



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**  
FIRE • CWS • OES • LAW ENFORCEMENT



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE PLANNING

2019 Wildland Fire Season

July 23, 2019



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## OVERVIEW

- Large and disastrous wildfires reinforce the need to plan and prepare for a coordinated response to potentially devastating fires
- Con Fire and the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services have been active in coordinating and collaborating with partners in the county and throughout the region and state in preparing for the threat of wildfires
- This presentation overviews collaborative efforts, plans for the evolving fire season, and how citizens can contribute to successful outcomes in wildland fires and other disasters





## RECENT FIRE SEASON HISTORY

- 2018 fire season = 192 days
- 390 exterior and vegetation fires
- 30 “full” multiple-alarm responses
- Average of two fires daily in season
- Virtually all “human” caused:
  - Smoking materials
  - Malfunctioning vehicles
  - Arson
  - Exterior/Open space fires
- Increased mutual aid requests
- Likely 25% increase year-over-year





## A NEW WILDLAND FIRE “NORMAL”

- Earlier and longer fire seasons are the new normal in California
- This season promises to be no different than past two years
  - Rains have created a high fuel “load” – taller/denser than past years
  - Predictions for summer and fall -- continued heat, low humidity and winds
  - Setting stage for long, challenging and unpredictable fire season
- 2019 fire season will be dangerous in and around Contra Costa County





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## IT COULD HAPPEN HERE



- Contra Costa County is made up of urban-wildland interface areas with significant wildfire risk
  - Densely populated areas of significant vegetation and hilly terrain
  - Fully two-thirds of the county is in a fire hazard severity zone
- Our community profiles are very similar to our North Bay neighbor counties of Napa and Sonoma

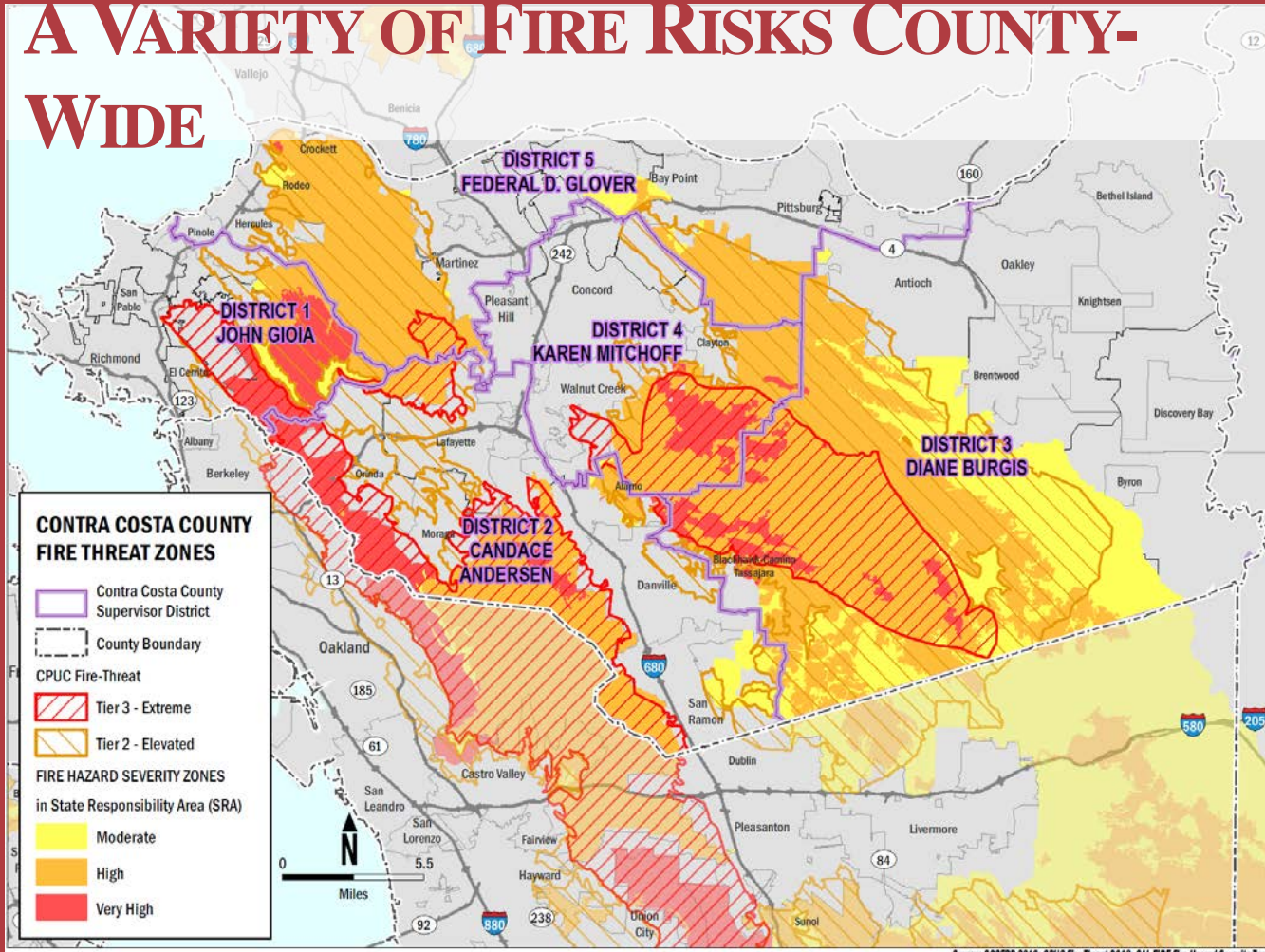


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## A VARIETY OF FIRE RISKS COUNTY-WIDE





