



**CAL FIRE**  
**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
**Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Webinar Series**

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**March 13, 2023**

*California Incident Data and Statistics (CalStats) Program  
Intro/Overview*

# Welcome!



- The purpose of this webinar series is to host a live and interactive platform to discuss and educate on Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation (CWPM) fire safety topics directly from our Office of the State Fire Marshal CWPM Staff.
- More information on the webinar series can be found any time at [osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/)

If you experience technical difficulties during this presentation, please contact Kara Garrett at (916) 201-5539 or [Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov)



# CalStats

## Speaker Introduction

### Mike Morlan

Deputy Chief

California Incident Data and Statistics

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Resources can be found at:

[osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/california-incident-data-and-statistics-program/](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/california-incident-data-and-statistics-program/)



# What is CalStats

- ***CalStats*** is a statewide ***emergency incident data collection*** program that analyzes and distributes information reported by fire departments throughout the state.

# Fire Reporting Data

- This includes collecting *National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)* data from each fire department in California on behalf of the *United States Fire Administration (USFA-FEMA)*.
  - *NFIRS* is the world's largest, national, annual database of fire incident information
  - *CALFIRS* is the CAL FIRE Incident Reporting System
- *CalStats* complies with *Health and Safety Code 13110.5* to provide fire data and information to the fire community, and as a resource for the public.



# Getting the Data

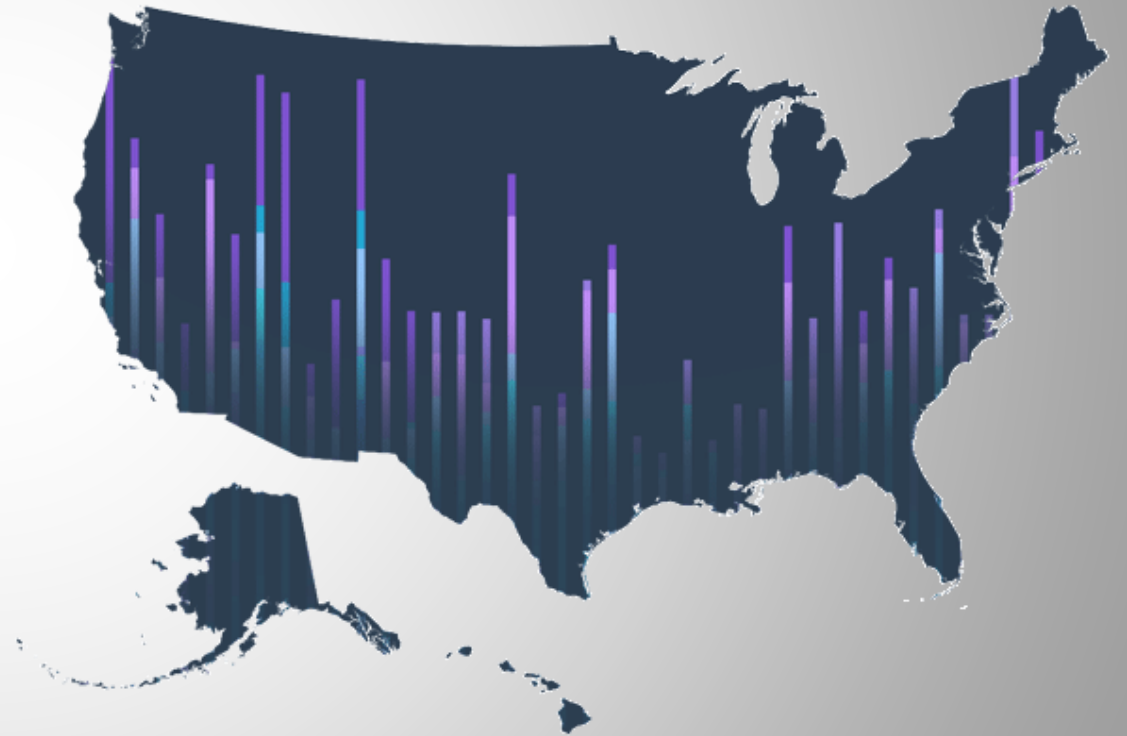


- So how does this relate to you? Let's explain...
  - Fire Department personnel *respond to an incident* (Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Public Assist, other)
  - Afterwards, they return to the Fire Station
  - *Firefighters enter data* into a computer system about that incident
    - This data includes Date, Location, Type of Incident, Cause, equipment used, What burned, how it happened, why it occurred



