

Introductory Statement

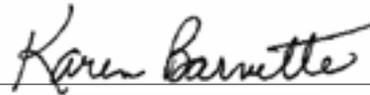
In June 2008, a series of dry thunderstorms swept across California igniting more than 1,750 fires.

Despite the great number of starts, severe burning conditions and limited resources, initial attack efforts by fire fighters contained more than 500 fires during the first few days of the siege. While there were many early successes, some fires in remote areas continued to burn throughout the summer. By autumn, the June Fire Siege had burned more than 1.2 million acres and taken the lives of thirteen firefighters. A wildland fire siege of this magnitude with so many fires burning so many acres over such a long period of time is unprecedented in California's modern fire suppression history.

During the siege over 350 structures were destroyed and hundreds of millions of dollars of property and natural resources were damaged. Thousands of people were evacuated and smoke adversely effected air quality for weeks at a time. Weather and fuel conditions and competition for resources made fire control efforts difficult, requiring strong cooperation and coordination among federal, state, and local fire fighting agencies.

At the request of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the U.S. Forest Service, Office of Emergency Services, and the National Park Service, an interagency team was convened to document key events and to provide a broad, factual overview of the fire siege. This report is the result of the team's efforts and is dedicated to all firefighters who have given their lives protecting the lives, property, and natural resources of the people of California.

Directors' Signatures



Karen Barnette for James Wesley Abbott,
Acting California State Director
Bureau of Land Management

Del Walters, Director
California Department of
Forestry and Fire Protection

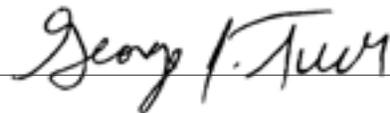


Randy Moore, Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Forest Service

Dale Risling, Acting Regional Director
Pacific Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Matthew Bettenhausen, Secretary
California Emergency
Management Agency

Ren Lohofener, Director
Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



George Turnbull for Rory D. Westberg,
Acting Regional Director
Pacific West Region National Park Service