

**WHAT:** Release on Gov LA Fire Response & Fact Checks

**WHEN:** Thursday PM

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## Governor Newsom's fire prevention and response efforts

From his very first day in office, Governor Newsom [has prioritized the state's first responders and emergency personnel](#) – particularly focused on bolstering the state's wildfire fighting efforts.

California's efforts to [increase wildfire response and forest management](#)

### Biggest state investment in fire response in history

- The Governor's Budget reflects a total of \$4 billion which maintains \$2.5 billion in prior investments and commits another \$1.5 billion over the next several years.
- Last year, Governor Newsom invested \$2 billion to support CalFIRE operations, a **47% increase since 2018** bolstering CalFIRE personnel from 5,829 positions to 10,741 in that same period, and prioritizing firefighter well-being.

### Expanded aerial fleet

- Governor Newsom expanded f California's aerial firefighting fleet, adding more than 16 helicopters with several equipped for night operations, five helitack bases, and [seven C-130 air tankers](#) – making it the **largest aerial firefighting fleet of its kind globally**. The state will add to its world-leading air attack capacity through recent new funding to contract 24 additional non-state-owned firefighting aircraft.

### More forest management and prescribed burns than ever before

- One of the very first executive actions Governor Newsom took after assuming office was to declare a state of emergency in response to wildfires in 2019. This order, in part, exempted critical wildfire and forest management projects from California's environmental law (CEQA).

- The state is investing \$2.5 billion to ramp up and has fully implemented the [Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#), created in 2021 to increase the pace of fuel reduction, prescribed fires, and improve forest health. This is in addition to \$200 million invested annually through 2028-29 for healthy forest and fire prevention programs.
- California has expanded the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning to build forest and community resilience. As a result, the state's prescribed fire activity has nearly doubled between 2021 and 2023.
- California recently [unveiled](#) newly updated, first-of-their-kind dashboards that will help Californians track the state's wildfire prevention work.

### **New technology to prevent and fight fire**

- California is deploying cutting-edge drone technology, doubling its use of drones for critical tasks like aerial ignition during prescribed burns, wildfire containment, and real-time assessments.
- The state is leveraging [AI-powered tools to spot fires quicker](#), and real-time data tools, including the Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System (FIRIS) to provide real-time mapping of wildfires.
- California has partnered with the federal government to use satellites for wildfire detection and invested in LiDAR advanced mapping technology to create detailed 3D maps of high-risk areas, helping firefighters better understand and navigate complex terrains.
- CalFIRE has expanded its capabilities for incident reporting at [fire.ca.gov](https://fire.ca.gov), updating the incident map with near real-time information about firefighting aircraft activity, 3-D maps with evacuation orders, local shelter information, road closures, and more.

Key actions Governor Newsom [has taken ahead of and in response to](#) the LA firestorms this month:

At the height of the firefighting effort, Governor Newsom had deployed more than **16,000+ emergency personnel**, including **2,500 California National Guard** member, **1,800+ pieces of firefighting equipment** (fire engines, water tenders, dozers), and **80+ firefighting aircraft** (part of California's world-leading aerial firefighting fleet). Additionally, 12 states have provided equipment and personnel, as well as the neighboring countries of Canada and Mexico.

**Monday, Jan. 6:** Resources & personnel [prepositioned](#) in Southern California ahead of forecasted fire weather in the region.

**Tuesday, Jan. 7:** Immediately after the firestorms began, the Governor [issued an executive order](#), declared a [State of Emergency](#) to support ongoing response, and announced federal resources have been secured for [Palisades](#), [Eaton](#), and [Hurst](#) fires.

**Wednesday, Jan. 8:** A [Major Disaster Declaration](#) was approved by President Biden, just 36 hours after the request was submitted, and as the Governor and the President received a briefing on the ground by CalFIRE officials.

**Thursday, Jan. 9:** During a briefing on the LA firestorms, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris [announced 100% reimbursement rate](#) by the federal government after a call with the Governor.

**Friday, Jan. 10:** The Governor issued [his second executive order](#), this one focused on public health; and the Governor [called for a review](#) of the local water distribution system.

