



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (9/3/21)

California Incident Summary

[CAL FIRE](#) has an incidents page on their website that provides interactive maps, with up-to-date information regarding various disasters happening throughout the state. To view their incidents page, [please follow this link](#).

Biden Declares Emergency in California Over Caldor Fire

[Reuters reports](#) President Biden declared an emergency in California and ordered federal assistance to boost local responders' efforts to battle the Caldor fire, the White House said on Wednesday.

Biden's action authorizes co-ordination of disaster relief measures by the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the White House added.

California, Nevada Declare States of Emergency as Caldor Fire Spreads

[UPI reports](#) the governors of California and Nevada declared states of emergency on Wednesday as the Caldor Fire continued its rapid expansion.

California Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) declared a state of emergency for Alpine, Amador and Placer counties as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reported that the Caldor Fire had grown to [191,607 acres](#) burning near the South Lake Tahoe area.

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak also [declared a state of emergency](#) in anticipation of the blaze crossing the border between the two states in the coming days.

Mandatory [evacuations were issued](#) for South Lake Tahoe on Monday with the town's 20,000 residents forced to depart.

Cal Fire said the Caldor Fire grew nearly 20,000 acres from Monday and was 16% contained as of Tuesday. The blaze has resulted in five injuries, destroyed 669 structures and damaged 40 more.

Wednesday's emergency declarations will help to free up resources to combat the growing fire.

A total of 3,904 personnel have been deployed to put out the fire including 415 fire engines, 92 dozers, 74 water tenders and 25 helicopters.

Caldor Fire: Evacuations, Maps, for El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties

[ABC 10 News reports](#) a huge firefighting force has gathered to defend Lake Tahoe from a raging wildfire. The [Caldor Fire](#) continued to move toward the city as [more than 53,000](#) people have been forced from their homes across three different counties.

The wildfire burning in El Dorado County has impacted communities in Amador and Alpine counties with evacuations. [According to the Amador County Sheriff's Office](#), the fire has made its way into Amador County, east of Silver Lake. Communities just across the state line in Nevada have been warned to get ready to leave.

[In a Monday update](#), firefighters said the Caldor Fire had also made its way into the Christmas Valley area and Meyers. Fierce firefights are still ongoing along the Highway 50 corridor into Echo Lake and as the fire pushes toward the Kirkwood area. Communities just across the state line in Nevada are warned to get ready to leave. Flames also crossed Highways 50 and 89 and burned mountain cabins as it churns down slopes into the Tahoe Basin.

The fierce nature of the Caldor Fire was on display as it moved down a hill toward homes on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe. Defensible space around some homes has proved to be a saving grace – keeping the fire at bay about eight to 10 feet away. Firefighters say defensible space like these helps slow the fire down.

There are many focal points for fire crews right who are spread out across Tahoe. Hundreds of firefighters and other resources working to save the world-famous tourist destination.

One of the most significant points of focus is Pioneer Trail. All night long, fire engines, sheriff's deputies, and other emergency responders patrolled the area -- especially as hot spots have continued to pop up. Keeping the Caldor Fire from jumping Pioneer Trail means the difference between the fire burning trees and brush to burning homes and structures.

All night long, firefighters were focused on structure preparation and structure defense down Highway 50 and towards Highway 89. That continues to be the top priority because there are so many structures, fire officials said in the Tuesday morning briefing.

The Caldor Fire joined the list of [largest wildfires in state history](#) totaling more than 186,000 acres burned. New firefighters arrived Monday evening and were dispatched immediately to protect homes.

While the firefight continues to be a taxing one, crews did have good news for some communities on Monday. People from Farnham Ridge, Pipi, and Cement Hill areas were allowed to go back home. Officials said there was no fire damage in the area. Meanwhile, Pollock Pines and the Camino area evacuations could be reassessed in the next couple of days once the current wind event passes.

The National Weather Service also expanded the expiration of a [Red Flag Warning to 11 p.m. Wednesday](#) for the greater Lake Tahoe/Truckee area.

"Overnight fire activity remained active throughout the northeastern and eastern areas of the fire due to poor humidity recovery," [Cal Fire's Tuesday report said](#).

[The fire has grown to 191,607 acres](#) and is only 16% contained. More than 600 structures have been destroyed and at least 33,000 are threatened by the fire.

