

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2021, Californians endured some of the most challenging emergencies in state history, including the COVID-19 Pandemic and catastrophic wildfires.

Climate change continues to intensify and lengthen the fire season in California. The state has experienced unprecedented wildfire activity over the past several years, with increases in the number and severity of wildfires. The state experienced 4 of the 20 largest wildfires in its history in 2021.

Accordingly, the Governor's Budget builds on recent investments to continue to enhance the state's ability to prepare for, and respond to, future disasters and protect vulnerable communities.

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provides resource management and wildland fire protection services covering 31 million acres. It operates 234 fire stations and also staffs local fire departments when funded entirely by local governments. CAL FIRE also contracts with six counties within the state to provide wildland fire protection services. The Budget includes \$3.7 billion (\$2.7 billion General Fund) and 10,049.5 positions for CAL FIRE.

In recent years, the state has made strategic investments to bolster CAL FIRE's firefighting capabilities in light of the wildfire crisis. These investments have included

adding more firefighters for surge capacity and relief, adding CAL FIRE, California Conservations Corps (CCC), and California National Guard hand crews, and enhancing technology using fire prediction tools and new helicopters.

However, the ongoing impact of climate change on California's wildlands continue to drive critically dry fuel conditions and longer, more severe fire seasons. The Budget makes further investments to enhance CAL FIRE's fire prevention and suppression capacity.

SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

Over the past decade alone, firefighters from state, federal, tribal, and local governments have battled and endured 14 of the 20 largest wildfires in the state's history. The dedication and duty of California's firefighters made sure that no civilian lives were lost as a result of wildfires in 2021. Heroic stands saved countless communities from destruction, including the towns of Chester, Hayfork, and Markleeville.

In recognition of the heavy toll of successive exhausting wildfire seasons, the Budget sets aside an additional \$400 million General Fund on an ongoing basis to improve the health and wellness of CAL FIRE firefighters. The Administration will engage with representatives from firefighter associations on the specific details of a proposal that would appropriately staff CAL FIRE to meet the demands of wildland firefighting in a changing climate.

WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE STRATEGY

In 2021, over 8,000 wildfires burned over 2.5 million acres across the state, devastating communities, displacing tens of thousands of Californians, and sending harmful smoke across the country. Driven by climate change and a century-old legacy of fire suppression, wildfires continue to intensify. The Dixie and Caldor fires marked the first time wildfires burned from the valley foothills, over the granite crest of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, and into the Great Basin. Recent wildfires have burned at high intensity through critical watersheds, creating a long-term risk to California's natural water infrastructure. Despite these extreme wildfire events, wildfire and forest resilience investments, such as fuel breaks, landscape-scale thinning projects, and defensible space, helped firefighters protect homes and communities.

In 2021, the Administration and Legislature approved a \$1.5 billion investment in a comprehensive wildfire and forest resilience strategy, including \$536 million as part of an

early action package designed to start critical projects before the upcoming fire season and launch several new programs.

To address the scale and urgency of the state's wildfire risks, the Budget proposes an additional \$1.2 billion over two years as part of a total \$2.7 billion four-year investment to support critical wildfire resilience programs to increase the pace and scale of forest health activities and decrease fire risk.

- **Resilient Forests and Landscapes**—\$482 million to enhance wildfire resilience across California's diverse landscapes by thinning forests, replanting trees, expanding grazing, and utilizing prescribed fire, which will also improve biodiversity, watershed health, carbon sequestration, air quality, and recreation. Programs include a forest health grant program, a direct investment for tribes, support for small landowners to sustainably manage their forest lands, and funding for fire resilience on state landholdings.
- **Reforestation**—\$100 million to help recover critical watersheds burned in catastrophic wildfires. Given the concentration of high intensity fires across critical state watersheds, this targeted investment will support post-fire watershed recovery projects and expand reforestation infrastructure like nursery capacity, seed harvesting, and workforce development. Recovering these watersheds is critical to state investments in wildfire resilience activities and projects.
- **Wildfire Fuel Breaks**—\$382 million for CAL FIRE and the CCC to complete strategic fuel breaks projects over the next several years. Fire prevention grant funds will enable local communities to develop their own fire safety projects.
- **Community Hardening**—\$44 million for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), CAL FIRE, and the UC Fire Advisors program to improve defensible space and retrofits to “harden” homes and communities against wildfire ignitions. The Budget supports educational programs that will help homeowners make these improvements on their homes and properties. This includes the UC Fire Advisors program, expanding defensible space inspectors, delivering wildfire resilience efforts, and expanding a pilot program to directly support retrofits on homes of low-income Californians. The Administration will also explore leveraging grant opportunities with the federal government to expand home hardening efforts.
- **Regional Investments**—\$110 million for targeted regional investments that will include technical support to develop cross-jurisdictional regional plans, identify projects, and support project implementation. Partnering with the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, key conservancies anchor these regional strategies.

