



# Californians and Fires

## Californians

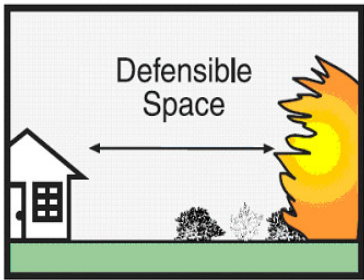
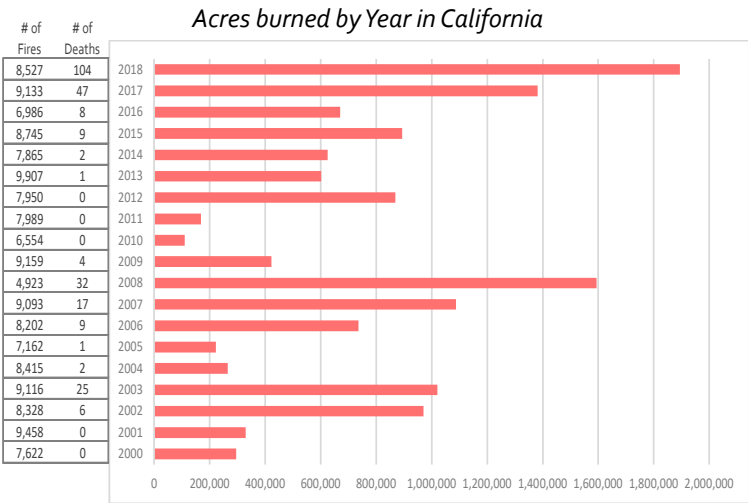
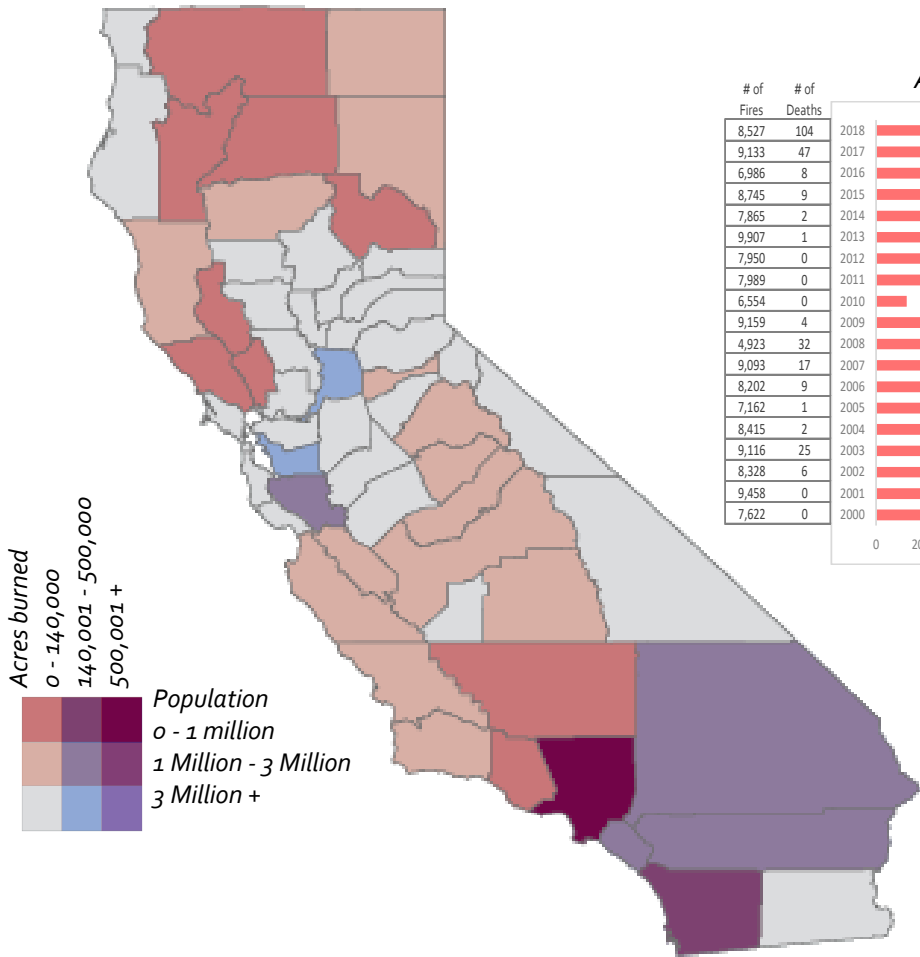
As the population of California continues to grow each year, so does the risk of that population being impacted by wildfires. Due to urban sprawl, mountainous regions are becoming new subdivisions and people with money are relocating to beautiful regions that were already prone to wildfires.



## Fires

2018 was the most deadly and destructive fire season in recorded history with over 8500 fires burning more than 1.8 million acres of land. In November 2018, the Camp Fire killed 85 people, destroyed the town of Paradise (population 26,218), and burned 153,000 acres of land - becoming the single most deadly fire in California history.

Bivariate Map of California showing Population compared with the cumulative acres burned since 2000.



## Prevention

Following many of the large fires, California Fire Departments have been monitoring brush in canyons and doing arial surveys to look for potential flash points for future fires. The Defensible Space is strongly recommended as a barrier against future fires. However, more planning and research is needed to find better ways to defend against future fires.

## Sources

For more information:  
United States Census for Population Data: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)  
California Wildfires: [www.CalFire.ca.gov](http://www.CalFire.ca.gov)