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August 2018 to February 2019
Volume 45

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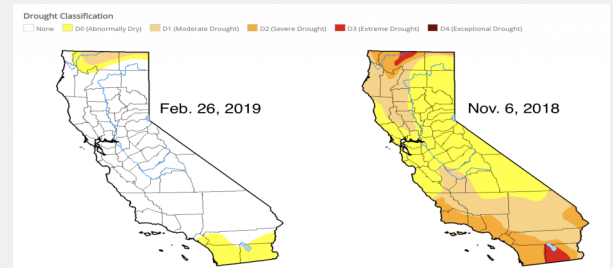
WINTER STORMS WASH AWAY CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, BURNISH SNOWPACK

Reprinted from CBS Local, Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP/CBSLA) — California is drenched and its mountains are piled high with snow amid a still-unfolding winter of storms that was unimaginable just a few months ago.

Drought conditions have almost been eliminated, hills blackened by huge wildfires are sporting lush coats of green, and snow has fallen in the usually temperate suburbs of Southern California, where chilly conditions have made jackets and scarves the rule.

Indeed, downtown Los Angeles was expected to set a record Thursday for the first February without reaching at least 70 degrees (21.1 Celsius) in more than 140 years of record-keeping.



Also this week, a two-day storm inundated parts of wine country north of San Francisco and sent the Russian River to its highest peak in more than 20 years.

None of this was expected as recently as October, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center issued its outlook for December through February.

The scenario envisioned above-average temperatures in the western U.S., continuation of drought in Southern California and only equal chances of a wet or dry year in the rest of the state.

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WINTER STORMS WASH AWAY CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, BURNISH SNOWPACK

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That abruptly changed the following month as the center cited high confidence in a forecast for wetter than usual conditions in the West and predicted at least improvement if not a complete end to drought conditions throughout much of California.

The storms, including aptly named “atmospheric rivers,” began arriving.

Blizzards have pounded the Sierra Nevada, burying the towering mountain range in massive amounts of snow. On the eastern side of the range, for example, the Mammoth Mountain resort reported nearly 47.8 feet (14.5 meters) of snow at the summit so far this season.

On Thursday there was lots of snow being dumped on Northern California. The snow forced Interstate 80 to shut down from Colfax to the Nevada state line.

While frequently disrupting travel, the storms stoked a big part of the state’s water supply — the Sierra snowpack that melts and runs off into reservoirs during spring and summer.

The California Department of Water Resources reported Thursday that the Sierra snowpack is now 153 percent of average to date.

A manual measurement at Phillips Station off U.S. 50 near Sierra-at-Tahoe found a snow depth of 113 inches (287 centimeters) and a snow water equivalent of 43.5 inches (110.5 centimeters), more than double what was recorded there in January.

Phillips Station is where then-Gov. Jerry Brown attended a snowpack survey in April 2015 that found a field barren of any measureable snow. Brown later ordered Californians to use less water. On Thursday, the department was unable to livestream the measurement because stormy weather cut the cell connection.

“This winter’s snowpack gets better each month, and it looks like California storms aren’t done giving yet,” Karla Nemeth, the department director, said in a statement. “This is shaping up to be an excellent water year.”

Where it hasn’t snowed, there has been rain, and a lot of it.

Nearly 21 inches (53.3 centimeters) of rain fell in 48 hours this week near the Northern California wine country city of Guerneville, where the Russian River was slowly receding Thursday after extensive flooding.



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WINTER STORMS WASH AWAY CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, BURNISH SNOWPACK

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Downtown Los Angeles has recorded nearly 15.8 inches (40.1 centimeters) of rain this season, nearly 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) above normal to date. A year ago the total was less than 2 inches (5 centimeters). San Francisco has a similar total, nearly double last year's.

Early morning rain and drizzle could be felt in Santa Monica, Universal City and other parts of the Southland on Thursday morning as February ended the month with even more rain.



Southern California's seasonal rivers have repeatedly roared to life, their normally dry beds filled with churning water.

The water resources department said the state's six largest reservoirs are holding between 84 percent and 137 percent of their historical averages to date.

The U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday that more than 87 percent of California was now free of any level of drought or unusual dryness. Just 2.3 percent — along the Oregon border — was in moderate drought, and the remainder was in a condition called abnormally dry.

Three months ago, nearly 84 percent of the state was in moderate, severe or extreme drought, and the rest was abnormally dry.

In October, NOAA said forecasters expected a weak El Nino, the weather-influencing warming of the Pacific Ocean, to be in place by late fall or early winter.

NOAA, however, didn't confirm the arrival of the El Nino until Feb. 14.






An agency assessment last week said heavy rain over the previous 30 days was due to a series of atmospheric rivers fueled by a combination of El Nino conditions and a lesser-known atmospheric phenomena called the Madden-Julian Oscillation.

A NOAA fact sheet describes it as a "tropical disturbance that propagates eastward around the global tropics with a cycle on the order of 30-60 days." One of its most significant U.S. impacts during winter is an increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation along the West Coast.

