

Meet with national, state, local, and international wildfire decision makers who are leading the future of wildfire prevention, mitigation and suppression.



Wildfire Technology Summit

“Excellent opportunity to connect with end users and solution providers.”

Director, Product Management – Wildfire, AEM

April 21-22, 2026 · Kona Kai Hotel, San Diego, CA

Accelerating Technology for Wildfire Response and Resilience

HEAR FROM SENIOR WILDFIRE LEADERS, INCLUDING:



Chief Mike Morgan
Director
Colorado
Division of Fire and Prevention Control



Chief Brian Renner
Deputy Chief, Air Operations,
California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Chief Brian Marshall
Chief, Fire and Rescue
California
Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES)



Chief Scott Gregory
Deputy Director, Technology
California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Mike Norton
Director General,
Northern Forestry Centre,
Natural Resources Canada



Dustin Miller
Director
Idaho
Department of Lands

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Welcome

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 IDGA Wildfire Technology Summit in San Diego, CA.

Over the past year, we saw the devastation wildfires have caused in the U.S. and around the world. That impact has made it pivotal that the community come together and find solutions to not only fight back, but mitigate future fires.

The Wildfire Technology Summit brings together over 300 senior agency leaders, program managers, and industry professionals to discuss the most important issues facing the wildfire community. At the conference, we are looking forward to the impactful discussions on prevention, suppression, and predictive technology.

Over the course of two days, we will look at best practices for integrating data and emerging technology to advance wildfire mitigation efforts. That includes overviews of the use of geospatial technology and the use of drones and robotics. We will also have robust discussions on the future of aviation for wildfire technology.

I am excited for the fruitful discussions ahead and look forward to welcoming you to the conference in April.



Douglas Geller
Conference Producer
IDGA

Conference Chairman



Kim Zagaris, or Chief Z as some call him, is currently the Wildfire Policy and Technology Advisor for the Western Fire Chiefs Association. His position is new, create in response to the destructive wildfires that have unfolded across the west. Chief Zagaris retired as State Fire and Rescue Chief for the State of California, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) a position he held for 18 years.

Chief Zagaris has extensive background in fire service, emergency management, and homeland security which includes working with local, state, federal and international agencies over his 42 years fire service career. During his time he served under six Governor's and has been actively involved in every major and catastrophic emergency in California as well several in the nation. In September 2021 Cal OES asked Chief Zagaris to step in as the Acting Deputy Director of Response overseeing Fire & Rescue, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, State Emergency Operation Center and the Warning Center during the states response for wildfires and COVID-19 response through 2021. Chief Zagaris also served as the Executive Coordinator for Cal OES Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee/ FIRESCOPE Board of Directors provides a State level forum for addressing Statewide Mutual Aid, Incident Command System, Multi-Agency Coordination, Resource Typing, Training, Certification, Safety, Standardization and Fire Protection issues of statewide concern.

Chief Zagaris was responsible for managing the FIRESCOPE Program, California Incident Command Certification System, the California Fire Assistance Agreement, and the State Assistance for Fire Equipment Program, as well as, serving on numerous state and national committees, associations and programs.

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Chief Mike Morgan
Director
Colorado Division of Fire and Prevention Control



Chief Brian Marshall
Chief, Fire and Rescue
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES)



Chief Brian Renner
Deputy Chief, Air Operations
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Chief Scott Gregory
Deputy Director, Technology
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Nick Schuler
Deputy Director, Communications & Emergency Incident Awareness,
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Mike Norton
Director General, Northern Forestry Centre,
Natural Resources Canada



Dustin Miller
Director
Idaho Department of Lands



Jamie Barnes
Forestry, Fire and State Lands Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources



Dan McKeague
Director, Field Services & Innovation Center, National Technology & Development Program
US Forest Service
(Confirmed subject to final approvals)



Michael Haydon
Director, Wildfire Mitigation
Xcel Energy



Chief Stu Sprung
Chief of Flight Operations (ret.),
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Sarah Fisher
National Director of Fire and Aviation Management
US Forest Service
(Confirmed subject to final confirmation)



Chief Dan Munsey
Fire Chief
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District



Mike Pavolonis
Satellites' Wildland Fire Program Manager
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Chief Phillip SeLegue
Staff Chief of Wildfire Intelligence
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)



Peyton Bennett
UAS Operations Manager
Florida Forest Service



Tom Cwik
Chief Technology Officer
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Ian McCubbin
Project Manager and Systems Engineer
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Kris Kirkland
Chief Pilot
Nevada Department of Forestry



