

Top 20 Largest California Wildfires

	FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1	AUGUST COMPLEX (Under Investigation) *	August 2020	Tehama	471,185	26	1
2	MENDOCINO COMPLEX (Under Investigation)	July 2018	Colusa County, Lake County, Mendocino County & Glenn County	459,123	280	1
3	SCU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Under Investigation) *	August 2020	Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin	396,624	224	0
4	LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Under Investigation) *	August 2020	Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Yolo & Solano	363,220	1,491	5
5	THOMAS (Powerlines)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,063	2
6	CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
7	RUSH (Lightning)	August 2012	Lassen	271,911 CA / 43,666 NV	0	0
8	RIM (Human Related)	August 2013	Tuolumne	257,314	112	0
9	ELKHORN (Under Investigation) *	August 2020	Trinity County, Tehama County, Humboldt County	255,309	25	0
10	NORTH COMPLEX (Under Investigation) *	August 2020	Plumas	252,163	1	0
11	ZACA (Human Related)	July 2007	Santa Barbara	240,207	1	0
12	CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County, Trinity County	229,651	1,614	8
13	MATILIJA (Undetermined)	September 1932	Ventura	220,000	0	0
14	WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
15	KLAMATH THEATER COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Siskiyou	192,038	0	2
16	MARBLE CONE (Lightning)	July 1977	Monterey	177,866	0	0
17	CREEK FIRE (Under Investigation) *	September 2020	Fresno County, Madera County	175,893	361	0
18	LAGUNA (Powerlines)	September 1970	San Diego	175,425	382	5
19	BASIN COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Monterey	162,818	58	0
20	DAY FIRE (Human Related)	September 2006	Ventura	162,702	11	0

There is no doubt that there were fires with significant acreage burned in years prior to 1932, but those records are less reliable, and this list is meant to give an overview of the large fires in more recent times.

This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.

*Numbers not final.



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