

# Border Agency Fire Council

## News Release

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### **Border Council To Celebrate Ten Year Anniversary**

The public is cordially invited to participate in the ten year anniversary celebration of the Border Agency Fire Council (BAFC), the first international multi-agency group formed in California to cooperatively work together to protect human lives and natural resources along the California-Mexico border.

The celebration will be held Thursday, June 9, 2005, 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Monte Vista Headquarters, located at 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA.

Pre-ceremony signing activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. The public will have the opportunity to view displays, a wide variety of fire fighting equipment, and meet and talk with U.S. and Mexican fire crews.

The signing ceremony will begin 10 a.m. with remarks by elected officials, BAFC members, and representatives from the United States and Mexico. Council members will then sign the amended BAFC Operations Plan, which authorizes the Mutual Assistance Agreement between the United States and Mexico and officially commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Border Agency Fire Council.

“The agreement grants firefighters the ability to cross into Mexico or the U.S. automatically for fire suppression activities,” said Ken Miller, BAFC Facilitator. “The success of BAFC is of great significance in saving lives and property and reducing the number of wildfires and burned acres on both sides of the Border.”

BAFC held its first meetings in October/November 1995. From its original 23 members, the Council has now has a membership of more than 33 elected officials, agencies, departments, and private organizations, including associate members.

“Formation of the Council was an unprecedented accomplishment and demonstration of cooperation between our two countries” added Miller. “And we are still working closely together to save lives and property in California and Mexico.”

*California Department of Forestry  
and Fire Protection  
Office of the Governor  
USDA Forest Service  
USDI Bureau of Land  
Management  
US Border Patrol  
Office of Supervisor Dianne Jacob  
San Diego County Office of  
Emergency Service  
US Attorney's Office  
Office of Congressman Duncan  
Hunter  
California Board of Forestry and  
Fire Protection  
California Highway Patrol  
San Diego County Department of  
Health Services  
Rural Fire Protection District  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
San Diego County Sheriff  
Office of Senator Bill Morrow  
Office of Senator Denise Ducheny  
Joint Task Force 6  
California Department of Fish and  
Game  
California Department of  
Corrections  
San Diego Trauma Hospital  
Administrators  
Southern California Watershed  
Fire Council  
US Consulate General Tijuana  
San Diego Fire and Rescue  
Department  
FireSafe Council San Diego  
CONAFOR (Comision Nacional  
Forestal), B.C., Mexico  
Director de Proteccion Civil del  
Estado, B.C., Mexico (Baja  
OES)  
Estatal de Forestal y Fauna  
Ensenada, Mexico  
Tecate Fire Public Safety  
(Bomberos de Tecate)  
San Diego Gas and Electric  
Planning and Land Use  
Office of Senator Dennis  
Hollingsworth  
Mexican Consul General – San  
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