Wildfire & Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan
(Dollars in Millions)

Investment Category	Department	Program	Early Action 2020-21	2021-22	Governor's Budget (Multi-year Funding)	Total
Resilient Forests and Landscapes	CAL FIRE	Forest Health Program	\$155	\$160	\$240	\$555
		Forest Improvement Program for Small Landowners	\$10	\$40	\$25	\$75
		Forest Legacy	\$6	\$10	\$33	\$49
		Nursery	\$2	\$9	\$4	\$15
		Urban Forestry	\$10	\$20	\$30	\$60
		Tribal Engagement	\$1	\$19	\$20	\$40
	Various	Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration	-	-	\$100	\$100
		Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$30	\$145	\$130	\$305
Wildfire Fuel Breaks	CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE Unit Fire Prevention Projects	\$10	\$40	\$40	\$90
		Fire Prevention Grants	\$123	\$120	\$232	\$475
		Prescribed Fire and Hand Crews & Contract Counties	\$15	\$49	\$70	\$134
	California Conservation Corps	Fuel Reduction Crews	-	\$20	\$40	\$60
		Residential Centers	-	\$7	-	\$7
Community Hardening	Cal OES & CAL FIRE	Home Hardening	\$25	-	\$25	\$50
	CAL FIRE	Defensible Space Inspectors	\$2	\$13	\$10	\$25
	CAL FIRE & University of California	Land Use Planning and Public Education Outreach	-	\$7	\$9	\$16
Regional Capacity	Department of Conservation	Regional Forest Capacity	\$50	\$60	\$40	\$150
	Conservancies	Project Implementation in High- Risk Regions	\$69	\$139	\$70	\$278
Science-Based Management	CAL FIRE	State Demonstration Forests	-	-	\$10	\$10
		Monitoring and Research	\$3	\$20	\$15	\$38
		Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot	-	\$20	-	\$20
		Interagency Forest Data Hub	-	\$10	-	\$10
	Natural Resources Agency	LiDAR Remote Sensing	-	\$25	\$5	\$30
	Air Resources Board and Water Board	Prescribed Fire and Water Permitting	-	\$4	\$8	\$12
Economic Development of the Forest Sector	IBank	Climate Catalyst Fund	\$16	\$33	-	\$49
		Workforce Training	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$54
	CAL FIRE	Transportation Grants for Woody Material	-	-	\$10	\$10
		Office of Planning and Research	Market Development	\$3	-	\$4
Total			\$536	\$988	\$1,200	\$2,724

- **Science-Based Management**—\$38 million to support rigorous monitoring and robust scientific inquiry necessary to achieve effective, long-term forest health and restoration in a dynamic environment of high-severity wildfire and climate change. Investing in remote sensing, research, and science-based monitoring will enable the state to effectively build wildfire and forest resilience in the face of climate change.
- **Forest Sector Economic Stimulus**—\$44 million to expand the wood product supply chain and workforce preparedness in the wildfire resilience sector. Both thinning before a fire and removing dead trees after fires has inundated California's capacity to process woody material. There is an array of technology available to support these efforts to help the state meet its carbon goals. To help avoid the accumulation of woody slash piles, state investments will target market barriers including expanding pilots to deliver woody feedstock supply agreements and offset the transportation cost of removing woody material from the forests. Investments in growing the workforce through the CCC and expanding community college and vocational training programs will expand access to existing forest management jobs, as well as the growing wood products industry.