Click [HERE](#) for in-depth evacuation orders and warnings in El Dorado County. For evacuation orders and warnings in Amador County, click [HERE](#) for the [Amador County Sheriff's Facebook page](#) and [HERE](#) for their website. For current state highway/route information visit roads.dot.ca.gov.

California Commissioner Issues Another Non-Renewal Moratorium to Aid Policyholders Affected by Wildfires

[Insurance Journal reports](#) California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has issued notices to insurers alerting them to cease non-renewals and cancellations of insurance coverage for communities with wildfire emergencies.

Lara's notices cover homeowner's and renter's insurance policyholders living near major wildfires included in emergency declarations by California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Last year, Lara ordered similar protections for more than 2.4 million policyholders from non-renewal or cancellations for one year following the largest wildfires in the state's history.

Once each fire perimeter is identified, Lara issues a bulletin identifying ZIP codes that will be subject to a one-year moratorium. Lara has already issued a bulletin for more than 25,000 policyholders in Lassen, Plumas, and Siskiyou counties covered under Governor Newsom's July 16 emergency declaration for the Lava Fire and the Beckwourth Complex Fire.

Mark Sektan, vice president of state government relations, for the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, said insurers anticipated Lara's announcement.

"Moratoriums will be declared whenever the governor makes a state disaster declaration," Sektan said. "We expected additional moratoriums would be declared for the Dixie and Caldor Wildfires. Insurers will always comply with the law. Insurers are committed to California and are working to manage the risk they assume and meet the needs of policyholders. Insurers are actively helping policyholders evacuated from the ongoing fires."

He said it's important to "adapt to climate-induced wildfires" for the long-term, which includes using the latest tools and technology to improve fire risk assessment for homeowners in wildland areas, "with the goal of ultimately improving accessibility to insurance coverage."

The California Department of Insurance is collaborating with CalFire and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to identify additional wildfire perimeters for any fires where there is a declaration of a state of emergency, including Newsom's July 23, August 5, August 10, August 17, and August 30 declarations affecting parts of Alpine, Butte, El Dorado, Lassen, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties.

Consumers can go to the CDI's website to see if their ZIP code is included in the current moratorium and to read his notices to insurance companies. This is the third consecutive year that Lara has implemented a moratorium.

All National Forests in California are Closed – No Labor Day Camping, Hiking, Biking

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) with fires raging across the state, the USDA Forest Service is closing all 20 million acres of California's national forests to public access for two weeks beginning Tuesday.

In an announcement Monday, the Forest Service said the closure will extend through at least Sept. 17.

"I have made the difficult decision to temporarily close all (California) National Forests in order to better provide public and firefighter safety due to extreme fire conditions throughout the state, and strained firefighting resources throughout the country," California's regional forester, Jennifer M. Eberlien, said in an [email to employees obtained by The Sacramento Bee](#).

This closure starts at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday.

Those caught entering Forest Service lands — including developed campgrounds, hiking trails and recreation sites — typically face fines of up to \$5,000 for violating closure orders.

The closure order only applies to Forest Service lands. State and national parks and private lands set their own rules.

The announcement extends a closure that was already in place for the Forest Service's nine national forests in Northern California.

That closure began on Aug. 23 and was set to expire after the Labor Day weekend.

"I do not take this decision lightly, but this is the best choice for public safety," Eberlien said. "It is especially hard with the approaching Labor Day weekend, when so many people enjoy our national forests."

California Deploys Urban Search and Rescue Personnel to Louisiana to Aid Response to Hurricane Ida

[Lake County Record-Bee reports](#) at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Hurricane Ida makes landfall in Louisiana, over the weekend Gov. Gavin Newsom approved the deployment of urban search and rescue (US&R) specialized personnel to the region to assist in life-saving disaster response. California maintains robust search and rescue resources within the state and the deployment does not draw from resources in use to combat wildfires.

"As we manage the ongoing emergency response to wildfires and support impacted communities, California is carefully assessing and balancing resources to answer the call to aid our fellow Americans in a time of great need, as we have so often received support ourselves in recent years," said Newsom.

Part of the National US&R Response System, administered in California by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the Oakland-based California/FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force-4 will join with US&R Incident Support Specialists to assist with search and rescue operations for Hurricane Ida, which is currently a strong Category 4 hurricane.

The California/FEMA US&R Task Force being deployed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana today is based in the Oakland Fire Department, with participation from several surrounding fire agencies. The "Type 3" task force being deployed includes 35 members and 10 ground support personnel.

