Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires

FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 CAMP (Powerlines)	November 2018	Butte	153,336	18,804	85
² TUBBS (Electrical)	October 2017	Napa & Sonoma	36,807	5,636	22
3 TUNNEL - Oakland Hills (Rekindle)	October 1991	Alameda	1,600	2,900	25
4 CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
5 NORTH COMPLEX (Lightning)	August, 2020	Butte, Plumas, & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
6 VALLEY (Electrical)	September 2015	Lake, Napa & Sonoma	76,067	1,958	4
7 WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
8 WOOLSEY (Electrical)	November 2018	Ventura	96,949	1,643	3
9 CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County, Trinity	229,651	1,614	8
10 GLASS (Undetermined)	September 2020	Napa & Sonoma	67,484	1,520	0
LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX 11 (Lightning/Arson)	August 2020	Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Lake, & Colusa	363,220	1,491	6
12 CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Santa Cruz, San Mateo	86,509	1,490	1
13 NUNS (Powerline)	October 2017	Sonoma	44,573	1,355	3
14 DIXIE (Under Investigation)*	July 2021	Butte, Plumas, Lassen, & Tehama	963,309	1,311	1
15 THOMAS (Powerline)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,063	2
16 CALDOR (Human Related)	September 2021	Alpine, Amador, & El Dorado	221,835	1,005	1
17 OLD (Human Related)	October 2003	San Bernardino	91,281	1,003	6
18 BUTTE (Powerlines)	September 2015	Amador & Calaveras	70,868	965	2
19 JONES (Undetermined)	October 1999	Shasta	26,200	954	1
20 AUGUST COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, & Colusa	1,032,648	935	1

"Structures" include homes, outbuildings (barns, garages, sheds, etc) and commercial properties destroyed.

This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.





10/24/2022

Top 20 Largest California Wildfires

FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 AUGUST COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, & Colusa	1,032,648	935	1
2 DIXIE (Powerlines)	July 2021	Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta & Tehama	963,309	1,311	1
3 MENDOCINO COMPLEX (Human Related)	July 2018	Colusa, Lake, Mendocino & Glenn	459,123	280	1
4 SCU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, & San Joaquin	396,625	225	0
5 CREEK (Undetermined)	September 2020	Fresno & Madera	379,895	858	0
6 LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning/Arson)	August 2020	Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Lake, & Colusa	363,220	1,491	6
7 NORTH COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Butte, Plumas & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
8 THOMAS (Powerlines)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,060	2
9 CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
10 RUSH (Lightning)	August 2012	Lassen	271,911 CA / 43,666 NV	0	0
11 RIM (Human Related)	August 2013	Tuolumne	257,314	112	0
12 ZACA (Human Related)	July 2007	Santa Barbara	240,207	1	0
13 CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County & Trinity	229,651	1,614	8
14 MONUMENT (Lightning)	July 2021	Trinity	223,124	28	0
15 CALDOR (Human Releated)	August 2021	Alpine, Amador, & El Dorado	221,835	1,005	1
16 MATILIJA (Undetermined)	September 1932	Ventura	220,000	0	0
17 RIVER COMPLEX (Lightning)	July 2021	Siskiyou & Trinity	199,359	122	0
18 WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
19 KLAMATH THEATER COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Siskiyou	192,038	0	2
20 MARBLE CONE (Lightning)	July 1977	Monterey	177,866	0	0

There is no doubt that there were fires with significant acreage burned in years prior to 1932, but those records are less reliable, and this list is meant to give an overview of the large fires in more recent times. This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.

*Numbers not final.



10/24/2022

Top 20 Deadliest California Wildfires

FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 CAMP FIRE (Powerlines)	November 2018	Butte	153,336	18,804	85
2 GRIFFITH PARK (Unknown)	October 1933	Los Angeles	47	0	29
3 TUNNEL - Oakland Hills (Rekindle)	October 1991	Alameda	1,600	2,900	25
4 TUBBS (Electrical)	October 2017	Napa & Sonoma	36,807	5,636	22
5 NORTH COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Butte, Plumas, & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
6 CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
7 RATTLESNAKE (Arson)	July 1953	Glenn	1,340	0	15
8 LOOP (Unknown)	November 1966	Los Angeles	2,028	0	12
9 HAUSER CREEK (Human Related)	October 1943	San Diego	13,145	0	11
10 INAJA (Human Related)	November 1956	San Diego	43,904	0	11
11 IRON ALPS COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2008	Trinity	105,855	10	10
12 REDWOOD VALLEY (Power Lines)	October 2017	Mendocino	36,523	543	9
13 HARRIS (Undetermined)	October 2007	San Diego	90,440	548	8
14 CANYON (Unknown)	August 1968	Los Angeles	22,197	0	8
15 CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County, Trinity	229,651	1,614	7
16 LNU Lightning Complex (Lightning/Arson)	August 2020	Napa/Sonoma/Yolo/Stanislaus/ Lake	363,220	1,491	6
17 ATLAS (Powerline)	October 2017	Napa & Solano	51,624	781	6
18 OLD (Human Related)	October 2003	San Bernardino	91,281	1,003	6
19 DECKER (Vehicle)	August 1959	Riverside	1,425	1	6
20 HACIENDA (Unknown)	September 1955	Los Angeles	1,150	0	6

** Fires with the same death count are listed by most recent. Several fires have had 4 fatalties, but only the most recent are listed.

***This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.

* Numbers not final 10/24/2022