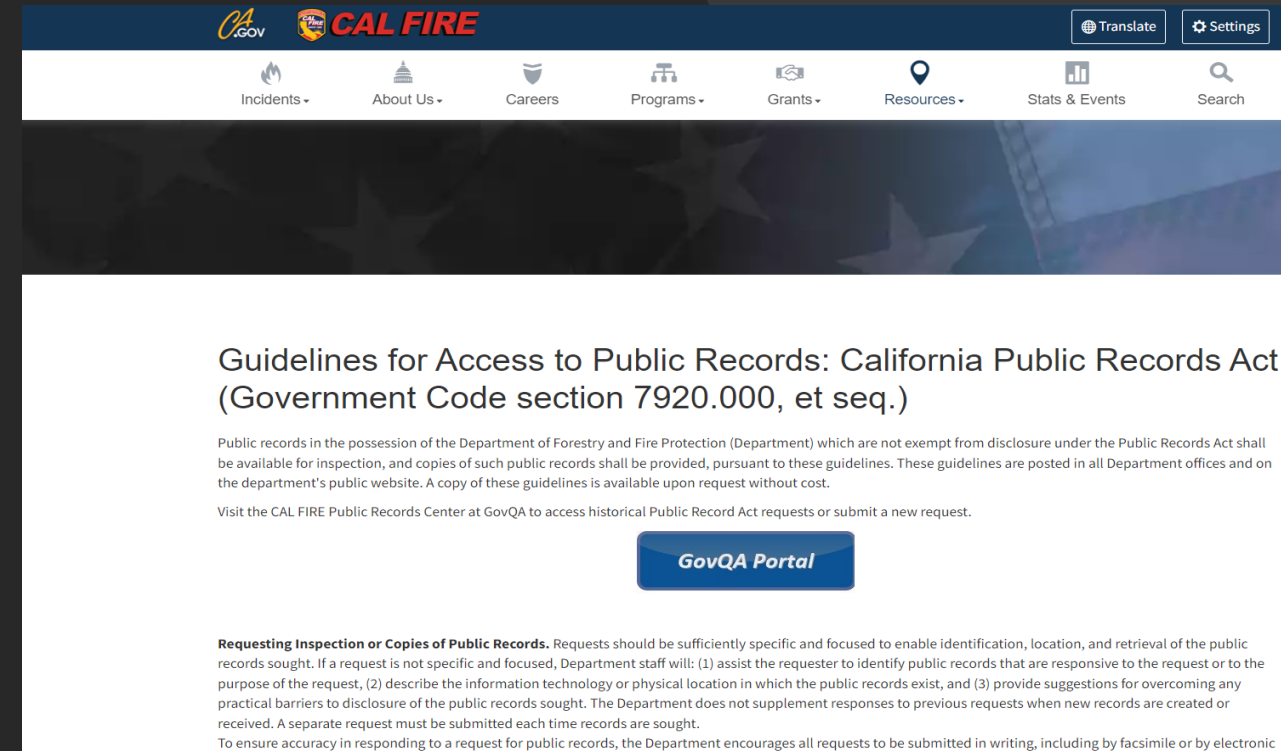
# What happens to this Data?

- This is done by Fire Departments throughout **California** and the **United States**
  - to report on the full range of our activities, from fire to EMS to severe weather and natural disasters
- Fire Reports, Stats, & Dashboards – **Tells the Story of What we do**
- Information is sent to a **National Database** in Washington D.C.
  - **National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)**
- **Information** can be used by **Fire Departments, Public, Grant Writers, State & Federal Legislature, and more**



# How Do I Get a Copy of That Report

- As a member of the public, you have a right to this information
  - ***The California Public Records Act (PRA Request)***
  - ***“Requires that government records be disclosed to the public, upon request, unless there are privacy and/or public safety exemptions which would prevent doing so.”***
- Visit our ***CAL FIRE Public Records Center*** website for a link to the ***GovQA portal*** to make a request



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the CAL FIRE website. It includes the CA.GOV logo, the CAL FIRE logo, and a Translate button. Below the navigation bar is a menu with icons for Incidents, About Us, Careers, Programs, Grants, Resources, Stats & Events, and Search. The main content area features the title 'Guidelines for Access to Public Records: California Public Records Act (Government Code section 7920.000, et seq.)'. Below the title is a paragraph of text explaining that public records in the possession of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection are available for inspection and copies. A blue button labeled 'GovQA Portal' is prominently displayed. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Requesting Inspection or Copies of Public Records' with detailed instructions on how to submit a request.

**Guidelines for Access to Public Records: California Public Records Act (Government Code section 7920.000, et seq.)**

Public records in the possession of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department) which are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act shall be available for inspection, and copies of such public records shall be provided, pursuant to these guidelines. These guidelines are posted in all Department offices and on the department's public website. A copy of these guidelines is available upon request without cost.

Visit the CAL FIRE Public Records Center at GovQA to access historical Public Record Act requests or submit a new request.

[GovQA Portal](#)

**Requesting Inspection or Copies of Public Records.** Requests should be sufficiently specific and focused to enable identification, location, and retrieval of the public records sought. If a request is not specific and focused, Department staff will: (1) assist the requester to identify public records that are responsive to the request or to the purpose of the request, (2) describe the information technology or physical location in which the public records exist, and (3) provide suggestions for overcoming any practical barriers to disclosure of the public records sought. The Department does not supplement responses to previous requests when new records are created or received. A separate request must be submitted each time records are sought.