Cory Davis
Director, Wildfire Predictive Services
Alberta Forestry and Parks



Chief Robert Garcia
Fire Chief
Angeles National Forest



Andrea Santy
Program Director,
X-PRIZE Wildfire X-PRIZE

Day One: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

0830	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
0925	CHAIR'S WELCOME REMARKS Kim Zagaris, Wildfire Technology Director, Western Fire Chiefs Association
0930	WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY – PRACTICAL VS. WANT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Realistic expectations for integrating technology into wildfire prevention and mitigationFeedback from CAL FIRE on the implementation of emerging technologyProving technology works when wildfires are having Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (Invited)
1000	WILDFIRE RESPONSES – IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY ON A STATE LEVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none">From UAS to geospatial technology and improved suppressants, what technologies are the priorities?Understanding how to make the procurement process more efficientDeveloping interoperability with all partners Chief Mike Morgan, Director, Colorado Division of Fire and Prevention Control
1030	UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF THE BRAND-NEW US WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Areas of focus for the US Wildland Fire ServiceHow the US Wildland Fire Service will collaborate with other agenciesUnderstanding how the US Wildland Fire Service will work with industry Director, US Wildland Fire Service (Invited)
1100	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
1130	ADVANCING NATIONAL AVIATION WILDFIRE CAPABILITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Upgrading the national fleet to meet the needs of increasingly dangerous wildfiresImproving retardant capabilities for the nation's aviation fleetIntegrating nationally owned and third party fleets Sarah Fisher, National Director of Fire and Aviation Management, US Forest Service (Confirmed subject to final confirmation)
1200	THE LANDSCAPE OF STATE FIRE AVIATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Comparing the role of state fleets and national fleets in wildfire suppression and preventionBuilding state aviation fleets for wildfire suppressionImproving aviation training for state pilots Moderator: Chief Stu Sprung, Chief of Flight Operations (ret.), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Panelists: Chief Brian Renner, Deputy Chief - Air Operations, CAL FIRE Chief Charles MacFarland, Chief of Air Operations and Special Operations, City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Kris Kirkland, Chief Pilot, Nevada Department of Forestry

“Great conference! The pacing was excellent, the presentation times and breaks were perfectly balanced.”

Fire Environmental Safety Specialist,
Glendale Fire Department



1230	LUNCH AND NETWORKING IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
1330	WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION WITH CAL FIRE'S ADVISORY BOARD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current focuses of the advisory board• How the advisory board makes decisions on investing in technology• How industry can work with the advisory board to advance its mission Chief Brian Marshall , Chief, Fire and Rescue, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) Lisa Lien-Mager , Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience, California Natural Resources Agency
1400	PANEL: AI AND WILDFIRE INTELLIGENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathering and interpreting data efficiently and correctly• Improving interoperability with systems state and nation wide to improve outcomes• Coordinating real-time actions based on intelligence found Moderator Ian McCubbin , Project Manager and Systems Engineer, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Panelists Tom Cwik , Chief Technology Officer, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Chief Phillip SeLegue , Staff Chief of Wildfire Intelligence, CAL FIRE
1430	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
1500	WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unique issues facing southern states when managing wildfires• Preventing debris burns from turning into wildfires• Investing in resources to manage forests and wildfires Johnny Sabo , Director, Georgia Forestry Commission Sean Allen , Chief of Forest Logistics and Support, Florida Forest Service
1530	HOW UTILITY COMPANIES ARE INTEGRATING FORECASTING AND PREVENTION TECHNOLOGY TO PREVENT WILDFIRES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving working relationships with local and state fire departments• Creating first responder teams run by utility companies• How Xcel Energy is investing \$1.8b into wildfire mitigation and prevention through system hardening Michael Haydon , Director, Wildfire Mitigation, Xcel Energy Director, Wildfire and Safety, San Diego Gas and Electric (Invited) Vice President - Wildfire Mitigation, Pacific Gas & Electric (Invited)
1600	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS Kim Zagaris , Wildfire Technology Director, Western Fire Chiefs Association
1605	END OF CONFERENCE DAY ONE

“It was a great event to connect with wildfire leaders, understand the challenges that they are currently facing and the technologies that could be used to solve them. A broad perspective including satellite providers, local fire departments, state agencies and vendors.”

