

# Aust-US research symposium

## US Participants

**Tom Cova**

**University of Utah**



Tom Cova is an associate professor of Geography at the University of Utah where he serves as Director of the Center for Natural and Technological Hazards and the GIScience Certificate Program. He received a BS in Computer Science from the University of Oregon and an MA and PhD in Geography from the University of California Santa Barbara where he was an Eisenhower Fellow. His research and teaching interests are hazards, transportation, and geographic information systems with a particular focus on protective actions in wildfires.

**Mike Dayton**

**California Emergency Management Agency**



Mike Dayton has worked at the California Governor's Office of Homeland Security since its inception in March of 2003. Since the merger of the Governor's Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, which resulted in the establishment of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), Mike has served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary.

As the Chief of Staff and the Deputy Secretary of Cal EMA, Mike helps develop the overall strategic priorities and assists in the day-to-day management and operations of the agency. He provides guidance on the development of defensible strategies to wisely invest over \$400 million in federal and state funds to enhance homeland security on annual basis. He serves as the primary representative to the California Legislature and Congressional delegation and manages the

communications, audits, civil rights, legal, legislative affairs and policy divisions at Cal EMA. Prior to joining the office of Homeland Security and Cal EMA, Mike was a Congressional staffer for 13 years.

**Chris Dicus**

**California Polytechnic State University**



Dr Chris Dicus is a Professor of Fire and Fuels Management at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. His research focuses on how fuel treatments in the wildland-urban interface impact both fire behavior and ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and vegetative air pollution removal. He has participated in many post-fire assessments, including the 2007 Southern California Fire Siege and the 2009 Black Saturday Fires in Victoria. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology.

**Christopher Doyle**

**United States Department of Homeland Security**



Christopher Doyle currently leads the US Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Infrastructure and Geophysical Division (DHS S&T IGD). As Division Director, he is responsible for DHS' research and development (R&D) initiatives in the areas of emergency response and critical infrastructure protection.

In his 17 years of public and private sector service, Mr Doyle has developed a proven track record for identifying and anticipating trends in critical infrastructure protection and emergency management. He has successfully managed recovery efforts in several disasters, including the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, where he was responsible for the administration of over \$6 billion in recovery grant

funds. He was also responsible for the development of several policies related to disaster recovery to facilitate the streamlined award of grant funding to local and State governments.

From 2001 until 2003, Mr Doyle managed the day-to-day operations of both the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Dam Safety Program, facilitating transition of both programs into the post 9-11 environment.

**Thomas Foley**

**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection CAL FIRE**



Chief Foley has over 20 years of progressive experience in the fire service. He has experience in both wildland and municipal fire operations. As a CAL FIRE Chief Officer Chief Foley has command and control experience in both field and regional oversight applications. Chief Foley also has technical experience working on National and State Committees such as; Fire Equipment Working Team (National Wildfire Coordination Group), Fire Shelter Task Group (National Wildfire Coordination Group), First Responder Working Group (US Department of Homeland Security) and Chairperson of the Statewide Personal Protective Equipment Working Group (CAL FIRE).

**Randall Griffin**

**Department of Homeland Security**



Captain Randy Griffin has been an active member of the fire service and public safety community for over twenty years. His experience includes that in public safety, fire protection, weapons of mass

destruction, emergency preparedness, planning and response. Mr. Griffin has been detailed to the US Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate since 2005; where he serves as the senior liaison for state and local interaction and as the principal division point of contact to FEMA.

Mr Griffin currently serves as an adjunct instructor within the Public Administration Department at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Mr. Griffin's graduate level course builds a framework for state and local administrators to manage emergency preparedness and response programs.

His emergency management experience includes work in emergency operation centers for the Northern New York Ice Storm and the Onondaga County Labor Day Storm. While on detail to the Department of Homeland Security, he was deployed as a member of Arizona Task Force-1, one of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue Teams to Hurricane Rita. Capt. Griffin spent a week on the ground conducting search and rescue missions for survivors of the storm. He also spent a week in California, during the 2007 wildfire siege, working with federal officials at the Joint Field Office, State officials at the State Operations Center and local officials in Orange County.

**Gary Jensen**                      **Department of Homeland Security**



Captain Gary Jensen USN (ret) attended the US Naval Academy graduating in 1968 with a degree in Theoretical Mathematics. He did his final Navy tour as Chief of Staff for COMNAVBASE Pearl and retired from active duty in 1997.

Since retiring from the Navy he has held a number of positions supporting high technology development in Hawaii including Associate Director for Finance and Administration for the Maui High Performance Computing Center and as the first Director of the Mid-Pacific Branch Office of the Office of Naval Research. Since September 2007 he has served as the Director, Asia-Pacific Liaison for the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. The S&T Directorate is looking beyond the US borders for innovative and effective solutions to combating terrorism and responding to natural disasters. In support of this initiative he coordinates a strategic program of focused and proactive international cooperative S&T programs and projects with governments, industry and academia. As a result of these efforts bilateral government to government binding Memoranda of Agreement are in place with Australia and Singapore and are in development in additional countries around the Pacific Rim.

**Rich Kvale**

**USDA Forest Service**



Rich Kvale is Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation Management, USDA-Forest Service Washington Office National Headquarters. He spent six years in National Headquarter in various leadership positions in Fire Management, 36 years with the Forest Service in natural Resource Management Fire and Aviation Management and as a District Ranger. He served in the Southwestern Region on 2 National Forests and in the Pacific Northwest Region on one National Forest.

**Phyllis Kreitz**

**United States Fire Administration**

Phyllis Kreitz is a Fire Program Specialist, Emergency Response Support Branch, National Fire Programs Division, United States Fire Administration

She is responsible for wildland/urban interface initiatives, working with Federal Wildland Agencies on the development of fire-adapted communities process, She is currently representing USFA on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee. She has had 34 years of federal service of which 31 years has been with the United States Fire Administration.

