



## Emergency Planners from Italy Learn About in DTSC's Wildfire Response

DTSC hosted a group of Italian government and emergency management professionals at CalEPA Headquarters in Sacramento last month, turning a chance conversation at a bus stop into a very successful international event.

It all began when Jesse Camarillo struck up a conver-

sation with fellow commuter Kim Todd while waiting for a bus to their jobs in Sacramento from El Dorado Hills 30 miles to the east. Camarillo is an information technology specialist at DTSC Headquarters, and Todd is an operations and program manager for the nonprofit [Northern California World Trade Center](#).

Todd told Camarillo about her work facilitating business and cultural exchanges as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. It turns out she was preparing for a visit from a delegation of Italian government and emergency management professionals – and Camarillo was excited to tell Todd about DTSC's related role in wildfire cleanup throughout the state.

“We just started sharing what we do and it all came [continued next page](#)”

Adam Palmer (standing left) addresses the group while Hans Frederiksen (standing right) looks on.



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### Take the opportunity to participate in a **DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF DTSC**

Please join CalEPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld for a discussion about the future of DTSC.

**December 2, 2:00pm - 3:30pm**

By Webcast: [www.epanet.ca.gov/Broadcast/](http://www.epanet.ca.gov/Broadcast/)

In person: Byron Sher Auditorium, CalEPA HQ

You are invited to submit questions for the Secretary. Please email them to [askthedirectors@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:askthedirectors@dtsc.ca.gov)

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together,” Camarillo said.

The result: DTSC hosted an attentive and eager eight-member Italian delegation for a morning of discussion on natural disaster preparedness and emergency management, followed by lunch. Speakers included CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy and Emergency Response Caroline Godkin; CalRecycle Senior Waste Management Engineer Robert Healy; and, representing DTSC, Senior Environmental Scientist Adam Palmer, IT Specialist Roger Cleaves, and IT Associate Hans Frederiksen.

Palmer, supervisor of DTSC's Emergency Response Unit, highlighted DTSC's experience in wildfire response and explained how the Department works with other agencies, illustrating his presentation with photos from the 2018 fire season.

“It was the most devastating wildfire season in California history,” Palmer said. “My staff and I were in the field continuously for about six months up and down the state.”

Cleaves and Frederiksen discussed the innovative mapping and data tool that DTSC customized with a vendor to track wildfire cleanups. DTSC began using this technology following the Thomas Fire near Santa Barbara in early 2018 and gained major recognition for it following the devastating Camp Fire in Butte County later in the year, even earning a [national award](#) for the collaboration.

The Kincadee Fire in Sonoma County began the night before the meeting with the Italian delegation, so Frederiksen and Cleaves passed around a tablet displaying live updates during their presentation. Everyone in

the room understood that DTSC and its partner agencies would likely soon be tasked with the postfire cleanup. The Italian representatives could relate; their country had suffered through its own deadly and destructive wildfire season this past summer, with less rainfall than normal

and one of the hottest Junes on record.

Camarillo was pleased with how everything turned out.

“I wanted it to have a personal feel, and it had that,” Camarillo said. “We got to learn about what they do at work, about their families, and life in Italy.”

Todd shared Camarillo's assessment of the meeting's success.

“A lot of meetings are all information driven, and this really did have personal connections to go along with that,” said Todd, who hosts about 400 international visitors through her group's Sacramento office every year. “It was fantastic. They were able to find out about regular life here in America, and the group was very impressed about what they learned regarding the collaboration between state agencies in emergency situations. This experience was one of the highlights of their trip.”

DTSC Chief Information Officer Jennifer Benson credits Camarillo for the event that grew out of a bus stop conversation.

“Jesse really spearheaded and drove this whole effort,” Benson said. “We always look forward to sharing our successes and also in learning what others are doing – in this case in Italy.”

—[Russ Edmondson](#)

### ASK THE DIRECTORS!

Acting Director Meredith Williams and Deputy Director Francesca Negri field questions from Information Officer James Joelson on recent developments and future plans at DTSC in the first-ever “Ask the Directors” video. [Watch the nine-minute discussion](#) – and take advantage of the new email communication channel Ask the Directors at [askthedirectors@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:askthedirectors@dtsc.ca.gov)

