

Library Commission Meeting

September 7, 2022

Written Communications

From: [WAI Team](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Library Commission Group](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 5:24:02 PM

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Hello!

Our team, WAI, Wildfire Awareness Initiative, would like to make a public comment during the commission meeting. Would it be possible to include this slideshow during our presentation?

There will be three members: Lauren, Niranjana, and Madeleine.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fq2QsPhwzJXLRRk0GigCZbF6gYNigiGJlyNjtbevaa4/edit#slide=id.g8d86ff3bbe_0_1562

Thanks,
WAI

WAI

THE PROBLEM OF WILDFIRES

Wildfire Awareness Initiative



01



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WHO WE ARE

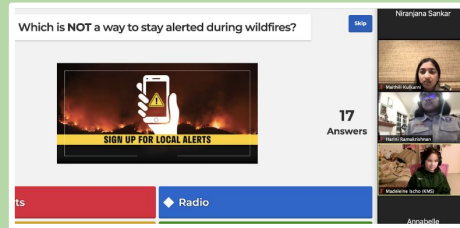
Certified 501c3 nonprofit in the Bay Area



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRESENTED FOR BOY SCOUTS

Covered important camping tips and wildfire preparedness



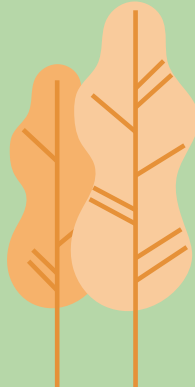
WORKED WITH OUR SCHOOL

Presented at the school's Environmental Club during the Earth Day Fair



STEM CONVENTION

Worked with the Santa Clara Youth Commission on their sustainable tech convention



ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont.)

VOLUNTEERED WITH SCCFD

Organized 400 disaster kits for local elementary schools



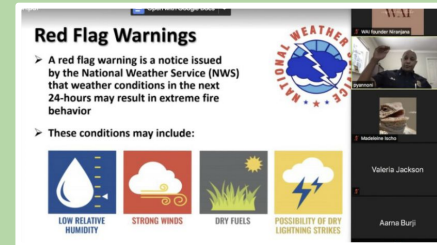
PRESENTED AT CUPERTINO FORUM

Invited to cover information on the wildfire threat at the Cupertino Library



WEBINARS WITH SCCFD

Hosted online webinars with guest speakers from SCCFD followed by fun Kahoots



ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont.)

FUNDRAISER WITH PANDA EXPRESS

Raised over 900 dollars with Panda Express



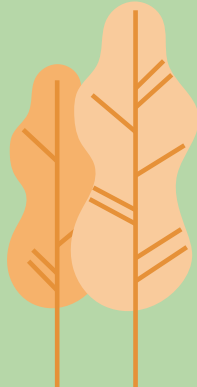
EDUCATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Sent out fun Kahoots to local CUSDK8 elementary schools after presenting to the CUSD Board



RECORDED A PODCAST ON WILDFIRES

Collaborated with another youth-led initiative to record a 40-minute podcast on wildfires



