



WEST

Forging a Resilient West

CSG West Wildfire & Disaster
Preparedness Committee

Alaska Legislature

Presentation Feb 3, 2026

Joe Kolman, Policy Consultant



AK Sen. Jesse Bjorkman (R-AK-000D)



AK Sen. Scott Kawasaki (D-AK-000P)



AK Rep. Ashley Carrick (D-AK-035)



AK Rep. Sara Hannan (D-AK-004)



AK Rep. Ky Holland (D-AK-009)

A Western Problem Needs Western Solutions

Dillon Fire, CA, August 2025. Photo by Jodi Plotcher.



In the Built Environment

- Home Hardening
- Defensible Space
- Critical Infrastructure
- Insurance



Land Management

- Funding for Suppression versus Prevention
- Federal-State Cooperation
- Workforce Development
- Prescribed burning



Knowledge & Technology

- What are other state legislatures doing?
- How can new technology help?
- How do we learn from each other?



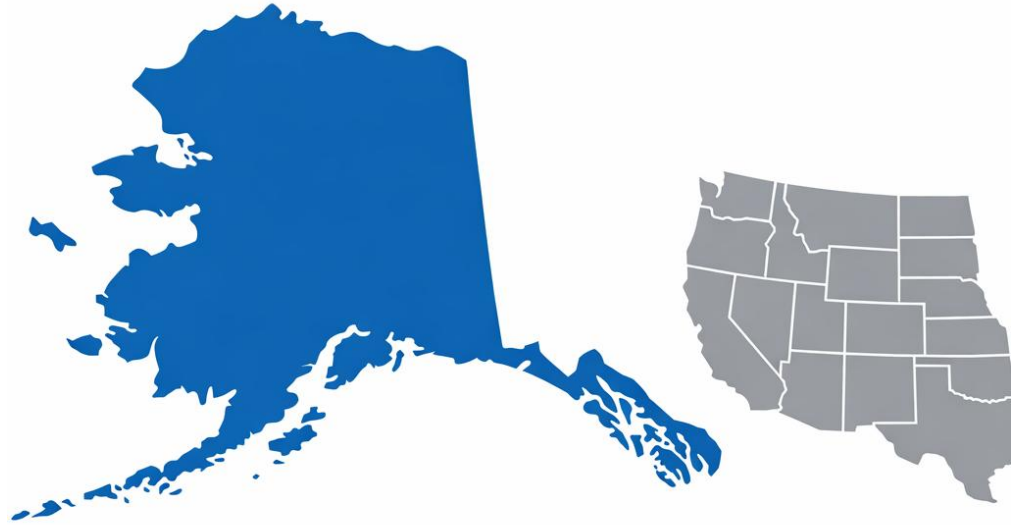
A photograph of three firefighters in full gear, including helmets and backpacks, standing in a forest. The background is filled with thick orange smoke and flames, indicating a wildfire. The firefighters are seen from the back, looking towards the fire.

Wildfires & Disaster Preparedness Committee

Strategic Pillars

- Centralized Knowledge Repository
- Legislative Tracking
- Regional Collaboration
- Empowered Leadership

Legislative Tracking



Scale Comparison

Dashboard Tutorial on Zoom



Link

Passcode: Hd&n=1BP



What We Do

The Wildfires & Disaster Preparedness Committee provides an important forum for policymakers to address and exchange ideas to address wildfires and natural disasters. This includes wildfire preparedness, prevention, and mitigation; protecting people and land; addressing the financial implications of wildfires and other natural disasters; and enhancing state – federal cooperation. For more information on the committee, please contact [Joe Kolman](#), Policy Consultant.

CSG West Wildfire & Disaster Preparedness Members

Filter this list...

Submit

WY Sen. Jim Anderson (R-WY-028)
Type: Wyoming Senator | Organization: Wyoming Senate

AK Sen. Jesse Bjorkman (R-AK-0000)
Type: Alaska Senator | Organization: Alaska Senate

WY Sen. Ogden Driskill (R-WY-001)
Type: Wyoming Senator | Organization: Wyoming Senate

OR Sen. Jeff Golden (D-OR-003)

39 Officials

Committee Meetings

Forging A Resilient West: Launch Meeting (Dec. 2025) Passcode: &0mb3j*0
Pay Now to Reduce Fires — or Pay More Later (Annual Meeting Recap (Sept. 2025)
Perspectives on Land Management (Aug. 2025) Passcode: 9Fd7*0&. Federal Wildfire Policy Overview (July 2025) Passcode: v7*85R5y
Introductions and Overview (May 2025) Passcode: +@!sc=

2026 Wildfire Bills Tracking -- UPDATED DAILY

2026 Session Briefings

Jan. 15 - Building Codes, Home Hardening, & Defensible Space

2026 Wildfire Bills by State

Daily Tracking of Wildfire Bills in 2026 Legislative Sessions



Wildfire Bills Enacted by State in 2025



2025 Wildfire Bills Enacted

Filter this list...

