

The frequency and intensity of wildfires have grown dramatically in recent years. Ten of California's most destructive wildfires have occurred in the past four years, and 2018 was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire year on record. Climate change, rising temperatures, higher sustained winds with severe gusts and prolonged droughts have led to millions of dead and dying trees – creating a growing tinderbox that if contacted by a spark can grow quickly into a massive wildfire.

Action for Wildfire Resiliency supports a package of measures calling for enhanced prevention with clear accountability to reduce wildfire risk, increased investment in emergency response and skilled workers, and swift and fair recovery for victims.



ENHANCED PREVENTION WITH CLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY

California can't eliminate all risk and potential ignition sources, but we must commit to greater investment in wildfire mitigation and prevention—especially in high risk areas—to “harden” the electric utility infrastructure that reliably delivers power to tens of millions of customers in every corner of the state.

- Electric utilities must be held accountable for:
 - Accelerating and expanding tree trimming and removing dead and hazardous trees around electric infrastructure
 - Reducing potential ignition sources and making the electric grid more fire resistant in high risk areas with actions such as replacing wood poles and installing modern technology, including insulated wires, fast-acting fuses and other fire resilient equipment
 - Adding more weather monitoring stations, if appropriate, to improve local risk forecasting and more high definition cameras to help fire agencies detect, assess and respond to fires in real time
- Electric infrastructure wildfire mitigation plans required by recently enacted SB 901 must strike an appropriate balance between investment in risk reduction measures and customer cost
- Given our extreme weather patterns, we must also be realistic that even the most robust mitigation plans cannot eliminate fire risk altogether. Because no single industry can or should bear sole responsibility for climate-driven wildfires, we must also have clear accountability to apportion the cost of recovery to ensure the needs of victims can be met.

ENHANCED PREVENTION WITH CLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY (Continued)

- Regulators must hold utilities accountable for complying with the wildfire mitigation plans required by SB 901
 - When utilities fail to comply with their wildfire mitigation plans, utility shareholders should be responsible for damages caused in proportion to the utility's contribution to the ignition and spread of fire
 - When utilities comply with their wildfire mitigation plans and other factors contribute to a fire started by utility infrastructure, regulators should socialize the costs of fire damage to customers through a method that minimizes impact on their bills



INCREASED INVESTMENT IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Equipment, technology and personnel must better reflect the increased risk of wildfires. To ensure emergency responders are better prepared to save lives and property and to prevent future devastation, additional resources are needed to:

- Improve emergency response and preparedness capabilities by:
 - Updating the state's 911 system
 - Investing in the Mutual Aid System and pre-positioning
 - Providing public education around disaster preparedness and safety
 - Increasing funding for the California Disaster Assistance Act to help local governments recover from disasters
- Improve the health of the state's forestlands and California's fire protection capabilities by:
 - Enhancing fire prevention including funds for fuel reduction and implementation of the wildfire prevention and recovery legislative package from 2018
 - Updating aviation resources to support firefighting activities
 - Improving technology including satellite data and installing new wildfire detection cameras



ADEQUATE INVESTMENT IN SKILLED WORKERS

Expanding California's economy so it can support more middle-class jobs requires a resilient energy infrastructure that can deliver ever increasing amounts of clean power safely. In order to install and maintain the advanced technologies that will get us there, we must:

- Ensure there is adequate investment in the highly trained and qualified women and men who are on the front lines of energy resilience and wildfire prevention
- Increase the number of line workers and line clearance tree trimmers to meet these vital goals



A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO RECOVERY - ESTABLISHMENT OF WILDFIRE RECOVERY FUND

Given the increased intensity and frequency of wildfires, California should consider approaching recovery from wildfires linked to electrical infrastructure like states have done for natural disaster relief for hurricane and flood victims: through a statewide catastrophic recovery fund. A Wildfire Fund would help ensure victims are fairly compensated for their losses and that rates for electricity customers remain stable. A Wildfire Fund would:

- Not change utility shareholders' financial obligations if a utility's misconduct contributes to a fire
- Help homeowners, small businesses and renters recover and rebuild faster
- Help rebuild essential public buildings like schools, hospitals and local government facilities and infrastructure
- Be paid for with a mix of state government and industry contributions
- Include strong accountability requirements to ensure it is financially solvent, and funds are only used for recovery and not diverted by the legislature for other purposes



ACHIEVING CLEAN ENERGY GOALS DEPENDS ON A FIRE-RESILIENT ELECTRIC GRID

Without resilient energy infrastructure, supported by stable public- and investor-owned electric utilities, we jeopardize the state's ability to meet our clean energy goals. That is why policymakers, working with public- and investor-owned utilities, should require sufficient investment to ensure California maintains a climate-resilient infrastructure.

**California needs a new approach
to wildfire prevention and response.**

ACTION
for **WILDFIRE**
RESILIENCY

Learn more at WildfireAction.com