



## Annual Report 2019

The San Diego-Riverside chapter continued to operate two restored lookout towers on Palomar Mountain in 2019. High Point Lookout (Register#735) is owned by the Cleveland National Forest, and Boucher Hill Lookout (Register #394) is owned by the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. The chapter deployed approximately 90 volunteer lookouts to staff each tower.

It was an unexpectedly quiet fire season in San Diego County for which we are thankful. Below are the stats for both towers for 2019.

Statistics	High Point	Boucher Hill
Formal Smoke Reports	19	34
Information Smoke Reports	12	47
Lightning Strike Reports	40	0
Visitors	1098	10,673
Days Staffed	215	212

Although not an FFLA Tower, Los Pinos in the Descanso District of the CNF is staffed by two FFLA lookouts. Their stats are below:



Los Pinos Lookout  
Descanso Ranger District  
Cleveland National Forest

### Lookout Statistics May 12 – Nov 9, 2019

		2018	2017
US Smokes Logged	52	47	26
US Smokes Reported to ECC	25	25	18
Mexico Smokes Logged	249	161	208
Mexico Smokes Reported to ECC*	40	17	33
ECC Requests to "Glass" Area	10	22	18
Lightning Strikes Logged and Reported	173	79	100
Significant Weather changes reported to ECC**	108	201	124
Misc. Agency Assists	43	32	44
Visitors to Tower Area***	1232	1410	1286

\*Smokes in Mexico are only reported when the fire might pose a threat to the US side, or is of a size/location that it may generate 911 calls by concerned residents north of the border.

\*\* The practice of providing updates of weather changes, with the exception of Santa Ana wind and electrical storm conditions, was discontinued mid-season at the request of fire management

\*\*\*Individuals who visited immediate tower area. Over 900 of these (from 31 states and 7 foreign countries) climbed the tower, signed the guest book and were provided area, Forest and fire safe information.

Submitted by Curt Waite and Dave Fleming

#### Membership:

As of 12/31/19, We have 85 active members.

As of 1/17/20, We have 20 new members confirmed for training starting on 3/28/20, with more likely to join in the coming weeks.

#### Notable Events:

The towers opened for the season 4/26/19

The Western Conference was held in Escondido from October 11 – 13 2019

The towers closed for the season 11/27/19.

The Facebook page continues to be an excellent medium for creating public awareness of the towers. We have 1846 followers but during fire season, this swells as we post a daily digest of the smoke reports from the towers and any updates from Cal Fire and the USFS for significant incidents in the county. During Red Flag events, we also get news channels from as far afield as Los Angeles wanting to visit the towers and do news segments which boosts our public profile as well.

#### 2020 Goals:

We continue to strive to maintain 100% staffing of the towers during the season and to continue to enhance our excellent relationship with The USFS and California State.

As we now have a dedicated grant writer, this opens up the doors to be able to source more funding for the upkeep of the towers and associated equipment

Shane Harris

Chairperson

FFLA San Diego – Riverside Chapter



# Forest Fire Lookout Association – San Diego Riverside Chapter

