

# FIRE LINES

*The California Fire Foundation - assisting families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect.*



/// PAGE 4  
**CA FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATE**



/// PAGE 5  
**PIPES & DRUMS**

/// PAGE 6  
**2023 GRANTS RECAP**



## COMMITTED TO HONORING OUR FALLEN, MEMORIAL EXPANSION BREAKS GROUND



LAUNCH OF LIMITED EDITION **MEMORIAL EXPANSION CHALLENGE COIN**

/// PAGE 4

**The California Firefighters Memorial** in Sacramento's historic Capitol Park is a unique and stunning tribute to the 1,527 firefighters who have died in the line of duty since California became a state in 1850.

Each year since 2002, the Annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony has honored those firefighters who have lost their lives. The solemn remembrance is steeped in the traditions of the firehouse and hundreds of firefighters, family members, and grateful citizens gather in the heart of California's capital, to honor those who have paid the ultimate price to keep

California communities safe. Yet, the sad reality is that every year, we add names to the Memorial Wall, and we are at a point in time where we've run out of room to honor and remember them.

"With the addition of 35 names last year, we have filled the original wall," announces Brian K. Rice Chair of the California Fire Foundation and President of California Professional Firefighters. "But unlike a war memorial, this Memorial will never have an end date. This is a living monument, there is never going to be a year that goes by that we do not lose a California firefighter in the line of duty."

On March 20, 2024, the California Fire Foundation's Executive Director, Chair, and Board members, along with local firefighters, families of the fallen, and California elected officials, held a ceremonial groundbreaking event to announce its campaign to raise 12-million-dollars to make the expansion of the Memorial Wall become a reality.

Continued on page 3



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

THIS YEAR MARKS the start of my fifth year as Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation and, during this time, California has endured some of the worst and most unprecedented natural disasters we've come to know. However, the California Fire Foundation remains true to its mission of providing emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters, and the communities they protect. The Foundation went above and beyond all measures to answer the call and provide families and communities with assistance through our established benefits and funding programs.

Programs such as Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) and our ongoing grants continue to bring immediate, short- and long-term relief to victims of fire and other natural disasters throughout California.

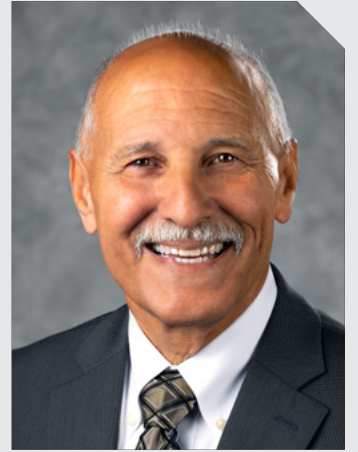
The SAVE program offers immediate assistance to eligible survivors by firefighters on scene enrolled in the SAVE program. This allows survivors to purchase necessities such as food, clothing, gas, medicine, or a place to stay the night in the immediate aftermath

of a house fire in the form of \$250 gift cards. Our grants program continues to ease the burden on fire departments, firefighter associations, and community-based organizations whose vital projects focus on making Californians safe and resilient.

Along with our other programs, our standards remain high, but our most heartfelt work has been launched - the foundation's first multi-year capital campaign to expand our California Firefighters Memorial in Capitol Park. Please stay tuned throughout this year for opportunities to get involved, how to donate and show your support for this once-in-a-lifetime project to make the expansion of the Memorial Wall become a reality.

In closing, I assure you the California Fire Foundation is committed to supporting the families of California firefighters and the work we are doing reflects the mission we set out to achieve. I could not be prouder of the work the Foundation team has committed itself to and of our donors who make these possibilities reality.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff, thank you for supporting us in our mission.



Rick Martinez
Executive Director
California Fire Foundation

THANK YOU!

Thanks to our generous supporters in helping the California Fire Foundation make huge strides in our continued efforts to provide critical programming in the areas of disaster relief and wildfire preparedness and prevention across California. Because of their generous support, firefighters up and down the state will be better equipped to serve their communities and continue to save lives.

