

PANEL DISCUSSION:
Regional Approaches to Urban Interface Problems

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Neil R. Honeycutt²

The urban and wildland interface (mix) problem exists in many communities in the United States. To effectively deal with these complex issues, cooperative approaches should be used to solve regional problems. This panel discussed the unique programs currently at work in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties in northern California. These programs were designed after the 1991 Oakland hills firestorm to address the specific problems in this predominantly urban intermix locale. The panel discussed the benefits derived from the

formation of regional cooperatives that go beyond traditional geopolitical boundaries. The East Bay Fire Chiefs' Consortium and the Vegetation Management Consortium operate as components of the Hills Emergency Forum. The public sector Chief Executive Officers are responsible for ensuring that the lessons from the Firestorm are translated into public policy. The Bay Area Wildfire Forum is a private, nonprofit group of northern California firefighters.

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²Chief, Fire and Rescue Branch, State of California, Office of Emergency Services, 2800 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832.