



CESA NEWSLETTER

May 2018

President's Message

Dear CESA Member:

The disasters of last few seasons have catapulted us right over the first quarter of 2018- and we didn't get a chance to welcome our new Board into Office at the commencement of the New Year! We have some great veteran officers in the mix, and some dynamic new players (new to the State Board but not new to CESA) which is very exciting and greatly beneficial to us all.

It seems I just left the position of President, yet here I am again. From Inland I bring Dana Carey as Board Member, Mike Ripley as Treasurer (Southern), Breanna Medina as Board Member (Southern), Vicki Osborn (Southern), Jerry Quinn (Inland) and Christopher Godley (Coastal) round out the Members at Large. It is a pleasure to work with these fine professionals, and they do a good job of picking up my (frequent) slack! Our cohesive Board will remain on task to the missions set by the past Presidents, and I reiterate former President Ray Riordan's pledge: We will represent the members with professionalism, integrity and focus; collaborate with our strategic partners to facilitate recognition of the emergency management profession; and to utilize the resources of the members to demonstrate the values of emergency management.

To facilitate this mission, the Board Members continue to focus on the Strategic Plan introduced by Past President Mike Ripley. We seek member engagement on all committees. The 2018 Annual Training and Conference Committee is set, however, there is always room at that table (and watch for some early announcements of that event!) In addition, we will be recruiting members for participation in the following Committees:

- Legislative Committee
- Public Information
- Mentoring
- Training and Education

If you already participate in these committees, thank you. If you wish to continue we will ask that you re-commit by responding to the current Committee Chair or to inquiries distributed by the CESA Executive Director, Andrea Medina. If you don't participate in a committee, the State Board

This month's topic: Wildfire Preparedness



Beware of Toxic Exposures in Wildfire Settings

By Sean M. Scott

When emergency managers, staff personnel, and relief workers are out in the field doing damage assessments, they are often on scene within hours of a fire being extinguished. This requires long hours and sometimes days walking amongst the ash and fire debris. However, what emergency management and recovery workers may not realize is that entering a fire damaged area or structure, can pose a serious health risk. [Continue reading.](#)

Emergency Manager: A personal exercise

By Christopher Godley

Given the following hypothetical scenario, answer the questions below ...

In the last six months, you have deployed into a major flood and spent 20 long days in an EOC. A few months later, you went to the hurricane before it made landfall and worked a month of 120 hour weeks on debris management. You fly home from the hurricane and after one day of rest and a night's sleep, a neighbor pounds on your door at 1am. From the front yard, you look north and see that a massive wildfire is tearing through a large neighborhood. You look south and you see the glow of another major fire on the other side of the mountain. Santa Ana winds are gusting to 60 mph – and the power is out.

1. Your first act is:
 - a. Fire up the flashlights and crank-powered FM radio
 - b. Tell your spouse sorry, but now is the time that you have to leave and go to work
 - c. Put your family and go-bag in the car and then try to find out if the roads are passable
 - d. Wake up your other neighbors
- [Continue reading.](#)

Lilac Fire 2017 and the value of Recovery Pre-planning

encourages your involvement at some level. Committee reports are made during this and subsequent newsletters but please feel free to ask questions or comment at any time.

Each of us has many new challenges to face in the coming years- disasters aside. Legislation development has been at the forefront of our focus of late. We are hoping to make our voices heard with regard to Alert and Warning issues, Earthquake Legislation and other developments. This CESA State Board is meeting regularly and having very productive sessions. We seek to continue our forward momentum from the last few years, and with additional assistance from you, we will continue to achieve great things!

Thank you for your support.

Janice Bell, CESA State Board President

CESA Conference Updates

Rooms at the conference hotel, [The Hyatt Regency](#), are now available for booking.

Thinking of exhibiting or sponsoring at the conference? A [prospectus is here](#).

[Speaker proposals](#) for a Pre-Conference Training or a Conference Breakout are due on **June 8**. This year, we are offering four tracks:

1. Emergency Management in the Educational Environment
2. Communications A to Z
3. The Long Road to Recovery
4. Emergency Management 101



Upcoming Dates to Note

[2018 Emergency Management Leaders Conference](#): June 12-13. Discount available!