Morgan Stanley
Global Impact Fund

Joseph and Helene
Pollock Foundation

Hexberg Family
Foundation

The Mark J. Turtleaub
Revocable Trust



**COVER STORY CONTINUED**



“Since 1991, our President Emeritus Daniel A. Terry was committed to creating a place in Capitol Park where the families of our fallen brothers and sisters could remember and honor their loved ones for generations to come,” President Rice states. With the announcement of the expansion today, that commitment made over two decades ago remains active and is now one step closer to creating the space to honor an additional 4,600 firefighters over the next 150 years.

Since its unveiling in 2002, the Memorial Wall has nearly doubled the 855 names it started with in just two decades time. The Foundations’ ability to provide this essential tribute depends on the expansion of the California Firefighters Memorial, so the families of those lives lost in the line of duty will continue to have sacred ground to gather and honor their

loved ones like Rosalie Turbeville, the wife of CAL FIRE Deputy Chief, Bruce Turbeville who was a Memorial Wall honoree in July, 2022.

“The Wall is to remember Bruce and what he stood for in his career and his dedicated service doing what he loved most,” says Rosalie. “I know he would be so humbled knowing that he made a difference and would be remembered forever on the Memorial Wall.”

Turbeville remembers a time when she and her late husband would walk the Capitol Park grounds early into their relationship during their lunch breaks. Now, she and her family gather from across California to share his memory with each other, together, at the Memorial.

“The Wall and beautiful statues tell a story that I believe is testament to the courage of the selfless men and women who will-

ingly sacrificed their own lives to protect us,” Rosalie continues. “For generations to come, Bruce and all his brothers and sisters, will be remembered for their commitment to the fire service that they served with pride.”

The Memorial Expansion cer-

emony culminated in a symbolic first turning of the dirt with the California Fire Foundation’s Executive Director Rick Martinez, its Board of Directors, and by recognizing the local fire departments and other key stakeholders on scene for their continued support in this historic project.

To make this a reality, we need your help. The Memorial was built, and is maintained, entirely through private fund raising — much of it coming from firefighters themselves. We welcome donations large and small to keep this most fitting of tributes as a legacy for our brave fallen brothers and sisters for years to come.

Donate today to help us secure the funding needed to honor our state’s fallen firefighters for their ultimate sacrifice and to tell the story of California’s fire service for decades to come.

For more information on the Memorial expansion please contact [cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org)

## FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

We’d love for you to tell us what the Memorial means to you. If you are interested in participating, please call the number below and leave us a voicemail sharing what the California Firefighters Memorial means to you and your family.

**To leave us a voice note, please call (916) 883-3580**



# THE CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER LICENSE PLATE

For over two decades, the California Firefighter License Plate has been established as one of the most iconic images on the highways and byways of California. The California Firefighter License Plate program allows active, retired, and volunteer firefighters to show their pride while supporting our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. As of January 1, 2018, surviving family members of the fallen are eligible to purchase California Firefighter license plates.

Over 48,000 California Firefighter license plates are on the roads today. The specialty plate was created by the California Professional Firefighters and features the iconic Backdraft movie poster image,



the rights of which were donated for exclusive use on the California Firefighter specialty plates. The License Plate program is administered by the California Fire Foundation with a portion of the proceeds from the sales of these specialized license plates going toward the expansion, maintenance, and upkeep of the California Firefighters Memorial.



For more information or to apply for your California Firefighter license plate, SCAN THE QR CODE



## MEMORIAL EXPANSION CHALLENGE COIN

Show your support for firefighters and families of the fallen with a special, limited edition Memorial Expansion Challenge Coin.

The fire service is a family forever, and with your donation of \$125 toward the California Firefighters Memorial, you'll receive the gift of a limited edition Memorial Expansion Challenge Coin.

These special coins will be numbered 1-10,000 and available to honor any member of the fire service, past or present. You can select at checkout if you would like your coin to be buried on site at the Memorial in Capitol Park, or have it shipped to you as a keepsake to commemorate your support for the Memorial Expansion Project.

100% of your donation supports the California Fire Foundation's Memorial expansion project to ensure the California Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento can continue honoring our fallen brothers and sisters for another 100 years. California Fire Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, which built and maintains the California Firefighters Memorial and supports the families of fallen firefighters.