CEO, Satellites on Fire

Day Two: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

0830	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
0920	CHAIR'S WELCOME REMARKS Kim Zagaris, Wildfire Technology Director, Western Fire Chiefs Association
0930	IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing technology advancements• Creating joint training opportunities• Lessons learned from wildfires around the globe Chief David Scheurich, Staff Chief – Cooperative Fire Protection, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Chief Jan Südmersen, Assistant Chief Officer, Osnabrück Fire Department (Germany)
1000	THE BIG PICTURE FROM THE US FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current initiatives of the US Forest Service National Technology and Development Program• Understanding the role of the National Technology and Development Program in setting requirements and capabilities• Integrating AI and emerging technologies Dan McKeague, Director, Field Services & Innovation Center, National Technology & Development Program, US Forest Service (Confirmed subject to final approvals)
1030	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
1100	MAINTAINING INTEROPERABILITY WHILE INTEGRATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps to ensure new technology can be used agency wide• Understanding how technology needs to be flexible to work with agencies at a federal, state, and local level• Case studies of integrating technology and maintaining interoperability standards Scott Gregory, Deputy Director, Technology, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Nick Schuler, Deputy Director, Communications & Emergency Incident Awareness, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
1130	SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES ACROSS MULTIPLE STATES WILDFIRE ACTION PLANS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining how states are creating action plans• Collaborating with fellow states when putting together wildfire action plans• The role of technology in suppressing and preventing wildfires and how it is being integrated into traditional methods Dustin Miller, Director, Idaho Department of Lands Jamie Barnes, Forestry, Fire and State Lands Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources
1200	LUNCH AND NETWORKING IN THE EXHIBITION HALL

“I think the event was great! It was a way for industry leaders to express their needs and wants to the technology community. This allows the tech community to work together to provide a product that is useful and designed with the end user in mind.”

Adjunct Faculty; Senior Manager,
Boston University School of Public
Health; BAO Systems

1300	CANADA'S INVESTMENT IN WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Resources needed to continue the build out of the Centre of ExcellenceAdvancing wildfire technology to mitigate and prevent wildfiresUnderstanding how different Canadian agencies work together Mike Norton , Director General, Northern Forestry Centre, Natural Resources Canada Cory Davis , Director, Wildfire Predictive Services, Alberta Forestry and Parks
1330	EXPANDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR WILDFIRE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Case studies of how AI-powered fire detection system, Next-Generation Fire System saved \$850 million dollars' worth of structures and propertyCreating complementary technology alongside federal, state, and local geospatial programsNext steps for the Next-Generation Fire System Mike Pavolonis , Satellites' Wildland Fire Program Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
1400	KEEPING FIREFIGHTERS SAFE DURING WILDFIRES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improving PPE to ensure the safety of firefightersImplementing technology to track firefighters during wildfiresUnderstanding the technology needs of firefighters onsite at wildfires Chief Dan Munsey , Fire Chief, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Chief Robert Garcia , Fire Chief, Angeles National Forest
1430	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK IN THE EXHIBITION HALL
1500	INTEGRATING UAS INTO WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND PREVENTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">The need for a common operating pictureRegulatory issues in implementing UAS operationsScaling UAS training Peyton Bennett , UAS Operations Manager, Florida Forest Service
1530	NEXT STEPS FOR X-PRIZE WILDFIRE <ul style="list-style-type: none">The impact of the X-PRIZE Challenge and how it is advancing wildfire technologyResults from the X-PRIZE reportPotential next challenges in the wildfire sector for X-PRIZE Andrea Santy , Program Director, X-PRIZE Wildfire, X-PRIZE
1600	END OF CONFERENCE

**“Very insightful.
Speakers were well
chosen and relevant to
the discussion.”**

Business Development, ORBCOMM



Attend Wildfire Technology Summit to:

- ➔ Hear from federal, state, and local decision makers on how they are adopting the latest in technology and improving integration of UAS into wildfire mitigation and prevention efforts
- ➔ Learn how AI and wildfire intelligence are changing wildfire management
- ➔ Expand your knowledge on how fire departments are looking to keep firefighters safer when fighting wildfires
- ➔ Engage with experts regarding national and state level wildfire aviation challenges

Maximize Your Involvement: Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

Invest in making an impact with the people that matter to your business

Sponsorship is the most effective solution to share your company's idea to senior decision makers from the wildfire community, who are searching for actionable prevention, predictive, and suppression solutions to their current business challenges.

The Wildfire Technology Summit will be attended by senior officials and decision-makers from wildfire technology industry, bringing together buyers and suppliers in one location. With tailored networking, sponsors can achieve the face-to-face contact that overcrowded trade shows cannot deliver.

Exhibiting and Sponsorship options are extensive, and packages can be tailor-made to suit your individual company's needs

Features of sponsorship include:

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Last year's attendees included:

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Website: www.firetrol.net



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San Diego, CA.



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