The Budget also includes \$12.6 million General Fund (\$9.9 million ongoing) and 33 positions for the implementation of Chapters 225, 375, 382, and 387, Statutes of 2021 (AB 9, AB 642, SB 63, and SB 456), an interconnected package of legislation aimed at limiting the threat of catastrophic wildfires and improve forest health. These investments focus primarily on implementation of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, identifying areas of the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones, and enhanced coordination with regional and local fire mitigation planning.

In addition, the Budget proposes \$1.8 million General Fund (\$1.7 million ongoing) and 7 positions for the implementation of Chapter 239, Statutes of 2021 (SB 109). This legislation established the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development within CAL FIRE to test and provide advice on emerging wildfire mitigation technology.

FIREFIGHTING SURGE CAPACITY

The Budget includes \$248.4 million for additional wildland fire aviation assets, fire engines, fire suppression ground equipment, and fire crews to enhance CAL FIRE's firefighting surge capabilities.

- **Exclusive Use Type 1 Helitankers**—\$45 million General Fund annually for three years to secure ten additional helicopters. CAL FIRE operates 12 state-owned firefighting helicopters, and 1 firefighting helicopter under contract with San Diego County, located strategically at 11 helitack bases across California. This proposal will augment the aviation fleet with ten additional heavy helicopters, available across California, and each capable of dropping 1,000-2,000 gallons of water at a time, while awaiting the arrival of federal C-130 air tankers beginning in 2023.
- **CAL FIRE Fire Hawk Helicopters**—\$99 million General Fund in 2022-23 and \$11.7 million ongoing to purchase four additional helicopters to support 24/7 operations of the enhanced helicopter fleet. California continues to invest in the acquisition and delivery of twelve S70i Fire Hawk helicopters, with 8 of 12 currently in California. These larger helicopters have the capability to drop up to 1,000 gallons of water at a time and operate at night, which can significantly slow advancing wildfires. The acquisition of four additional helicopters will provide additional aircraft availability to help maintain 24/7 flight operations during critical fire weather conditions when frontline helicopters are due for maintenance.
- **Surge Equipment: Fire Engines and Bulldozers**—\$35.8 million General Fund in 2022-23 and \$2.8 million ongoing for surge capacity dozers and fire engines. CAL FIRE operates 356 frontline fire engines and 59 bulldozers across the state. This equipment requires regular maintenance and can have unexpected mechanical breakdowns. This proposal will add two surge engines per unit and contract county, and ten additional bulldozers, to provide additional resources that can be staffed during critical fire conditions and resource drawdown.
- **Additional Fire Crews**—\$68.6 million General Fund in 2022-23, \$81.3 million ongoing, and 33 positions to convert 16 existing seasonal CCC and California National Guard crews to year-round availability and add 20 new permanent fire crews to the statewide system. This investment increases the overall number of permanent hand crews available to (1) respond to wildfires throughout the year, (2) implement high-priority fuel reduction projects to protect communities from wildfire, and (3) participate in prescribed fire projects to achieve more resilient landscapes. This package builds upon existing partnerships and will partially offset the projected loss of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation inmate crews.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Budget includes \$175.2 million (\$119.7 million General Fund and \$55.5 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) as part of a planned \$1.1 billion (\$429.5 million General

Fund and \$671 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) over the next five years for the continuation and addition of critical major capital outlay projects statewide, including but not limited to, the replacement of aging fire stations, unit headquarters, and communication facilities, and the replacement of helitack bases and improvements to air attack bases to accommodate CAL FIRE's new helicopter fleet and C-130 aircraft deployment plans. See the 2022-23 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for additional detail.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The state is responsible for mitigating the effects of disasters and for protecting Californians' lives and property. Cal OES serves as the state's leadership hub during all major emergencies and disasters. This includes responding, directing, and coordinating state and federal resources and mutual aid assets across all regions to support the diverse communities across the state.

Cal OES also supports local jurisdictions and communities through planning and preparedness activities, training, and facilitating the immediate response to an emergency through the longer-term recovery phase. During this process, Cal OES serves as the state's overall coordinator and agent to secure federal government resources through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Budget includes \$2 billion (\$541.1 million General Fund) and 1,507.2 positions for Cal OES.

STRENGTHENING CALIFORNIA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES

The Budget includes \$61.9 million (\$61.6 million General Fund) and 83 positions to address the more frequent, complicated, and often simultaneous emergencies and disasters involving numerous counties and regions across the state.

