

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, 3/1/18)

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.