**Sarah M McCaffrey**

**USDA Forest Service**



Sarah McCaffrey is a Research Social Scientist for the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. Her research focuses on the social aspects of fire management. This work has included

National Fire Plan and Joint Fire Science sponsored projects examining wildfire risk perception, social acceptability of prescribed fire and thinning, incentives for creation and maintenance of defensible space, and social aspects of biomass utilization. More recently she has begun work on the social issues that occur during fires – this includes examining alternatives to evacuation, homeowner intended actions during a fire, and understanding communication issues and public views of fire management during fires. In 2009 she assisted the Bushfire CRC with its post-fire data collection following the February 7th bushfires and subsequently was named a USDA liaison to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. She received her PhD in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California at Berkeley where her research examined Incline Village, Nevada homeowner views and actions in relation to defensible space and fuels management. Beyond better understanding the public-wildfire interaction, Dr McCaffrey has an interest in the interaction of culture and resource management and in the development of effective outreach programs

**Milton Nenneman**

**Department of Homeland Security**



Milton Nenneman is Director of First Responder Coordination for the Western US for Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate. He is responsible for facilitating the identification of capability gaps from the nation's first responders (fire, law, EMS and emergency management) to the S&T Directorate, primarily through the efforts of the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation First Responder Working Group. Its mission is to guide the identification, prioritization and development of mitigating technologies through the Integrated Product Team (IPT) process. Milt retired from the Sacramento Police Department as a Lieutenant in 2008 after twenty years of service.

**Bob Roper**

**Fire Chief Ventura County**



Bob Roper is a 30-year veteran of the Ventura County Fire Department and a native of Ventura County. He began his 30-year fire service career as a volunteer firefighter and promoted through the ranks to Fire Chief, which he's held for the past 12 years. He has a Bachelor's degree in business, an Executive Fire Officer graduate and a Harvard Fellow.

**David Sapsis**

**Cal Fire**



David Sapsis has over 25 years of experience in the field of wildland fire, with work involved in aspects ranging from fire effects resulting from prescribed fire, to large-scale mapping efforts designed to describe wildland fire and risk to natural resources and human assets. He has also served as a fire behavior modeler in support of large regional fire sieges. He currently serves as Senior Fire Scientist for Cal Fire in their Fire and Resource Assessment Program where he works on a variety of data, analysis, and strategic planning efforts. Dave holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Forestry from UC Berkeley, an M.S. in Fire Ecology from Oregon State University, and is a PhD candidate in Wildland Resource Science at UC Berkeley.

**Michele Steinberg**

**National Fire Protection Association**



Michele Steinberg has worked on wildfire safety issues for the US National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) since 2002 and is currently manager of NFPA's Firewise Communities Program, an initiative designed to save lives and property from wildfire. Her duties involve developing resource networks for communities wishing to improve their ability to withstand fire in the wildland/urban interface, as well as research, writing and presentations. Key projects include managing the national Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program, which reaches more than 540,000 residents of wildfire-prone communities in 38 states. She also serves as the staff liaison for NFPA's Technical Committee on Forest & Rural Fire Protection, which is responsible for standards on wildfire safety, including NFPA 1144, *Reducing Structure Ignition Hazards from Wildland Fire*.

An experienced speaker and presenter, Michele has worked since 1989 in the areas of natural hazards and land use planning, and disaster safety marketing and outreach

**Scott Stephens**

**University of California, Berkeley**

Scott Stephens is Associate Professor of Fire Science and Co-Director UC Center for Fire Research. His experience has included being a Research Forester with the United States Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, in Albany, California from 1995-1997, and a sabbatical in ACT, NSW, and Victoria Australia in 2008 working on fire in the urban wildland interface and in the wildlands.

Scott has given testimony before the US House of Representatives subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health and subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands concerning the escaped prescribed fire at Los Alamos, New Mexico, in 2000. Also, before the US House of Representatives subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health on Recovering from the fires: restoring and protecting communities, water, wildlife, and forests in Southern California, 2003. And, testimony before the US House of Representatives Resources committee on the Sierra Nevada forest plan: protecting communities, water, wildlife, and forests in the Sierra Nevada in 2004.

**Douglas Stone**

**Department of Homeland Security**



Douglas Stone serves as a Program Analyst for the International Cooperative Programs Office (ICPO), US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). He provides critical programmatic support to the “Pacific-Asia” and “Americas” portfolios by assisting in the expansion and management of international collaborative activities. Mr Stone also assumes a lead role in preparing the directorate’s White House Reports and Monthly Executive Summaries which are distributed to key leadership. In addition, he provides key budgetary analysis to both portfolios by evaluating and advising on the effectiveness of program operations in meeting established goals and objectives.

Prior to his current responsibilities, Douglas served as the Director of Public Affairs at a national nonprofit operating under the Department of Defense’s “America Supports You” program.

**Phill Veneris**

**CAL FIRE**

Phill Veneris started his career in the fire service in 1984 on the central coast of California. He has been a volunteer firefighter, ambulance attendant, Hot Shot Squad Boss, Technical Rescue Team Manager as well as rising through the ranks of CAL FIRE to the rank of Battalion Chief. In his current assignment, he supervises a field battalion containing three wildland fire stations, two structural fire stations and a bull dozer. Phill has been a member of an Incident Command Team since 1998, working with both United States Forest Service and CAL FIRE Teams. Phill is a member of the CAL FIRE Wildland Urban Interface Working Group. This Working Group is providing short and long term direction to CAL FIRE regarding all aspects of WUI incidents as well as writing a training handbook for internal and external use.