02

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THE PROBLEM

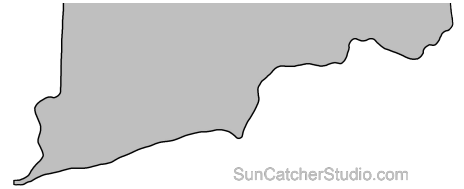
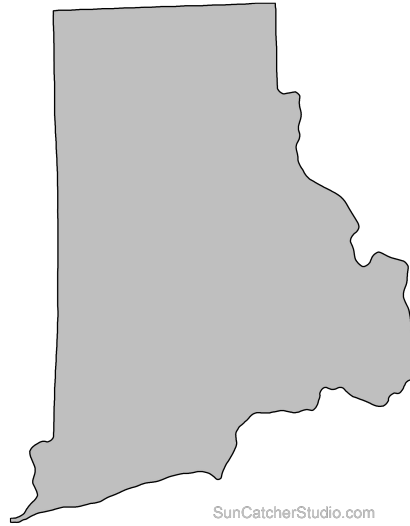
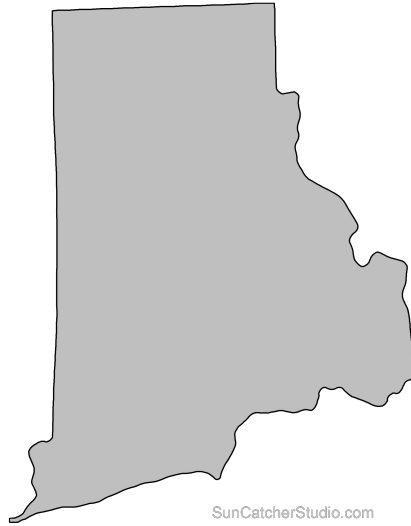
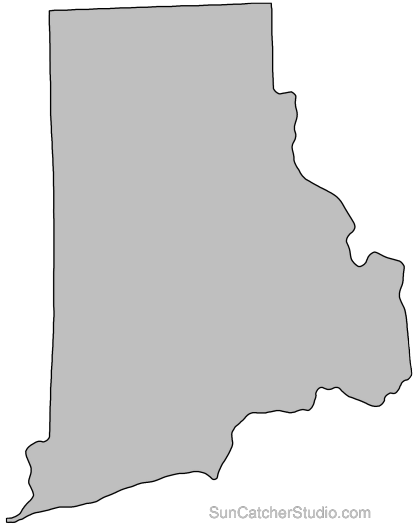




2.5 MILLION ACRES
OF LAND BURNED IN 2021
IN CALIFORNIA

A green football pitch with white lines. The text "2 MILLION FOOTBALL FIELDS" is written in white capital letters in the top left corner. The pitch features a central circle, two goal areas, and two goals. The text is positioned in the top left corner of the pitch.