**Saturday, Jan. 11:** The Governor [announced the state is offering taxpayers in Los Angeles County a postponement](#) on filing 2024 tax returns and making tax payments that would have been due between January 7 and October 15, 2025.

**Sunday, Jan. 12:** The Governor issued [his third executive order](#), this one focused on streamlining rebuilding efforts; and [his fourth executive order](#), this one directing fast action to clean debris and mudslides.

**Monday, Jan. 13:** The Governor [announced tax relief to small businesses impacted by the LA firestorms](#), announced the [expansion of special session to focus on relief efforts for the LA Fires](#), and [prepositioned emergency personnel](#) ahead of another round of dangerous weather.

**Tuesday, Jan. 14:** The Governor issued [his fifth executive order](#), this one focused on schools, [prepositioned and mobilized](#) debris clean up efforts, and issued [his sixth executive order](#), this one focused on protecting people from predatory housing attempts.

**Wednesday, Jan. 15:** The Governor announced California has [secured additional federal assistance through the Major Disaster Declaration](#), deployed [additional CHP officers](#) to protect public safety, and issued [his seventh executive order](#), this one focused on clean up efforts.

**Thursday, Jan. 16:** The Governor issued [his eighth executive order](#), this one focused on fast-tracking temporary housing, issued [his ninth executive order](#), this one focused on property tax relief, and [announced the availability of new federal funding](#) for impacted workers.

**Friday, Jan. 17:** The Governor issued [his tenth executive order](#), this one focused on eviction protections.

**Saturday, Jan. 18:** The Governor [announced that five major lenders will provide mortgage relief](#) to their customers who are LA firestorm survivors, and the [streamlining of access](#) to local, state, and federal resources.

**Sunday, Jan. 19:** The Governor [announced the repositioning of additional resources and personnel](#) ahead of forecasted fire weather this week, and issued [his eleventh executive order](#), this one focused on public safety efforts.

**Monday, Jan. 20:** The Governor [volunteered with First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom at Project Angel Food](#) to support survivors, announced [efforts to reopen support services](#), and issued [his twelfth executive order](#), this one focused on flood and debris flow.

**Tuesday, Jan. 21:** The Governor [met with workers and small business owners](#) impacted by the devastating Los Angeles firestorm to hear their stories and highlight the state's work to help communities rebuild.

**Wednesday, Jan. 22:** The Governor [announced the deployment of specialized debris flow teams](#) to Southern California ahead of forecasted rainy weather.

FACTS NOT FICTION

**Lack of water availability:**

- This is not about water availability in Southern California.
- California [pumps as much water now as it could under prior Trump-era policies](#).
- A change in Northern California's water management [would not have affected the fire response](#).
- Recent [reporting](#) found:
  - ***“In terms of water reliability and water supply at this moment in Southern California, things are looking pretty solid,”*** said Mike McNutt of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District”
  - ***“Orange County Water District Chief Hydrogeologist Roy Herndon said his agency...has enough supply to carry its 2.5 million customers through the worst of any potential droughts — multiple years in a row with minimal rainfall. “Three years, no problem. I’d say even five years,”***
  - ***“The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California...also has an abundance,*** “with a record 3.8 million acre-feet of water in storage,” according to Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay...enough water to supply 40 million people for a year.”

#### **But Santa Ynez reservoir was empty:**

- The reservoir has been empty for nearly a year
- However, local water distribution system experienced delivery issues due to water pressure
- The Governor called for a review of the local water system to get answers and take action

#### **Not allowing people to sell property:**

- This is completely false.
- The Governor signed an executive order that protects people from undervalued, unsolicited offers.

#### **Supporting speculators and developers (like BlackRock) instead of people:**

- This is completely false.
- The Governor signed an executive order that protects people from predatory lenders

#### **Kicking Elon Musk out & ordering people not to use starlink:**

- This is completely false.
- The Governor never ordered CalFire not to access starlink devices.
- CalFire never ordered others not to use starlink devices.

#### **Not funding fire prevention efforts:**

- During the Newsom's Administration, the state has invested billions in mitigation and prevention efforts – and in the recent January budget proposal, more than a billion in additional investments is included.
- People can see prescribed (controlled burns) in real time at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)