

# Fear Spreading Like Wildfire

Wildfires in California, their effects on ecosystems and what we can do to solve the problem

By Bella Clarico



"...fire can be deadly, destroying homes, wildlife habitat and timber, and polluting the air with emissions harmful to human health" according to the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

The area affected that I am focusing on is the state of California as a whole and all of the wildfires that happened in the year 2018. This map does a good job of showing what areas are at higher risk than others.



If humans can take the time to take a second look at their carbon footprint and reduce the amount of carbon emissions they put in the air, people would realize that the key to a healthier earth is less emissions and more earth friendly practices like recycling and not wasting resources.



The effects of wildfires are devastating. Homes and habitats are burned to a crisp and the ash and smoke that is left in the atmosphere causes breathing problems as well as dirty living environments. The Center For Disease Control and Prevention says, "Smoke can stay in the air for days after a wildfire ends"



This is a map provided by SFGate shows areas as of March 8th 2018 in California that are dry and where there is a greater chance of fires in those areas, especially considering California's history with droughts.



"The California wildfires are affecting more than just organic life. Particularly high temperatures are forming new clouds, called pyrocumulus clouds....in California, the clouds are making firefighting efforts more difficult. Pyrocumulus clouds can lead to sudden, dramatic temperature swings, which can create unpredictable and severe winds that fan the wildfire flames" according to National Geographic.



## CA Wildfires are Preventable

*We Only have 1 earth and we do not get a second chance with another*

Global warming is a real issue and the carbon footprint we are leaving will affect and may completely change the earth as we know it. The dangers that wildfires present are very real and very close to home, but they are preventable if we take the correct measures to sustain our earth.

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