socioeconomic critical

