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Dec 14, 2017 - Energy & Environment

Wildfires are burning longer and hotter each year

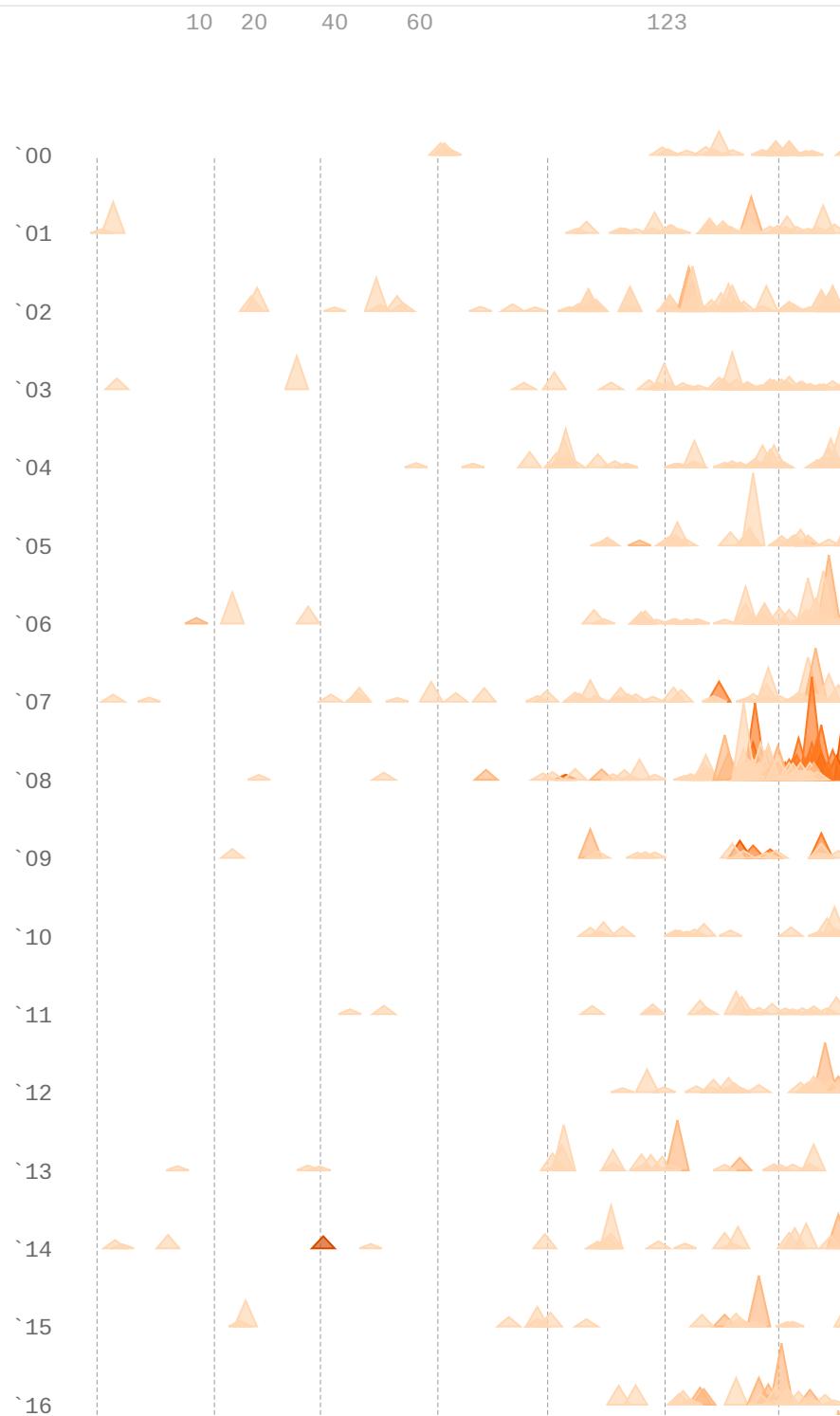


Erin Ross



We used to define fire by seasons: they varied from place to place, but there was a period of time that fires were not reliably seen before, and a date they probably wouldn't be seen after. That [is no longer the case](#), as the destructive fires burning this December in Southern California make clear.

California wildfires larger than 300 acres, by year



Data: [CAL FIRE](#). Data was compiled with help from Jill Hubley. [Get the data](#). Chart: Lazaro Gamio / Axios

The above chart shows all fires that burned over 300 acres each year from 2000 to 2017 in California,

weather and fire events as a "glimpse into our future under climate change." But these [previously-rare events are increasingly common](#). "If 'unexpected' becomes the norm, because we only talk about extreme weather, how do we change the conversation?" Jeff Rosenfeld, the editor in chief of the bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, asked at the American Geophysical Union's annual fall meeting on Wednesday.

The 2017 fire season was one of the worst ever seen across North America:

- At least 44 people died in a [series of blazes](#) that swept across Napa and central California.
- Fires that started in July in Montana burned for months, marking the state's [second-worst season](#).
- British Columbia was in [a state of emergency for four months](#).
- In the Northwest and Idaho, it wasn't the worst season in terms of acres, but it was one of the most vigorous. The fires started so quickly and so many burned at once that [resources to fight them were stretched thin](#).

It's only getting worse: Wildfire seasons are expected to last longer and burn hotter as climate change makes many areas warmer and dryer. "Warmer spring causes earlier snowmelt, [and] warmer summer temperatures can dry out the wood," says Jeffrey Pierce of Colorado State University.





Axios

19 mins ago - Health

Axios AM Deep Dive: Our mental health crisis



Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

Mental health care was already inequitable and in short supply in the U.S. This Axios AM Deep Dive, led by health care reporter Caitlin Owens, looks at how the pandemic made it worse.

[Deep Dive \(9 min. read\) →](#)



Alayna Treene, Andrew Solender
Updated 1 hour ago - Politics & Policy

House aims to pass infrastructure and social spending bills on Tuesday



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<https://wwwaxios.com/wildfires-are-burning-longer-and-hotter-each-year-2517443690.html>

6/8

House Democratic leaders are telling lawmakers they plan to pass both a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and a \$1.75 trillion social spending bill as early as Tuesday, two sources familiar with the conversations tell Axios.

Why it matters: It's a very ambitious timeline, but leadership is eager to deliver a win to President Biden while he meets with world leaders in Europe.

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Barak Ravid, author of [from Tel Aviv](#)

3 hours ago - World

Biden, European leaders urge Iran to resume talks to avoid “dangerous escalation”

From left to right, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Biden hold an E3 meeting at the G20 Summit on Oct. 30 in Rome. Photo: Jeff J Mitchell - Pool/Getty Images



negotiations soon in order to avoid “a dangerous escalation.”

Why it matters: The joint statement, released after the four met on the sidelines of the G20 summit, was intended to demonstrate that the United States and its European allies are united in their approach going into renewed talks with Iran.

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