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A.B.812: Recall and resentencing: incarcerated firefighters.
State: CA | Sponsor: CA Assemb. Josh Lowenthal (D CA 069) | Status: Became Public Law | Last Action: Oct 19th, 2025

S.B.514: Wildfire prevention: qualified entities: assessments: California Fire Service Training and Education Program Act.
State: CA | Sponsor: CA Sen. Christopher Calabrese (D CA 001) | Status: Became Public Law | Last Action: Oct 19th, 2025

A.B.1455: State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection: defensible space requirements: ember-resistant zones: emergency regulations: California Environmental Quality Act.
State: CA | Sponsor: CA Assemb. Isaac Bryan (D CA 055) | Status: Became Public Law | Last Action: Oct 19th, 2025

Bite Size Briefs

- Overview: Forging A Resilient West
- 2025 Wildfire Insurance Legislation Enacted
- 2025 Home Hardening & Defensible Space Legislation Enacted
- Land Management and Insurance Annual Meeting Recap

Reading Room

- Safeguarding Fire-Prone Homes Is a Collective Action Problem. (New York Times, 2026)
- Wildfire and insurance options for homeowner coverage. (Headwaters Economics, 2025)
- Cascading wildfire insurance issues impact local and state budgets. (Headwaters Economics, 2025)
- 8 blazing new technologies that could spark change in wildfire risk reduction. (World Meteorological Organization, 2024)
- Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission Report (2023 with updates by Alliance for Wildfire Resilience)
- WILDLAND FIRE EMBERS AND FLAMES: Home Mitigations That Matter. (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, 2023)
-

Utilities & Wildfire



Graphic Generated by CoPilot

Vegetation Management

- Corridor management and hazard trees
- Identify dying trees; structural integrity
- Predictive analytics

