

# CLIMATE CHANGE

The Impact on Fire Hazards in California



## What is Climate Change?

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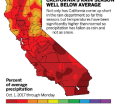


Climate change can be described as any significant change in global or regional climate patterns. Increased temperatures, change in wind patterns, shrinking snowpack and shorter wet seasons are among some of the measures of climate change. California climate patterns are actively changing and some of the effects include:

- 1 Increased temperatures 
- 2 Wildfires 
- 3 Impacted water supply and food security 

## How Climate Change Impacts California

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California experienced a drought from 2012-2016.

- 1 Less rain; drier, prolonged heatwaves leading to significant stress on water supply
- 2 Agriculture is affected, as plant/crops receive less hydration. Forests may turn to dry grasslands, making them susceptible to wildfires
- 3 Wildfires can result in significant devastation to include homes/lives lost, loss of agricultural land/change in productivity leading to disruption of food systems, loss of power and damaged infrastructure among many others.

2010-21: Top 10 States Based on wildfire acreage burned in 2018

State	Acres Burned
California	1,823,153
Nevada	1,001,964
Oregon	897,262
Oklahoma	745,097
Idaho	604,481
Texas	565,811
Colorado	475,803
Utah	435,983
Washington	435,833
Alaska	415,653
New Mexico	382,344
Wyoming	275,242
Arizona	245,334
Florida	138,422
Montana	97,614



Wildfires in Ventura County, Southern California November 2018



Map of active California wildfires October 2019

## Paradise, California

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Paradise, CA - November 2018  
Photos: NBC News Bay Area

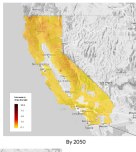
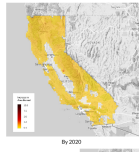
In November 2018, California experienced its deadliest and most destructive wildfire in its history. Paradise, located in Butte County, burned for 17 days, destroying over 13,000 homes, 150,000 acres, and close to 90 deaths (with many unidentified and/or missing. Churches, schools, fire stations, banks, gas stations, were all ravaged in the fires. Some lost their pets, precious mementos, childhood homes, and everything they've ever known.

It was officially determined by fire officials that a 100-year-old electrical transmission line (owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Co.) was responsible for the deadly fire. Neglected maintenance of power systems (making land areas prone to fires should they be displaced) paired with warmer temperatures, very strong winds, and dry brush/vegetation (due to climate change) devastated the entire town of Paradise.



## California's Projected Increase in Potential Area Burned

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Maps by: Energy Upgrade California  
<https://www.energyupgradeca.org/climate-change/>



▲ Unplug  
Be sure to unplug an unused or fully charged device/power units.



▲ Educate yourself and SPEAK UP!

Take notice to what local officials are working toward changing. Voice your concerns. Then, talk with friends and family and educate them to do the same.



▲ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide)

## What can we do to prevent climate change?



▲ Reduce water and food waste

Take shorter showers, or look into water conserving appliances. Eliminate food waste and reduce climate pollution - eat what you buy. Buy local and organic when possible. These small practices contribute to energy conservation as it takes energy to pump and treat our water, just as it requires energy for the growing, treating, shipping, packaging of our food.



▲ Go solar!  
Pictured: Foothill College

## Work Cited

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