COMPARING TWO OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES

Reprinted from OES Website , By RJ Ghilarducci November 28, 2018

By The Numbers : Tubbs and Camp Fires

 Cal OES GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	 Days Burned For	 Acres Burned	 Structures Destroyed	 Fatalities
Tubbs Fire	23	36,307	5,636	22
Camp Fire	17	153,336	18,613	88

As of 11/29/18

With the devastating Camp Fire 100 percent contained as of November 25, the focus now shifts to the recovery process. California is no stranger to massive fire recoveries, experiencing a similar event in the 2017 North Bay Fires, including the massive Tubbs Fire.

The Camp and Tubbs fires are two of the latest in the recent stretch of record-breaking wildfires, notably including 2017's Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara County, and this past summer's Carr Fire in Shasta County and Mendocino Complex Fire in Lake and Mendocino counties.

The Camp and Tubbs Fires, the two most destructive, offer both similarities and significant differences. In terms of time, the Tubbs Fire burned for a longer period; 23 days, October 8-31. The Camp Fire burned November 8-25, a span of 17 days. In that time, the Tubbs Fire burned 36,307 acres, while the Camp Fire covered 153,336 acres in comparison. The Tubbs Fire resulted in the loss of 5,636 structures, while the Camp Fire lost a monumental 18,613 (13,972 residences, 528 commercial and 4,293 other buildings). The Tubbs Fire resulted in 22 fatalities, making it the fourth deadliest fire in California history. The Camp Fire, already the deadliest U.S. wildfire, currently stands at 85 fatalities as of December 3rd, with still 11 people considered missing.

Both fires were spurred by extremely high winds, having similar sustained wind gusts of 30-40 mph and isolated winds registering upwards of 70 mph. These winds also resulted in terrible air quality throughout Northern California.

COMPARING TWO OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES

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The North Bay Fires led to what was at the time the worst air quality ever recorded in the San Francisco Bay area, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The index measured 269 on October 13, 2017 which is considered very unhealthy. In comparison, the Camp Fire, occurring over 175 miles north of the Tubbs burn area, registered an even higher index of 271 in San Francisco on November 16. Chico, located 15 miles from Paradise, registered a hazardous 571 with the World Air Quality index, the highest anywhere.

The Camp Fire and Tubbs Fire both provided to be unique disasters in their size, scope, and level of destruction. The path to recovery from these disasters is daunting for all involved. However, Federal, State, and Local agencies are utilizing the experience gained from the North Bay Fire recovery and working around the clock to ensure that the recovery process is done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

CAMP FIRE



CAMP FIRE



TUBBS FIRE



TUBBS FIRE



SCE IS ACKNOWLEDGED AT THE MORNING BRIEFING DURING THE UOC ACTIVATION FOR THE CAMP FIRE & WOOLSEY FIRE

The Utility Operations Center (UOC) was activated for 19 days supporting the Camp Fire and the Woolley Fires. During the morning briefing on November 14th on the floor of the Cal OES State Emergency Operations Center, the following was reported:



“Due to the excellent cooperation and coordination between the local Cal Trans and CHP offices, SCE was able to get a complete closure of the 101 Freeway for approximately 20 minutes, allowing SCE crews to string a necessary conductor across the freeway. The operation that began at 0100 hours was highly successful and was completed in a safe and



effective manner. This allows for approximately 1700 SCE customers to be reenergized by mid-morning today.” After the announcement, the staff on the floor of the EOC vigorously applauded the cooperation between Cal Trans, CHP and SCE allowing for the restoration of the 1700 customers that have been without power for multiple days. This excellent example of local cooperation and coordination was directly due to the efforts of Deborah Wong at Cal Trans and Lieutenant Kevin Kurlur at CHP. Fire Management Officers Scott Brown, Troy Whitman and Dan Face coordinated the SCE efforts and pulled off a challenging operation that required the timely orchestration of multiple SCE and contract resources. Job Well Done!



The Camp Fire turned out to be one the worst fire disasters California has ever witnessed. Our members total commitment to CUEA in supporting this response was phenomenal. Our sincere thanks to all those members that stepped up in supporting and committing support to staff our UOC. And to our members that provided direct support for the field response and restoration, many thanks.

Tom Brady (SCE), Richard Rodriguez (PG&E), Don Boland (CUEA Executive Director) and Jim Cigler (Verizon Wireless) staffing the UOC

FIRST RESPONDERS, COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER AT CAL OES OPEN HOUSE AND FAMILY DAY

Reprinted from OES Website , September 20, 2018 By: Monica Vargas

Today, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) welcomed the public to experience the backbone of disaster response at Open House and Family Day at the State Operations Center in Mather.

Joined by dozens of local, state, federal, private and non-profit partners, this event was a chance for all to explore and enjoy the state's emergency management headquarters and disaster response system.

"Cal OES Open House and Family Day is a day when we open our doors for the community to see California's emergency response system firsthand and showcase the amazing work all of our partners do," said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. "We also want to show our deepest appreciation to all that have spent countless hours away from their families dedicated to the mission of keeping California safe".



