



2018 & 2019 Fire Relief & Recovery Legislative Overview

SB 894-Property Insurance

(1) Requires an insurer to renew disaster victims' residential insurance policy for at least 24 months; (2) requires an insurer to grant 36 months for additional living expense (ALE) to disaster victims; (3) allows a disaster victim to apply covered losses to accessory structures to rebuild the primary dwelling and other structures.

SB 901-Wildfire Preparedness and Response

(1) Invested \$1 billion over 5 years for improved forest and woodland management; (2) Streamlined forest management activities; (3) Added an additional \$25 million to preposition firefighting resources; (4) Prohibits ratepayer money from being used to pay investor-owned utility executives; (5) Authorized the CPUC to approve Ratepayer Protection Bonds to reduce costs of wildfires to utility ratepayers; (6) Required enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Plans by utilities, including power shutoff protocols, which must be reviewed, amended and approved by the California Public Utilities Commission.

SB 969-Automatic garage doors: backup batteries

Requires the manufacturer of a garage door opener sold in the state on or after July 1, 2019 to include a backup battery, protecting seniors and people with disabilities who need to evacuate during a power outage.

SB 1040-In-home supportive services (IHSS): natural disaster

Makes adjustments to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program that would help ensure continuity of services during states of emergency. Specifies that recipients of IHSS services are among the low-income persons given first priority for loans from the Predevelopment Loans Fund, in the event of a natural disaster. Requires a county, including a city and county, at the next update to its emergency plan, to integrate and require the assessment and provision of services to IHSS recipients.

SB 167- Electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation plans

Requires electrical corporations to include additional information as part of the protocols for deenergizing portions of their distribution system within their wildfire mitigation plans filed at the CPUC. Requires each electrical corporation, as part of those protocols, to additionally include protocols related to mitigating the public safety impacts of disabling reclosers and deenergizing portions of the electrical distribution system that consider the impacts on customers who are receiving medical baseline allowances. Authorizes electrical corporations to deploy backup electrical resources or provide financial assistance for backup electrical resources to those customers receiving medical baseline allowances and who meet specified requirements related to demonstrating financial need.

SB 190-Fire safety: building standards: defensible space

Requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to develop a model defensible space program, requires the SFM to develop and make available a Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Safety Building

Standards Compliance training; and, requires the SFM to develop a WUI Products listing of products and construction assemblies that comply with the WUI Fire Safety building standards.

SB 209-Office of Emergency Services: Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center

This bill requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to jointly establish and lead the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (Center). Requires OES and CAL FIRE to jointly establish and lead the Center to serve as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination, and to coordinate wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing, as specified. Requires the Center to share intelligence and data relevant to wildfire threat, forecasting, detection, and prevention activities received from utility wildfire and emergency operations centers, partner academic institutions, private companies, and other sources, as specified. Requires the Center to develop a statewide wildfire forecast and threat intelligence strategy.

SB 240-Insurance Adjuster Act

Requires the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to publish a bulletin regarding significant California laws pertaining to property insurance policies and an insurance adjuster handbook; requires specified unlicensed independent insurance adjusters to read and understand those materials; and requires insurers to provide a claimant with contact information of an individual or team who will be familiar with the claim if the insurer assigns a third or subsequent adjuster to the claim within a six-month period.

SB 247-Wildland fire prevention: vegetation management

Requires the state's Wildfire Safety Division to perform independent physical inspection audits of utility vegetation management to assess and enforce compliance; ensures vegetation management workers for utilities meet qualifications.

AB 1054-Utility Safety, CPUC Oversight, and Victim Compensation

Strengthens the ability of the CPUC to enforce wildfire safety rules and provides for a robust annual wildfire safety review and certification process; Mandated that utilities tie executive compensation to safety performance and improve their governance structure; Invests \$5 billion of utility funds in safety improvements without allowing utilities to profit; Provides a fund to help victims recover and reduce costs to ratepayers; Provides penalties if PG&E does not exit bankruptcy by June 2020 with a plan that is ratepayer neutral and compensates victims at their full settlement value.

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