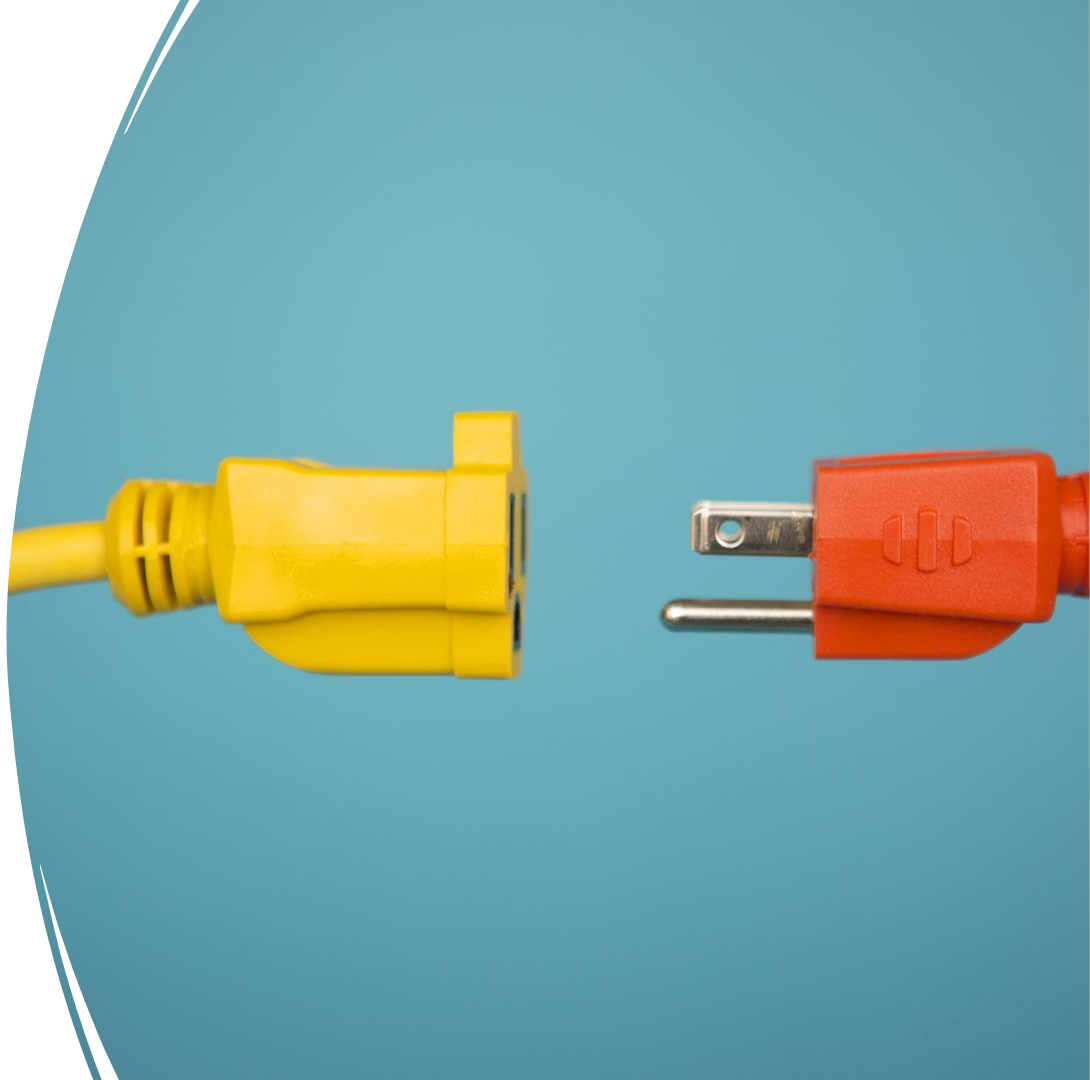


Grid Hardening

- Bury
- Wrap lines
- Steel posts



Power Shut Offs



Mitigation Plans; Liability; Insurance



Enacted Bills

California AB 1054 (2019)

- **Main Focus:** Wildfire liability reform, utility sector stabilization, and creation of a Wildfire Fund.
- **Mitigation Planning:** Requires utilities to submit and implement wildfire mitigation plans, subject to CPUC approval.
- **Liability/Cost Recovery:** Limits strict liability for utilities, creates a \$21B Wildfire Fund to pay claims, and allows cost recovery for prudent expenses.
- **Oversight:** California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), new Wildfire Safety Division.
- **Unique:** Socializes wildfire risk, strengthens utility accountability, and provides rapid compensation to wildfire victims.

California SB 254 (2025)

- **Main Focus:** Comprehensive wildfire, climate, and energy infrastructure reform.
- **Mitigation Planning:** Revises wildfire mitigation plan requirements (every 4 years), strengthens oversight, and accelerates clean energy transmission.
- **Liability/Cost Recovery:** Expands Wildfire Fund (up to \$10B in new bonds), creates new funding mechanisms, and introduces tax credits for transmission projects.
- **Oversight:** CPUC, California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, new Transmission Infrastructure Accelerator.
- **Unique:** Focus on decarbonization, public-private partnerships, and insurance market stabilization.



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Enacted Bills

Idaho – S1183 (2025)

- **Mitigation Plan:** Public utility electric corporations must file wildfire mitigation plans with the Public Utilities Commission.
- **Update/Reporting:** Annual review and update; commission has 6 months to approve/reject.
- **Liability:** Rebuttable presumption of non-negligence for utilities that implement approved plans.
- **Oversight:** Idaho Public Utilities Commission.
- **Statute of Limitations:** Not specified in summary.
- **Unique:** Utilities can access private/public land for mitigation if initially denied; emergency clause for immediate effect.

Wyoming HB0192 (2025)

- **Mitigation Plan:** Public utilities must submit wildfire mitigation plans every 5 years, with annual compliance reports.
- **Update/Reporting:** 5-year plan cycle; annual compliance reporting.
- **Liability:** Economic losses recoverable if non-compliance or gross negligence is proven; good faith negotiation required before litigation.
- **Oversight:** Public Service Commission (120 days to approve).
- **Statute of Limitations:** 4 years for claims.
- **Unique:** Cost recovery possible but not guaranteed; does not alter existing third-party agreements.