# PIPES & DRUMS

## 25 YEARS AND COUNTING



**W**hat has become known as a well-established fixture across California's fire services and its members – the Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters was created 25 years ago (1999) to perform the great traditions of Scottish bagpipe bands at funerals and memorial services honoring California firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

Today, the band stands with extreme pride as it doubled in size, which began with 12 original members. The California Fire Foundation had the privilege to connect with a founding member of the Pipes and Drums, retired Captain, Eric McKellar from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, who shared his story about how the band has impacted his life. Retired Captain Eric McKellar leading the Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters at the 2022 Memorial Ceremony

"This band is family to me and I'm very proud to be their leader, but mostly I consider myself a friend to all our members," says McKellar. "They have been with me through some tough times in my life and I plan on being there for them as long as they'll have me."

McKellar reflects on the band's first few events and funerals they were involved in and what he considers to be a pivotal moment in the band's growth moving forward, "I could see that the band gave a sense of pride and tradition to firefighters and their families," he shared. "That in turn gave us pride and a drive to get better."

With its continued success, the CPF Pipes and Drums are now one of the best and largest firefighter bands in the state allowing them to participate in

many more events, services, and memorials across California. However, one thing that may not be known is that all those who participate in the band are either active or retired firefighters, whose participation is entirely volunteer.

McKellar recalls his origin story which began in dark times in his life. It wasn't until he answered the Pipes and Drums ad to become a member that he ignited a new passion and sparked a lasting love. "I really needed something positive for myself and the band filled the bill. So, at first it was a very personal thing for me but moved into something much bigger," he confirms.

McKellar leaves us with some personal advice about the importance of the band for our future generations, "I encourage all locals to get young members involved. The traditions of the fire service must be carried on and the sound of pipes and drums at every memorial can only continue if the support from membership continues."

If you are interested in learning more about the band's availability or are interested in joining, contact us at [cafirefoundation@cpf.org](mailto:cafirefoundation@cpf.org).

*Special thank you to the following members who have been with the band for 25 years since inception.*

**Milton Barker, Ralph Bates, William Broderick, Rodney Cordero, Eric McKellar, Daren Olson, Charles Price, Todd Witt**

# 2023 GRANTS RECAP AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

**In recent years**, California has endured some of the worst and most extraordinary natural disasters we've come to know. Not only have communities witnessed some of the most unprecedented wildfire seasons over the last decade, but they also continue to deal with abnormal biospheric winter storms resulting in floods, debris flows and mudslides in burn scar areas, and infrastructure instability, forcing economic interruptions, and sadly displacing thousands of families, seniors, and others disproportionately impacted from their homes.

Just as our state's firefighters are all hazard, the California Fire Foundation remains vigilant and prepared to assist California

communities when a major wildfire or other disaster strikes. As part of our mission, we dedicate ourselves to providing immediate, mid- and long-term financial support in the form of grants to CPF local unions and other firefighter associations, fire departments, and community-based organizations across the state in their efforts to protect the communities they serve. Since we last met at Convention, these have been made possible by the ongoing generosity of our major funding partners, including Pacific Gas & Electric, Edison International, General Motors, and Chevron.

Last year, thanks to the generous support of our major funding partners, the Foundation

is excited to share that we awarded over \$1.38 million in direct support to 86 wildfire and other disaster-related prevention, preparedness, relief and recovery projects statewide. In 2023 alone, because of our efforts in collaboration with our funding partners, the lives of 4.9 million Californians were directly impacted across our great state all while successfully providing much-needed help to 45 local fire departments and firefighter associations, and 41 community-based organizations. Our grants and contributions assisted our impacted communities with the relief and recovery, education, planning, outreach, training, protective equipment, and mitigation they needed.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS



*"This grant, provided by the California Fire Foundation, has helped us communicate the need to 'Know Your Zone' before an emergency strikes..."*

**Chris Ingram**, President  
Santa Clara County Firefighters  
Local 1165



*"The grant purchased helmet liners to drastically reduce repeated contamination to the head, neck, and face that can be caused by a contaminated helmet. Firefighters will be safer and more effective in their duties."*