3.2 RHODE ISLANDS



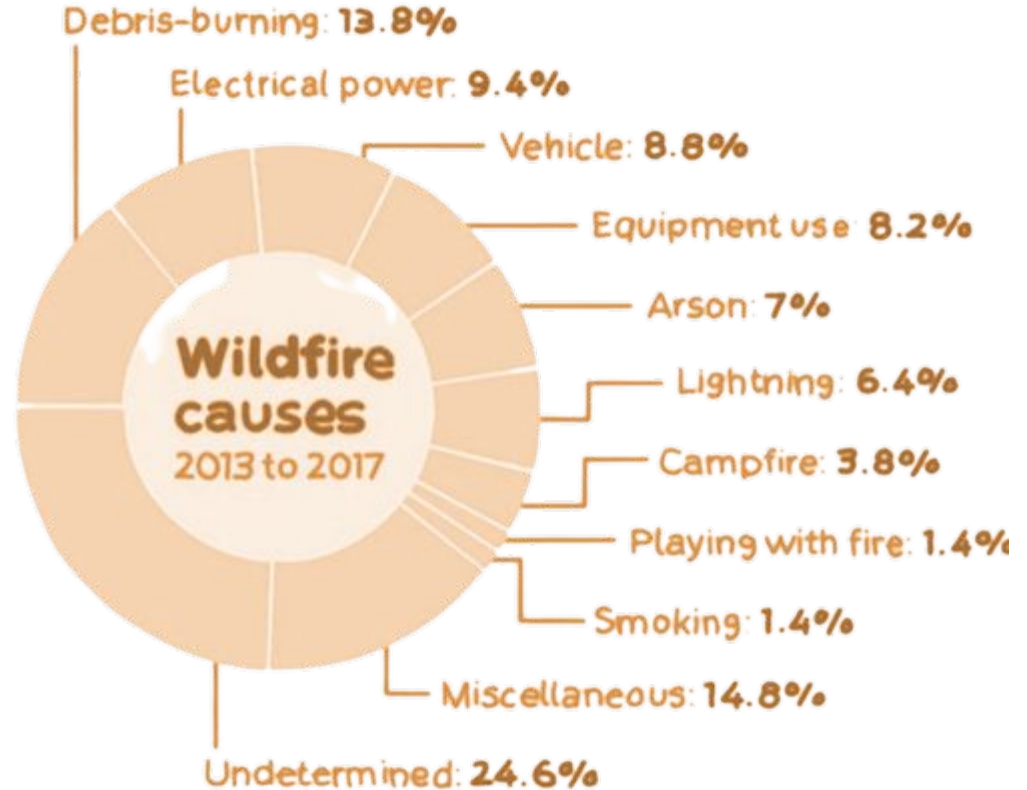


HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

CAUSES



**Note: Mainly
human caused!**



10 Years and 10 Most Devastating Wildfires



DRIVING FACTOR: CLIMATE CHANGE



HIGHER TEMPERATURES

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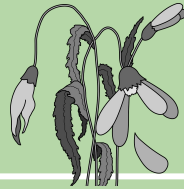
Greenhouse gases trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere



FREQUENT DROUGHTS

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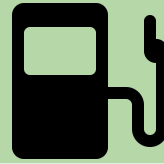
Less snowfall in the Sierra and mountains



DRY VEGETATION

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Plants lack moisture due to a lack of water



MUCH MORE FUEL

...

Dry vegetation is perfect for wildfires.



HIGH SPEED WINDS

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Wind spreads wildfire embers farther and faster

A photograph showing the aftermath of a forest fire. The scene is filled with numerous charred, blackened tree trunks standing vertically. Some trunks show signs of peeling bark, revealing a lighter, yellowish-orange wood underneath. In the foreground, there is a pile of charred logs and debris. A white, cylindrical structure, possibly a chimney or a small building, is visible in the middle ground, partially obscured by the charred trees. The background shows more charred trees and some dry, brown vegetation. The overall atmosphere is one of destruction and desolation.

LAKE TAHOE

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Drastically changes the terrain and vegetation

ENVIRONMENT



Drives many species to extinction and depletes their habitat; reduces biodiversity

WILDLIFE

Pollutes water, soil, and the atmosphere

NATURAL RESOURCES



Causes loss of local heritage with very high restoration costs

INFRASTRUCTURE



NEGATIVE IMPACTS (cont.)

ECONOMY & HEALTH

- Destroys farmers' crops and livelihoods
- Creates unaffordable restoration costs for
- Puts people with respiratory infections at risk
- Creates areas to be prone to other disasters



NEGATIVE IMPACTS (cont.)

MINORITIES

- Black, Hispanic, and Native American are **6 times** more likely to live in **wildfire-prone areas**
- Many communities resources to evacuate safely
- **Language barriers** make it hard for relief workers to pass on preparedness information and resources



03

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PREVENTION AND PREPARING



Educate the Community



PREVENTION

MAKE YOUR HOME FIREPROOF

Zones are areas around your house



Remove dead
foliage such as tree
branches

ZONE 1: 0-5 FT

...



Trim trees and
remove dead plant
matter

ZONE 2: 5-30 FT

...



Trim grass and
unblock
emergency paths

ZONE 3: 30-100 FT

...

PREPARING

DISASTER BAGS

Check [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for a full list



WATER + FOOD
FLASHLIGHT
FIRST AID KIT
BATTERIES
SLEEPING BAG
GARBAGE BAG
CASH + DOCUMENTS
SANITIZER
MASK
CLOTHING
MATCHES

MAKE SURE TO

1. Store canned food in a dry place
2. Replace expired items as needed
3. Rethink your items every year
4. Keep a kit in your car and at home

DURING



STAY ALERTED

Wildfire Season: Late May to Late November



04

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WHAT SHOULD BE DONE



EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

Through online and in person events



Cover important
info on home
hardening,
emergency bags,
and preparedness

EMAILS/FLYERS

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Schedule a day for
volunteering to
clean dead plant
matter around the
community

IN-PERSON EVENTS

...



Stress the
importance of
preparing with
statistics and
predictions

ENCOURAGE

...



Thanks!



Do you have any questions?

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@waiforchange
on Instagram

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