GETTING TO KNOW WILDFIRES in CALIFORNIA



In 2019,

200 THOUSAND people were misplaced or affected

4.6 MILLION acres were burned

90 THOUSAND buildings were damaged, threatened or destroyed

THOUSANDS of animals displaced

WILDFIRES CAUSE...

CLIMATE CHANGE "Wildfires release large amounts of carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors into the atmosphere. These emissions affect radiation, clouds, and climate on regional and even global scales."

POOR HEALTH "Outside of the fire itself, the main health concern in wildfire conditions is smoke, which produces particulate matter, a mix of gases and microscopic pieces of solid matter. The particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, increasing the risk of respiratory diseases and asthma, as well as heart problems."

ECONOMIC LOSSES Wildfires result in thousands of dollars in property damage and ecosystem deterioration, which negatively affect the economy

Where fire threat is greatest A draft map from California regulators will help electric utilities prioritize fire-related repairs and maintenance. The latest version, released in December, shows much of the North Bay facing "extreme" fire danger Earlier versions showed more of the Wine Country facing just an "elevated" MOJAVI MILES DESER

California is prone to wildfires because of its warm and dry climate. Northern Bay Area is one area where wildifres happen most often

TAKE ACTION

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Remove dead vegetation around your home
- Store flammable liquids in metal safety cans
- Keep the exterior of your house free from debris
- Avoid using wood materials on your property
- Create an Emergency Plan and prepare emergency kits for the family

Currently, "Cal Fire is clearing brush near highways and removing dead trees fromcommunities" to prevent future wildfires.

Increased funds for better forest mnagement and the enforcement of using fire-resistant material in homes and buildings such as asphalt shingle roofs can prevent urban areas from catching on fire.

As local Bay Area California residents, we live with the risk of experiencing a wildfire every single day. I believe that education and awareness on wildfire prevention is important to save our lives, our family, our property, and our community.

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"Facts + Statistics: Wildfires." III, www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-wildfires#Wildfires%20by%20year.

Solomon, Mackenzie. "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."