**Pasadena Fire Fighters Association**  
Local 809

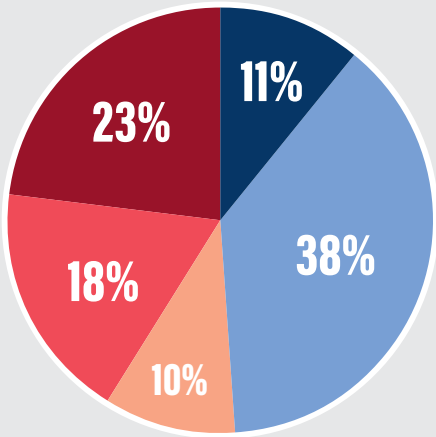


*"This contribution exemplifies the Foundation's unwavering commitment to bolstering firefighting efforts and safeguarding our community. Together, we stand ready to tackle the challenges of the future with strengthened resolve and resourcefulness."*

**City of Monterey Park**  
Fire Department

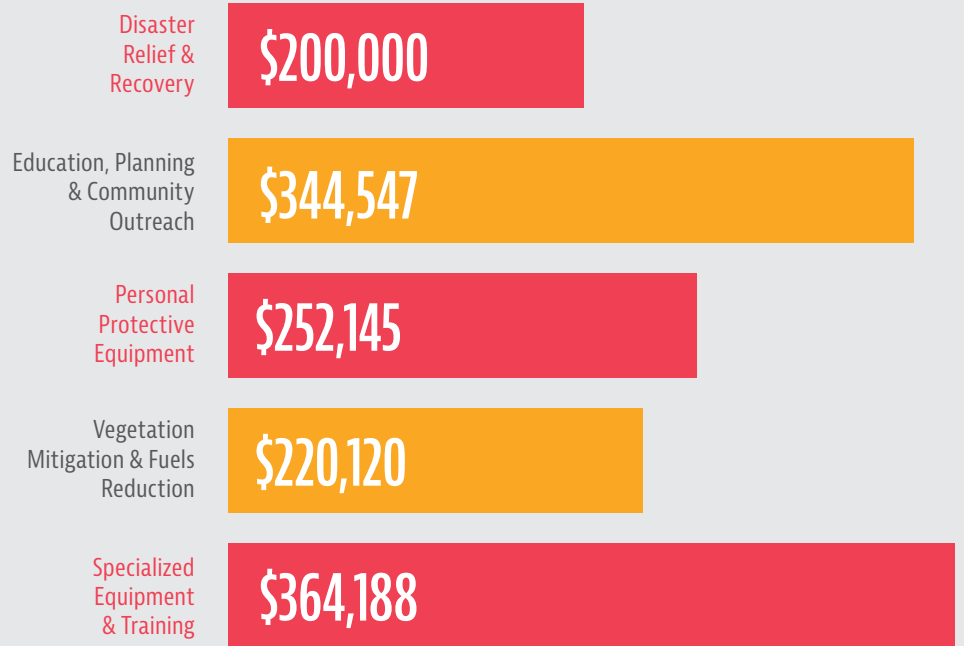
## DISASTER RELIEF RECIPIENT SPENDING

Jan – Apr 2023



- Gas Stations
- Groceries & Prescriptions
- Restaurants
- Department Stores
- Utilities, Lodging, & General Bills

## GRANTS AWARDED BY FOCUS AREA



*"The grant received from CFF was a benefit to about 200 underserved families in the Almanor Basin that had been devastated by the Dixie Fire."*

Lake Almanor  
Community Foundation



*"The California Fire Foundation deserves our gratitude for their unwavering support and generosity of our Hazardous Fire Fuels Reduction program ... This grant is a testament to their commitment and dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of firefighters and reduces the risk of losing homes and property to wildfire."*

Weaverville Fire District

Since opening our first grant cycle in 2018, the California Fire Foundation has awarded over 605 projects totaling more than \$11.2 million in direct support and because of our major funding partnerships, grantees are able to address some of the state's toughest climate-driven disaster risk needs. Each year, requests for grant funding steadily increase – with every funding cycle becoming more competitive than the last.

**Learn more about our grants program and how to apply for future opportunities here:**





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# CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff, thank you for supporting the California Fire Foundation - we are truly grateful.*

**Brian K. Rice**  
Chair, California Fire Foundation  
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