Don Boland (CUEA Executive Director), Kristi Mercado (AT&T FirstNet), Mark Ghilarducci (OES Director)

SACRAMENTO: PG&E PROMOTES SAFETY, SPONSORS CAL OES DAY OF PREPAREDNESS

Reprinted from OES Website , September 26, 2018 By Brandi Merlo

PG&E and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) are proud to present the 13th annual California Day of Preparedness in historic Old Sacramento on Saturday (Sept. 8). The theme of the event is "Surviving the Wild West."

The free, family-friendly event kicks off National Preparedness Month, held annually in September. Dozens of state and local agencies, first responders and other community organizations will offer a variety of preparedness tips and activities. There will be safety, emergency response and search-and-rescue demonstrations — on both land and water. And like any good summer outdoor event in California, there will be music and food, too.

"The continual threat of wildfires and other major disasters, like earthquakes and floods, in California highlight the importance of being prepared," said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci.

"Especially in recent years, California has been too familiar with these extreme events, but it is critical that as individuals, families and communities we continue to be prepared for the next wildfire or the Big One. I urge you to update your emergency plans, replenish emergency supplies and minimize hazards in your home and workplace."

"Major disasters can happen anywhere, anytime and it is our unwavering focus at PG&E to be prepared to respond safely, quickly and appropriately to support our customers and communities," said PG&E's Sumeet Singh, vice president of the Community Wildfire Safety Program. "We are pleased to once again sponsor Cal OES' California Day of Preparedness and to partner with many

SACRAMENTO: PG&E PROMOTES SAFETY, SPONSORS CAL OES DAY OF PREPAREDNESS

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state and local agencies and first responders, with an aligned objective to be ready to respond whenever and wherever to an emergency.”

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about emergency preparedness through a variety of disaster readiness activities:

- Tour several PG&E emergency response vehicles, such as the Mobile Command, Picarro and 811 vehicles
- Interact with gas, electric and power generation hydro safety demonstration displays
- Hear from PG&E geoscience, public safety and emergency preparedness experts
- Learn energy saving tips and participate in a raffle for a chance to win an emergency kit

PG&E, Nestle Waters and Kaiser Permanente are the primary sponsors of this event.

This year’s California Day of Preparedness participants include: Cal OES, PG&E, American Red Cross, CAL Fire, California Conservation Corps, California National Guard, California Utilities Emergency Association, Caltrans, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Girl Scouts of America, Home Depot, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Sacramento DART, Sacramento Community Emergency Response Team, Sacramento Fire Department, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, and others.

LADWP EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE

On August 29, 2018, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) conducted a mutual assistance exercise simulating a major earthquake scenario. Participants included LADWP Water System staff as well as Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and Contra Costa Water District. The exercise focused on the standing agreement between LADWP, LVVWD, and EBMUD for mutual assistance in water system emergency response. Topics included: human and material resources (and the differences between utilities); resource identification and sharing; operational response structures; processing of utility workers in and out of an operation; priorities in service restoration; field safety considerations; and cost/finance tracking.



CUEA STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S

ENERGY AND PIPELINE COMMITTEE

Committee members meet quarterly to assess current and potential issues, which could impact the dependability of energy supplies within the operational systems and vulnerabilities within the organizations continuity plans. As a result the committee has shared successes and experiences relating to emergency preparedness issues such as Employee Emergency Preparedness Programs, lessons learned and newly innovative programs such as Nationwide Security Identification for First Responders and Credentialing of First Responders. Through invaluable information sharing and implementation of updated notification protocols, the Energy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that California is able to meet energy demands and protect its most critical infrastructure. Rod Wheeler from CAISO is the Chair of the committee. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

TRAINING & EXERCISE COMMITTEE

The Training and Exercise Committee was formed to research, review and develop courses to heighten awareness of and offer education relating to the emergency management field. Barbara Winn of AT&T has volunteered to be the new Chair this committee. If you are interested in being a part of the training committee, please contact Jenny Regino at jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

Also, if you have any upcoming exercises or training that you would like to have posted on the CUEA website, send them to jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov.

WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

This committee has been diligent in its efforts to strengthen the water/waste water emergency response community. The ongoing information sharing between member organizations has proved to be of great value. Exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and emergency related templates between organizations have led to improved processes within the water/waste water arena.

Steve Frew of East Bay Municipal Utility District serves as the Chair of this committee and holds quarterly conference calls to focus on Water security, preparedness, and response. Committee members exchange information on how their companies are dealing with theft, protection of sensitive information, as well as upgrades to security policies and technology. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Steve Frew at steven.frew@ebmud.com or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

ALERT

2019 CUEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 12th

CUEA Hosted Dinner

June 13th

Annual Conference

LAKE TAHOE RESORT HOTEL

4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150



SAVE THE DATE

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 12TH & 13TH

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

MORE INFORMATION

& REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW

ALERT



**REPRESENTING:
POWER-GAS-TELECOM-CABLE
WATER/WASTEWATER**

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FOR OUR NEXT
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JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV**

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