These personnel are trained and equipped to provide water rescues and technical and canine search, rescue, medical and other specialized capabilities at the disaster.

In total, FEMA has requested and deployed 15 Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces from other states to the Gulf Coast through the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Newsom and Cal OES have also approved deployment of several California-based US&R Incident Support Team members to help coordinate search and rescue operations across the Gulf Coast hurricane impact zone. The Urban Search and Rescue-trained firefighters deployed from California to the Incident Support Team are members of various California/FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces (California US&R Task Force 1, Los Angeles Fire Department; California US&R Task Force 3, Menlo Park Fire Protection District; and California US&R Task Force 7, Sacramento Fire Department.)

Sunday's deployment comes 16 years after the rescue capabilities of all eight California/FEMA US&R Task Forces were deployed to conduct search and rescue operations across the flooded city of New Orleans, Louisiana, when Hurricane Katrina struck, with simultaneous deployment of California-based US&R Team members to the adjoining and hard-hit state of Mississippi.

COVID-19 Sidelines 16 Firefighters Battling California Blaze

[NBC Bay Area reports](#) a COVID-19 outbreak has sidelined a strike team of 16 firefighters battling a massive blaze on South Lake Tahoe.

California Department of Forest and Fire Protection incident commander Jeff Veik announced the loss of the crews and warned other firefighters to follow the agency's COVID-19 protocols during a Tuesday operation briefing, SFGATE reported.

"We lost a whole strike team of crews yesterday, we lost a finance section chief due to (being) COVID positive, so understand, do not come to this briefing without a mask on," he said.

A strike team consists of five fire engines — each staffed by three firefighters — plus a leader, said Henry Herrera, a public information officer for Cal Fire. He said those 16 firefighters will have to quarantine for two weeks and did not have information on where the strike team was stationed or their vaccination status. He added that this is the first outbreak on the Caldor Fire.

Cal Fire estimates there are 3,904 personnel dedicated to battling the blaze, so the loss of the strike team is not expected to have a major impact. However, Cal Fire is taking COVID-19 seriously, noting that future larger outbreaks could create real staffing issues.

"We need every one of you to stay healthy," Veik told firefighters. "That last piece: emotions. Do not give one of the team members — or the folks working on this incident or any of you — a hard time about a mask. They're doing their job. If you're that upset about wearing a mask, come talk to me, please, or one of the (incident commanders)."

Bay Area Health Official Explains Concerns with Highly Mutated C.1.2 Coronavirus Variant

[ABC 7 News reports](#) the C.1.2 variant identified in South Africa is raising eyebrows in part because it's highly mutated.

"It has mutations in the sites that may make it replicate more rapidly and it has some other changes that may make it a little more difficult for antibodies to see and find," said Dr. George Rutherford, a professor of epidemiology at UCSF. He says so far it has not outcompeted the delta variant.

"There are only relatively small numbers, and it doesn't seem to have spread much more beyond a handful of cases," he explained.

As for whether this variant might be even more dangerous for anyone not vaccinated, Dr. Rutherford says time will tell.

"This is all about 'might,' 'maybe,' 'may' -- we just don't know. It's just too early to call," said Dr. Rutherford. "But if you're going to South Africa just make sure you're fully vaccinated," he added.

Could we see C.1.2 here in the United States?

"Anything is possible, but I suspect it'll be outcompeted by the Delta variant and it will not establish itself very broadly," said Dr. Rutherford.

It's another new variant, being watched closely.

Sacramento-Area Counties Announce Previously Unreported COVID Cases, Caused by Kaiser Lab Issue

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) Sacramento-area health offices this week reported backlogs totaling at least a couple of thousand COVID-19 cases spanning much of August, attributed to a technological issue involving one of Northern California's biggest health providers.

Oakland-headquartered Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest nonprofit health organization, confirmed to The Sacramento Bee on Wednesday that a lab system problem for weeks impacted its reporting of coronavirus cases from its Northern California labs.

The provider in a statement said the issue is believed to be resolved.

"Kaiser Permanente is committed to transmitting timely, accurate data to the state. Due to technical issues with our technology system, data transmission to the state's system from Kaiser Permanente's laboratories in Northern California has been delayed since late July," Kaiser Permanente wrote in an emailed statement to The Bee.

"We have taken steps with our technology vendor to fully resolve the problem, and believe the issue to be resolved," the statement continued. "While this problem was occurring, we made the data available in an alternative format. We will continue to monitor the transmission of current data to ensure timely, complete, and accurate reporting."