- **Modernizing All Hazard Response and Mutual Aid System Through Technology**—\$30 million and 31 positions (\$5.6 million and 20 positions for CAL FIRE) to establish the Fire Integrated Real-time Intelligence System (FIRIS) program to increase the real-time information and situational awareness available to the state and California's mutual aid system responders and managers on all hazards events, including wildfires. FIRIS will utilize a combination of aircraft, high-definition real-time video, and data analysis dispatched throughout the state to provide nearly instantaneous, accurate visual situation awareness that informs public safety and emergency management operational and tactical decisions. Early detection

and rapid intelligence allows for the strategic and efficient allocation of resources before, during, and after disaster incidents, and a more effective response to reduce loss of life and property. The intelligence gathered will also provide data and support to the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center, as established through SB 209 (Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019).

- **Enhancing the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Fire Fleet**—\$11.2 million General Fund in 2022-23, \$10.9 million ongoing, and 11 positions to enhance the California State Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System's fire fleet. The Cal OES Fire and Rescue Division provides federal, state, and local firefighting and rescue surge capacity. Given the severity and increased frequency of wildfires in California, the potential for earthquakes, floods, mud and debris flows, and hazardous materials incidents, these resources will enhance the capacity of the mutual aid system to meet the demands of the state's disaster response entities.
- **Providing Resources for Mission Tasking**—\$10 million ongoing General Fund to provide funding to state entities for costs incurred as a result of mission tasking for incidents not covered under a Governor's proclaimed state of emergency.
- **Addressing Heightened Risks Through Enhanced Partnerships**—\$5.8 million (\$5.5 million General Fund) and 20 positions to enhance Cal OES's regional response capacity and key partnerships with local governments and other local stakeholders. Regional disaster response and recovery capacity have been stretched thin by more frequent and higher intensity disasters. These resources will increase disaster resilience capacity based on each region's unique needs.
- **Expand Disaster Logistics Capabilities**—\$4.9 million ongoing General Fund and 21 positions to improve Cal OES's core operations and effectiveness, foster quality improvement projects, and enhance emergency response capabilities.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Budget also contains strategic improvements to emergency preparedness infrastructure, including ongoing support for the earthquake early warning system.

- **California Earthquake Early Warning System**—\$17.1 million ongoing General Fund to support education and outreach, operations, and research and development of the California Earthquake Early Warning Program. This funding will allow the state to increase its earthquake sensor density in the rural parts of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada Microwave Telemetry project as well as offer grants to

community-based organizations to educate socially isolated groups and other underserved communities. Cal OES will also undertake new research in the use of Frequency Modulation radio frequencies, television broadcasting networks, and crowd sourcing for expanded ways to alert the public when a significant earthquake occurs.

- **Cal OES Emergency Operations Centers and Security Improvements**—\$11.6 million General Fund to complete design and construction for a renovated State Operations Center (SOC) at the Cal OES facility in Sacramento and enhanced site security renovations. These investments are part of a total of \$77.5 million General Fund over the next five years for Cal OES that also includes the construction of a new Southern California Regional Operations Center. The relocation and construction of the new facility will allow for efficiencies in the provision of services to residents of Southern California, and will provide a critical back-up location for coordination of statewide emergency operations should the SOC in Sacramento become inoperable for any reason. See the 2022-23 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for additional detail.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Public Safety Communications, within Cal OES, is responsible for the design, installation, maintenance, and repair of statewide emergency and public safety communication systems.

- **Implementing a 9-8-8 Behavioral/Mental Health Crisis Hotline**—\$7.5 million General Fund (\$6 million ongoing) and 10 positions to implement a new federally mandated 9-8-8 call system to increase the ease and accessibility for those experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis. Those who dial 9-8-8 will be directed to 1 of the 13 existing Lifeline Call Centers across the state. These centers already provide immediate assistance with mental distress, and the additional funding will assist those needing services to receive help more efficiently. The Budget includes funding for call handling equipment so existing crisis hotline centers have the resources needed to process additional 9-8-8 calls and coordinate and transfer calls with no loss of information between the 9-8-8 and 9-1-1 systems. In 2022, the California Health and Human Services Agency will develop a plan to support connections between prevention efforts like warm-lines and peer support services, 9-8-8 mental health crisis call centers, and mobile crisis response at the local level.