Enacted Bills

Montana – HB 490 (2025)

- **Mitigation Plan:** All electric facilities providers must prepare and implement wildfire mitigation plans; initial plan due by Dec 31, 2025, updates every 3 years.
- **Update/Reporting:** 3-year update cycle; annual compliance reports by June 1.
- **Liability:** Removes strict liability; requires proof of failure to exercise reasonable care; rebuttable presumption of reasonableness if plan followed.
- **Oversight:** Public review and comment; Public Service Commission/local authorities approve.
- **Statute of Limitations:** 3 years for civil actions.
- **Unique:** Coordination with state/local/tribal wildfire plans; insurance payouts considered for subrogation.

Utah – SB 224 (2024)

- **Mitigation Plan:** Amends energy resource planning and wildfire liability for large-scale electric utilities; allows creation of a fire fund.
- **Update/Reporting:** Not specified for plan updates; focuses on resource planning and fire fund administration.
- **Liability:** Two-year statute of limitations for fire claims; caps on recoverable damages (with inflation adjustments); exceptions for non-compliance with approved wildfire protection plans.
- **Oversight:** Public Service Commission.
- **Statute of Limitations:** 2 years for fire claims.
- **Unique:** Utilities may create a fire fund to supplement insurance; explicit damage caps; mandates consideration of dispatchability in resource planning.



Proposed Bills

Alaska – HB 252

- **Mitigation Plan:** Required for all electric utilities; must include risk assessment, vegetation management, facility maintenance, power interruption, and coordination with fire agencies.
- **Update/Reporting:** Annual updates; immediate action/reporting for high-risk conditions.
- **Liability:** Utilities presumed non-negligent if they comply with an approved plan; liability limited except for gross negligence or non-compliance.
- **Oversight:** Department of Natural Resources approves plans.
- **Statute of Limitations:** Not specified in summary.
- **Unique:** Written agreements with property owners; immediate notification/action for high risk;



Proposed Bills

New Mexico H.B. 267

- **Focus:** Requires electric utilities to develop, submit, and update wildfire mitigation plans to the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). Plans must cover risk assessment, infrastructure maintenance, vegetation management, emergency response, and public communication.
- **Liability:** Limits utility liability for wildfire damages if operating under an approved plan, except for intentional or malicious harm. One-year statute of limitations for wildfire claims.
- **Cost Recovery:** Utilities can recover mitigation costs via a dedicated rider on customer bills. Grant program for rural co-ops.
- **Oversight:** PRC certifies compliance; annual reporting required.
- **Unique:** Public posting of mitigation documents; grant program for rural co-ops.

New Mexico S.B. 161

- **Focus:** Nearly identical to H.B. 267, requires mitigation plans, annual compliance, and PRC oversight.
- **Liability:** Limits damages, sets a one-year statute of limitations, and provides a rebuttable presumption of utility compliance.
- **Cost Recovery:** Rider mechanism for cost recovery; grant program for rural co-ops.
- **Unique:** Explicitly shields utilities from liability for public safety power shutoffs if following approved plans.



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Proposed Bills

Hawaii S.B. 2943 & H.B. 1814

- **Focus:** Mandates defensible space and vegetation clearance around structures and electric lines. Utilities must maintain firebreaks and minimum clearances, with stricter rules for higher voltages.
- **Liability:** Fines up to \$10,000 per violation; utilities and property owners liable for damages if non-compliant.
- **Oversight:** Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) enforces; rules for worker safety and prevailing wage.
- **Unique:** Private right of action for repeated violations; DLNR must seek federal/private funding.

New Mexico H.B. 171

- **Focus:** Establishes a Wildfire Fund, financed by utility surcharges, to reimburse claims for utility-caused wildfires. Participation requires approved mitigation plans.
- **Liability:** Utilities must comply with PRC standards; fund disbursements only after three years of participation.
- **Oversight:** Independent administrator manages fund; annual reporting to PRC and legislature.
- **Unique:** Fund must grow by 10% of projected risk annually; new PRC safety bureau created.



Proposed Bills

Oregon S.B. 1553 & H.B. 4077

- **S.B. 1553:** Prohibits electric companies from passing wildfire litigation/settlement costs to consumers if found negligent. Requires escrow funds for judgments and allocates punitive damages to a Wildfire Recovery Fund.
- **H.B. 4077:** Authorizes utilities to issue bonds/securitize debt for insurance costs, including wildfire risk, with PUC approval.
- **Unique:** S.B. 1553 applies retroactively to wildfires since 2020; H.B. 4077 focuses on financial risk management.





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Joe Kolman, Policy Consultant
406.570.2271
joe.Kolman@outlook.com

* Bill summaries generated with Quorum Assistance.