



California Forestry Association

1215 K Street, Suite 1830
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-6592 fax (916) 444-0170
www.foresthealth.org cfa@foresthealth.org

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR REPORTERS & EDITORS

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Media Contact:

Bob Mion, California Forestry Association
916-444-6592, bobmion@foresthealth.org

Looming Wildfire Season Concerns Industry, Scientists, Environmentalists

Millions of forested acres, homes stand at high risk

Sacramento, CA—Destructive wildfires have become annual events in California, costing Californians more than a billion dollars to fight every year. Driven in large part by an uncharacteristic abundance of forest fuels, catastrophic wildfires can cause significant environmental damage and threaten more than three million California homes.

Issue: Last summer California was engulfed by 2,000 fires and, facing a third straight year of drought, Californians should brace for more costly and environmentally devastating wildfires this coming season. June marks the unofficial start of the 2009 wildfire season.

High-intensity wildfires cause severe environmental consequences every year. Forest management can reduce the threat and severity of wildfire, but fuel reduction and forest management efforts are often blocked even while taxpayer costs and environmental risks rise.

Inquiries: The California Forestry Association is available to statewide news media to serve as a key source of objective information, comprehensive research and credible scientific data, and as a conduit for contacting respected authorities, industry experts and leading scientists to aid reporters in story development. CFA is best positioned to provide credible and expert sources within the forest science, water and air quality, climate change impacts, fishery biology, cost of wildfire and fire ecology fields.

To schedule interviews with California's leading scientists, licensed foresters and/or fire experts, contact the California Forestry Association, 1215 K Street, Suite 1830, Sacramento, CA 95814 | 916-444-6592 | www.foresthealth.org

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Story

Themes: CFA can assist reporters in developing coverage of wildfire and related topics:

- 1) Greenhouse gas emissions from wildfire, and carbon storage from forestry
- 2) Wildfire's impact on air and water quality, fish and wildlife, protected species
- 3) Sustaining rural economies and resilient forests
- 4) The role of litigation in wildfire severity, community safety and habitat destruction
- 5) Utilizing forest fuels for clean renewable energy
- 6) Differences between historic fire and modern wildfire

- Cases:**
- 1) The 2007 Angora Fire burned 3,100 acres, 52 percent of it in high-intensity burns – the kind that rob soils of their nutrients, destroy owl-nesting sites and fill watercourses with thousands of cubic yards of ash, debris and sediment.
 - 2) The 2008 Moonlight Fire destroyed more than 20 spotted owl nesting sites in areas where fuel reduction projects scheduled in 2004 were blocked by some of the 57 appeals and lawsuits filed on the Quincy Library Group Pilot Project.

For More

Details: Visit www.foresthealth.org for a downloadable set of informational materials including fact sheets, graphs, maps, data points, scientific reports and other reference resources for use in reporting.

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CFA is central to California's forest products profession. This association is committed to keeping the public informed in a rapidly changing world. Issues surrounding efforts to keep California forests healthy, sustainable and well-managed for water, wildlife, the economy and protected against disease and wildfire are plentiful. Our goal is to provide informative facts, statistics and current news.