



January 25, 2019

To: Members, California Fire Chiefs Association
Members, Fire Districts Association of California

From: Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocates

Re: FIRE Legislative Report – January 25, 2019

2019-2020 State Budget

The Legislature has begun the process of conducting hearings on the 2019-20 State Budget, wasting no time, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee has scheduled a hearing on wildfire preparedness and response on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the State Capitol.

Upcoming Informational Hearings

- On Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the State Capitol, the Assembly Housing and Assembly Local Government Committees will hold an informational hearing entitled: “Not Just Your Granny’s Granny Flat: An Examination of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Law and Policy Issues in California”.
- On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in the State Capitol, the Assembly Education Committee will hold an informational hearing entitled: “The Impact of California Wildfires on Public Schools: Response and Recovery”.

2019 EPIC Symposium to Feature Wildfire Prevention Technologies Panel

The California Energy Commission, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison are coming together at the 2019 EPIC Symposium for a joint panel session on **Wildfire Ignition Prevention**. The symposium is free and open to the public.

When: Tuesday, February 19, 2019; 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Where: [Sacramento Convention Center](#), 1400 J Street, Sacramento, Ca. 95814

[Register Here for the 2019 EPIC Symposium](#)

This panel features key members of the newly formed Electric Program Investment Charge Ignition Prevention Working Group. The discussion will include scientific and technological advancements that

can enhance California's extensive electric infrastructure to provide more accurate, effective, and timely prediction of wildfire risks, and mitigate the system's ignition risk.

- San Diego Gas & Electric will share their experience as an early adopter of new ignition prevention strategies such as drones, expanded weather monitoring systems, and fault detection.
- Southern California Edison will discuss improved inspection techniques to identify high-risk fire areas, new reclosers that reduce ignition potential post-fault, and analytics that identify damaged transmission infrastructure more quickly than is currently possible.
- The California Energy Commission will present an overview of its research supporting enhanced ignition prevention, the latest in wildfire research, and share an update on the EPIC Ignition Prevention Working Group, which aims to better coordinate research efforts.

Legislative Update

Some bills of relevance recently introduced include:

[Assembly Bill 170 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would attach civil liability on client employers for harassment of all workers supplied by labor contractors.

[Assembly Bill 171 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would prohibit an employer from discharging or retaliating in any manner against an employee who has been a victim of sexual harassment.

[Assembly Bill 196 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would expand the Paid Family Leave Program to provide a 100% wage replacement benefit for workers earning less than \$100,000 annually in order for them to care for an infant or seriously ill family member.

[Assembly Bill 247 \(Dahle\)](#) would provide that the State share for disaster project allocations to local agencies is up to 100% of total state eligible costs connected with the Klamathon Fire and the Carr Fire.

[Assembly Bill 248 \(Dahle\)](#) would state legislative intent to enact legislation for state allocations with respect to property tax revenue reductions resulting from re-assessments for damages incurred within Siskiyou and Shasta counties due to the Klamathon and Carr Fires.

[Senate Bill 133 \(Galgiani\)](#) would state legislative intent to enact legislation to create and fund a program for installing remote infrared cameras to help detect wildfires.