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## PREPAREDNESS -- FIRE

- Weed abatement/Defensible Space creation
- Fire Station 16
- Re-staffed Engines 1 and 16
- Reserves/Fire Station 19
- Fleet additions
  - New wildland fire engines
  - Two water tenders on order
  - New fire dozer
- North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break
- Community exercises
- Residents Guide





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## PREPAREDNESS -- LAW



- 28,000-plus new CWS registrants
- EOC and ICS classes held, more scheduled
- Interagency/ outreach efforts
  - Other counties, industry/ utility partners, MAC's, HOAs, advocacy groups, D\AFN
- Community evacuation planning and exercises
- Emergency preparedness/ response documents





## NEW FOR 2019 – THE PSPS

- PG&E implementing precautionary measures to reduce risk of wildfires
- When extreme fire danger conditions threaten electric systems – may necessitate Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- Suggesting customers prepare for outages in excess of 48 hours
- Presenting unique challenges for residents and first responders, alike

**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**POWER**  
**SHUTOFF**

- PG&E promises:
  - Early Warning Notification – alerts before shutting off power
  - Ongoing Updates – through social media, local news outlets and website
  - Safety Inspections – of lines in affected areas before power is restored
  - Power Restoration – outages could last multiple days depending on the severity of the weather and other factors



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## INCIDENT RESPONSE -- FIRE

- Rapid and overwhelming responses keep small fires small
- Augmented fire season resources:
  - Red Flag weather staffing
  - Fire dozer
  - Reserve program
  - State funded prepo resources
    - Strike Teams
    - Task Forces
  - Mutual Aid
- Every vegetation and exterior fire poses the threat of the next wildland fire disaster





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## INCIDENT RESPONSE -- LAW



- Emergency Management
  - Evacuation implementation
  - Perimeter security
  - Unified command leadership
  - EOC/DOC/ICP Activations
  - Mutual aid coordination
  - PIO support/Joint Information Center
  - Disaster recovery operations
- Community Warning System
  - Public emergency alerts
  - Evacuation notifications



# WHAT CITIZENS CAN EXPECT

## Before



- Red Flag weather
- Public Safety Power Outages
- Early warning signs
- Citizen reports
- 911 Calls
- Smoke visible

## During



- Media reports
- Community Warning System messaging
- Evacuation warnings/orders
- Shelter in place orders
- Road closures

## After

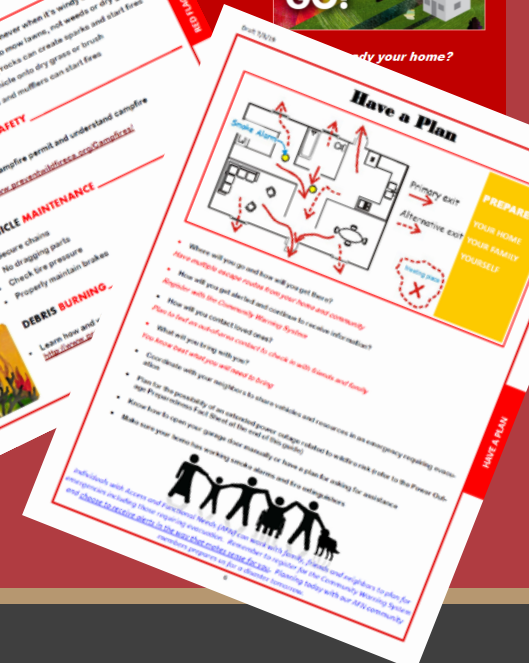
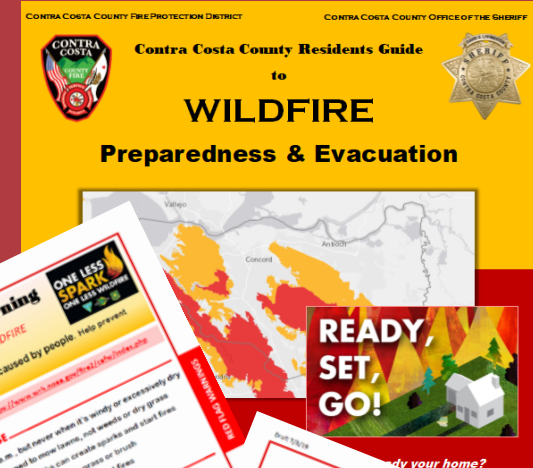


- Evacuation/Shelter in Place orders lifted
- Roads reopened
- Shelters established
- American Red Cross
- Recovery assistance



# WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO?

- Read and take to heart the county Residents Guide
  - Sign up for CWS
  - Prepare home and property for wildfire
  - Develop a family evacuation plan
  - Make an evacuation kit “GO Bag”
  - Stay informed
  - Know and work with your neighbors – plan for special needs
  - Prepare for PSPS
- Available digitally on Con Fire, CWS websites





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## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IS KEY IN ANY DISASTER

- We can't do it alone
- The FIRST first responder is the citizen who prepares in advance
- Property owners, families, neighbors must work together – ahead of the disaster
- This is the place to start for wildland fire and other disasters...

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



Contra Costa County Residents Guide  
to  
**WILDFIRE**  
Preparedness & Evacuation



**PREPARE YOUR HOME** *How will you ready your home?*

**HAVE A PLAN** *What will you do?*

**MAKE A KIT** *What do you need?*

**STAY INFORMED** *How will you get information?*

**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS** *How will you work together?*



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# DISCUSSION



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