Solicitation: [Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program](#). Due June 20

Public Affairs Committee Update

The Public Affairs Committee has been busy this month coordinating content for the May newsletter with a focus on wildfire preparedness, recovery and lessons learned from recent responses. Thanks to everyone who has contributed content for this month's newsletter! We are looking forward to collecting content for the June newsletter in the coming weeks, which will focus on the hot topic of **alert and warning**.

Additionally, we have created an [Instagram](#)

By Bennett Cummings

On December 7th, 2017, at approximately 11:15 a.m. during the most severe fire weather seen in the region in years, a vegetation fire sprang up off of Interstate 15 in northern San Diego County. The fire, fueled by 40 mile an hour winds and an uphill slope, surged into a manufactured home community occupied mostly by senior citizens, destroying and damaging numerous homes, before continuing westward through rural homes, stables, and other structures, on its way towards the city of Oceanside, population ~175,000. [Continue reading.](#)

Emergency Management Leadership in Action

By Robert Lewin, CEM

We live in a time of climate extremes. While we always had destructive major fires, the regime we are now faced with have left seasoned fire commanders and emergency managers confronted with challenges that we did not or could not expect. "Black Swan" events, events that we did not know were possible but then happen. [Continue reading.](#)

Building Trust with your Community: A Continual Process

By Lorraine Schneider & Arpen Amy Shadkamyam, MA, CEM

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 4:52 a.m., the LA Fire Department responded to a brush fire near the Northbound San Diego I-405 Freeway and Mulholland Drive. The fire was in close proximity to the world known J. Paul Getty Museum, Mt. Saint Mary's University, the Skirball Cultural Center, and hundreds of homes. Just as the morning commute was gearing up between the US-101 and I-10 Freeway, the entire Sepulveda pass, both the north and southbound lanes of the I-405, became severely impacted, eventually shutting down and rerouting traffic. [Continue reading.](#)

Mutual Aid for the Montecito Debris Flow

By Cathy Taylor

Catherine Taylor, P.E. is the Water Systems Manager for the City of Santa Barbara, a neighboring city of Montecito. Catherine and her staff provided mutual aid to Montecito Water District for three weeks following the devastating mud and debris flow event of January 9, 2018. The following is her account of her water agency's response to the disaster. [Continue reading.](#)

Recent Wildfire Lessons From Sonoma State University

By Missy Brunetta

The fires that began the night of Sunday, October 8, 2017, had and continues to have an immense impact on Sonoma County and in the Sonoma State University community. While the fire threatened campus one mile to our east, hundreds of students, faculty, and staff were evacuating or facing the reality that all of their worldly belongings were gone. Among that group

account! Please follow us @emcesa for the latest CESA updates. We are also working to grow our Twitter presence and are still looking for emergency managers with Twitter skills to help out with this! You'll soon see a request come out for your **social media handles** (both organizationally and professionally) so that we can follow and share news from all of our members. If you're interested in being a part of the Public Affairs committee, please email Jenny.Novak@caloes.ca.gov to get the details for our next conference call in June.



CESA is Moving!

Our staff has been accepting mail at UPS box and will now be accepting mail at a physical office starting June 1st. The new address is 320 Pine Avenue #1050, Long Beach, CA 90802.

were the University's President, Judy K. Sakaki, and her husband. Being awakened by a fire in their home, they were forced to evacuate on foot, unsure where to find safety. While we were fortunate enough that they and the other members of our community made their way to safety, 55 students, 10 faculty, 16 staff, and 23 of our community affiliates lost their homes. [Continue reading.](#)

Addressing Toxic Smoke Particulates in Fire Restoration

By Sean M. Scott

In the restoration industry today, a lot of attention is given to the testing and abatement of microscopic hazardous materials. These include asbestos, lead, mold, bacteria, pathogens, and all sorts of bio-hazards fall into this category. If these contaminants are disturbed, treated, or handled improperly, all of them can cause property damage and serious harm to the health and welfare of those living or working in or near the areas where they're present. [Continue reading.](#)

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