**Wildfires**

More frequent, more ferocious and more deadly

**NEW RECORD HIGHS**

**2017**

1.3 million acres burned | 44 deaths

**Largest and deadliest wildfires in state’s history**

Since 2000
- 14 of 230 largest wildfires
- 12 of 20 most destructive fires in state’s history

2016-17
- Wettest year on record

2013-14
- Driest years and worst drought

Since late 1970s
- Average burn times for large wildfires have increased from six days to 52 days

**MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

California’s Mutual Aid System protects lives and property by sharing local and state firefighting and other disaster response resources.

But as the number and size of mega fires have increased, this system has become strained.

- **2011**
  - Only 300 requests for mutual aid went unanswered

- **2017**
  - 11,000 of 36,000 for mutual aid went unanswered

**PRE-POSITIONING**

During extreme weather events, pre-positioning strike teams in or near at-risk communities is a proven strategy for preventing small fires from growing into uncontrolled mega fires and in saving lives during floods and mudslides.

"Prepositioned equipment could have made a huge difference. Even if it did not stop it, we would have had more equipment to help people evacuate and defend communities that were just decimated."

- Santa Rosa Fire Chief Anthony Gossner (Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 3/18/18)

**THE CHALLENGE**

Local government personnel and equipment comprise 80% of the resources available to respond to requests for mutual aid. California’s current Mutual Aid System allows local fire departments to be reimbursed for their costs when responding to major emergencies.

But until recently, no funds were available to reimburse local agencies when responding to mutual aid requests to pre-position resources. Without reimbursement, the costs of pre-positioning strike teams is prohibitively high for local governments.

A coalition of local fire chiefs, cities and firefighters is asking the legislature to allocate an additional $100 million for pre-positioning and modernizing mutual aid communications systems.

For more information contact info@d-risc.org