

NEWS BRIEF

Dixie Fire Becoming CA's Second-largest Fire in History

The [Dixie Fire](#), which has been burning in Northern California since July 13, has officially become the state's second-largest wildfire of all time.

The only fire known to have been more devastating was the August 2020 Complex Fire, which destroyed more than 1 million acres.

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At least 12,000 people across eight counties remain under evacuation orders related to both the Dixie Fire and 11 other fires raging throughout California.

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The Extent of the Dixie Fire

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), the Dixie Fire has burned over 480,000 acres, and at least 870 buildings have been destroyed. Officials estimate more than 14,000 structures remain threatened by the threat of the fire.

Officials are no longer providing an estimated containment date, and as of Aug. 10, the fire is only about 25% contained. More than 5,800 fire personnel, 30 helicopters and hundreds of fire trucks have been brought in to assist with the blaze.

Though no deaths have been reported, four people remain missing after the fire devastated the town of Greenville. Three firefighters have been injured while fighting the fire.

What Caused the Fire?

CalFire, along with the Butte County District Attorney, is investigating the fire's cause. It is believed that equipment operated by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG & E) started the fire. Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey told [North State Public Radio](#) that a 12,000-volt line near the Cresta Dam in Feather River Canyon fell into a wooded area and sparked the blaze.

Staying Safe

Wheeler & Taylor Insurance will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. If you live near the Dixie Fire, please follow orders and guidelines issues by local emergency services to stay safe.

Remember, before evacuation is necessary, follow these steps:

- Create a Wildfire Action Plan for your family. Being ready to go deal with wildfires means knowing when to evacuate and what to do if you become trapped.
- Monitor wildfires in your area and know your community's emergency response plan, evacuation orders and evacuation centers.

Leave as soon as fire officials recommend evacuation to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road

congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating the forest fire area early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire, they will not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate.

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

When returning home, make sure to:

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

Source: CalFire