Going Somewhere That Requires Proof of Vaccination? Here's What You Should Know

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) the white card you received when you got your COVID-19 vaccine — the one that may or may not fit in your wallet — is becoming as essential as a ticket or an ID for entry to some L.A. bars and other venues.

Business owners have started requiring proof of vaccination for entry, as L.A. County and the city of Los Angeles get closer to more universal policies. Conservatory in West Hollywood was

one of the first restaurants in L.A. County to ask for proof of vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of visiting. Several L.A. theaters and orchestras have announced that audience members will need to be fully vaccinated to attend concerts this October.

But so far, these efforts are up to individual businesses. The city and county of Los Angeles don't have vaccine mandates — yet.

In early August, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the county Department of Public Health to explore and report on options for certain indoor public spaces; whether a mandate should require one dose or full vaccination; a process for how people can prove vaccination status and how businesses can verify it.

During an Aug. 12 media briefing, Barbara Ferrer, county public health director, said she's noted her gratitude to businesses that have implemented mandates, especially in high-risk settings where people are not wearing face coverings for long periods of time or where they're in close contact. She added that from a public health perspective, it "makes a lot of sense."

The Board of Supervisors [decided to hold off](#) on implementing a vaccine mandate at their Tuesday meeting. California lawmakers have also abandoned, for now, legislation to require vaccinations.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles City Council voted last month to have its attorney draft a vaccine mandate ordinance that requires at least one dose to enter indoor spaces such as restaurants, bars, gyms, spas, concert venues, movie theaters, sporting events (including stadiums) and retail establishments. The draft will need to undergo legal and procedural hurdles before it can be enacted.

In the meantime, it doesn't hurt to have your vaccination record with you. If you don't want to fold up your card to fit your wallet or pants pocket, there are some options. To view the list of options and different types of vaccination records, [visit the *Time's* full article.](#)

Pandemic Unemployment Benefits End in September and States Aren't Extending Them

[CNBC Make It reports](#) with just a few days before three key Covid-era unemployment programs established by the CARES Act expire on or before Sept. 6, the Biden administration has called on states to [use emergency coronavirus funds](#) to provide additional benefits to the millions across the country who are still without jobs.

But state labor departments, tell *CNBC Make It* that they have no intention of extending or providing additional benefits on their own. Effectively, the coronavirus unemployment benefits are as good as gone.

That means an estimated 7.5 million will lose all of their unemployment benefits after next week, the left-leaning Century Foundation [recently found](#), as programs that benefited gig and part-time workers, as well as the long-term unemployed, completely expire. Millions more will lose a significant amount of income as the \$300 enhanced federal benefit lapses.

The programs expiring include:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which covers those not traditionally eligible for aid, including part-time workers, freelancers, the self-employed and gig workers

- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which extends aid to those who have exhausted their state's benefits period
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), the \$300 weekly boost

CNBC Make It reached out to the departments responsible for unemployment benefits in all 50 states; 20 responded. All of those that replied said they do not have plans to extend the programs on their own.

Most states did not provide comment beyond that. But those that did, including the [Oregon Employment Department](#), said that the money the state was given by the federal government for Covid relief has already been earmarked for other priorities.

States that confirmed they are not planning to extend enhanced benefits on their own:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arkansas
- California
- Hawaii
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Aside from those that responded, a number of Republican-led states, including Arizona, Florida, Texas and others, already ended participation in federal programs, presumably meaning they will not re-extend them. Many workers will still qualify for their standard state benefits.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program;** *environment & water*
 - Funded by: State Water Resources Control Board
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$50 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - Online application: [linked here](#)
- **Forest Conservation Program 2021 Proposal Solicitation Notice;** *environment & water*

- Funded by: Wildlife Conservation Board
- Deadline: **Friday, September 10, 2021**
- Total estimated funding: \$18 million
- **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **California State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP);** *health & human services*
 - Funded by: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$3.369 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **VICTIM IMPACT GRANT;** *uncategorized*
 - Funded by: CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
 - Deadline: **Monday, September 20, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$2 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

OTS Mini-Grant

[The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control](#) provides funding up to \$20,000 for local Police Departments and Sheriff's Departments to reduce alcohol-related harm in California.

For an in-depth description, [view the full grant guidelines](#).

The deadline to apply is **Monday, September 20, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$320k.