To ensure accuracy in responding to a request for public records, the Department encourages all requests to be submitted in writing, including by facsimile or by electronic







## Information Needed to Request a Copy of a Report:

- Incident date - Required
- Incident address – Required
- Name of responding fire department – Preferred
- Incident Number – Preferred
  - *Fire Personnel or Dispatch*

# Benefits of NFIRS & Reporting Data

- Emergency incident data can be queried at the *Local, County, State, or Federal level*
- Fire departments can use to show casualty information, department activity, and justify budgets with summary and statistical data
  - ✓ *Analyze the severity and reach of a fire problem*
  - ✓ *Develop public education campaigns*
  - ✓ *Make recommendations for codes and standards*
  - ✓ *Determine consumer product failures*
  - ✓ *Identify the focus for research efforts.*
  - ✓ *Support legislation*



# Redbook

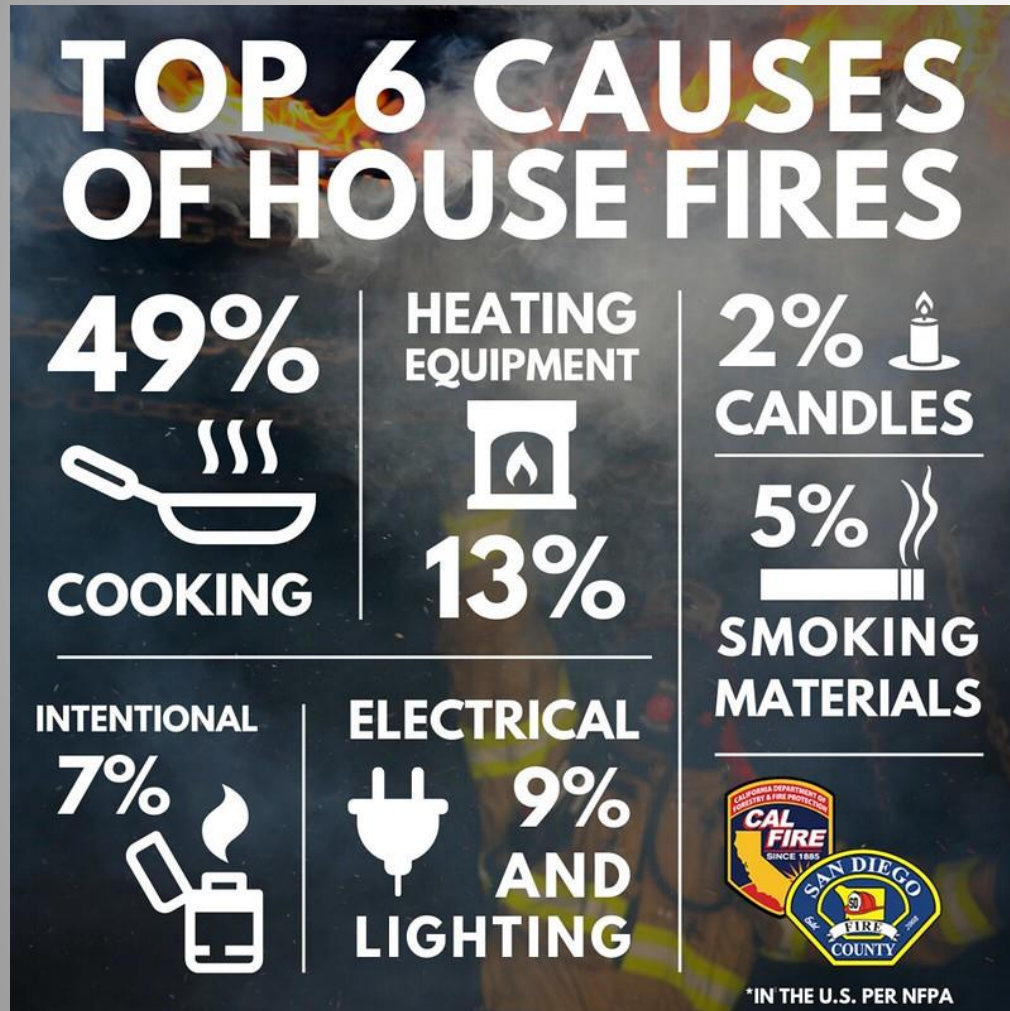


## CAL FIRE's annual report on State Responsibility Area (SRA) wildland fire activity

- Found on *CalStats public website*
- Collected since **1943**
- ***Requires all wildland fires in SRA*** to be documented via the NFIRS
- Data used to reliably query stats and identify trends



# The Result



In 2021 -

- Over **29 million responses** to **all types** of incidents by fire departments
- **1.1 million** fire responses in **US**
- Over **3 million** total incidents in **CA**
- Over **13,000 house fires** in **CA**

# Question?

## Contact Information:

### Mike Morlan

Deputy Chief

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# Upcoming Webinars



Webinars held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 11:30 AM via Zoom!

- 3/27/2023 - Strategic Fire Plan and Unit Fire Plans
- 4/10/2023
- 4/24/2023
- 5/8/2023
- 5/22/2023

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