

Effect of Fires on the Health of California's Populace and Economy

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Abstract:

Temperatures have gotten progressively warmer in California. Invasive plant species have displaced native varieties. Drought is more frequent. The ecosystem has changed resulting in devastating fires that often do not burn out until they reach the ocean. This presentation will discuss the impact of climate change on the frequency, dynamics and severity of forest fires on California's economy and the health of its populace, the impact on our already strained health care facilities, firefighting efforts, and effect on respiratory health and trauma and stress. Economically, due to property damage, loss of business revenue, impact on tourism and damage to agriculture, it is anticipated that the loss in 2024 to California will be approximately 20 billion dollars.