California Community Reinvestment Grants Program

[The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development](#) has created the CalCRG program to award grants to Local Health Departments and qualified Community-based Nonprofit Organizations to support job placement, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, system navigation services, legal services to address barriers to reentry, and linkages to medical care for communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies, also known as the War on Drugs.

The California Community Reinvestment Grants program was included in the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64), which was approved by California voters on November 8, 2016. In accordance with the proposition, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) will award grants to Local Health Departments and at least 50 percent to qualified Community-based Nonprofit Organizations to support job placement, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, system navigation services, legal services to address barriers to reentry, and linkages to medical care for communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies, also known as the War on Drugs (WoD).

The CalCRG program is funded by the cannabis excise and cultivation taxes imposed by Revenue and Taxation Code sections 34011 and 34012, respectively. Contingent upon sufficient tax proceeds generated, the funding for the grant program will grow by \$10 million in each fiscal

year until it reaches a total of \$50 million in fiscal year 2022-23. At least 50 percent of the grant funding each fiscal year will be allocated to qualified community-based nonprofit organizations.

CalCRG program requirements and priorities may vary each fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2021-22 CalCRG program priorities include proposals from organizations led by individuals directly impacted by the WoD, organizations that serve formerly incarcerated individuals, and organizations placing individuals in jobs.

Eligible Applicants Include:

- Local Health Departments:
 - Defined as any of the 61 California-identified local government health departments.
- Community-based Nonprofit Organizations:
 - Defined as organizations established and focused on issues and concerns at the community level (neighborhood, city, county, region) that are representative of the populations or significant segments of the populations they provide services to in that community.

The CalCRG program statute requires programs and services to be provided to communities disproportionately impacted by past federal and state drug policies. Applicants must provide services in one or more of the identified CalCRG eligible counties or census tracts in California.

The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, September 29, 2021**. Total estimated funding is \$38.4 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

2021 North Coast Coho Recovery

[The Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) is seeking projects that protect, restore, or enhance Coho Salmon habitat in eligible North Coast watersheds to aid in the recovery and conservation Coho Salmon.

Eligible projects must protect, restore, or enhance Coho Salmon habitat in eligible North Coast watersheds (see Focus Watersheds) to aid in the recovery and conservation of Coho Salmon. In addition, CDFW is seeking projects that contribute to implementation of the California Water Action Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, Safeguarding California Plan, the California Biodiversity Initiative, CDFW's Recovery Strategy for Coho Salmon (2004), Priority Action Coho Team Report (2020), South Fork Eel River SHaRP report (2021), or other actions identified in a publicly available, authoritative Coho Salmon recovery document for the watershed.

Projects that promote Coho recovery and/or protection, enhance salmonid habitat, and further drought and climate change resilience of freshwater ecosystems will be most competitive under this Solicitation.

Eligible project categories for this Solicitation are Planning, Implementation, and Acquisition.

Projects must be located within the following watersheds: Eel River, Mendocino Coast, Russian River (no including mainstem Russian River), and Lagunitas Creek.

Eligible applicants include individuals, nonprofits, public agencies, and Tribal Governments.

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, September 30, 2021**. The total estimated funding available is \$15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement (STAKE) Grant Program 2021-22

[The Department of Public Health](#) has created this Request for Applications (RFA) to fund multiple, qualified local law enforcement agencies with grants to provide training and enforcement of state and local laws related to the illegal sales of tobacco products to minors, to increase investigative activities, and compliance checks, and other appropriate activities aimed to reduce illegal sales of tobacco products to minors.

Activities covered under this grant may include training both law enforcement personnel, community members, school districts, youth organizations and/or tobacco retailers on youth-related tobacco laws; purchasing equipment and/or training materials needed for the training and/or enforcement of state and local tobacco laws. Examples of equipment and training materials may include surveillance equipment, cameras, signage, pamphlets and/or the leasing of vehicles. Additionally, awarded funding can be used to hire additional personnel to increase enforcement efforts/activities aimed at curtailing and reducing illegal sales of tobacco products to youth under the age of 21. The goal of the Food and Drug Branch (FDB), Tobacco Enforcement Section (TES) is to prevent the sale of tobacco products to all persons under 21 years of age.

Public agencies eligible to apply include:

- Local law enforcement agencies,
- Health departments and school districts.
 - State of California law enforcement agencies at state universities, colleges, and community colleges are not eligible to apply for this grant.

The deadline to apply is **Friday, October 1, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$3.026 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).