

Eucs Are Less of a Fire Hazard

- *Myth: Eucalyptus is a fire Hazard*
- **San Francisco is in the fog belt.** Eucalyptus harvests moisture from fog, so forested areas remain wet through the summer. **CALFIRE** considers all of San Francisco a "Moderate" fire risk, **its lowest rating.**
- A 3-month daily log of Sutro Forest in Fall 2009 (the "fire season") yielded only 10 days when the forest was not watered by fog or rain.
- "Native" grasses, scrub more flammable than any tree. Grass fires ignite more easily, move faster.
- Angel Island example: no wild-land fires while covered with eucalyptus trees. After trees felled in 1996, several fires culminating in the 2008 fire covering half the island.



- Eucalyptus is not as flammable as it's made out to be.
- This NYTimes picture shows the aftermath of the Scripps Ranch fire, San Diego.)
- Houses burned, the eucs standing right there did not.
- The city wanted to cut down the eucs... but the residents, including those who lost their homes, objected. This picture suggests why.

Tree Fall Fatalities are Rare

- *The Myth: Eucs Fall on People*
- Reality: All Tree Fall Fatalities are Rare
 - In 1995-2007 there were 407 tree-fall deaths nationwide. (*Shmidlin, 2008*), averaging **34** per year. Lightning kills **62** people annually.
(*National Storm Service data, 1998-08 data*)
 - California: 5 fatalities in 10 year, caused by:
 - Oak: (2010, 2011)
 - American Elm: (2010)
 - Redwood: (2008)
 - Monterey Pine (dead): (2003)

Euc Forests are Bio-diverse

Myth: Eucalyptus poisons the soil, nothing else can grow there.

- In fact, in San Francisco, eucalyptus forests have a lush understory as these pictures show.
- Many trees, including oaks, are allelopathic to certain species of plants. (*Lodhi, 1976; Djurdevic et al, 2005*)
- Eucalyptus forest have as much biodiversity as oak forests. (*Sax, 2002*)

