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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

Senator Monique Limón, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 1075	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	July 16, 2025
<b>Author:</b>	Bryan		
<b>Version:</b>	June 27, 2025 Amended		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
<b>Consultant:</b>	Genevieve Wong		

**Subject:** Fire protection: privately contracted fire prevention resources: public water sources

## SUMMARY

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to develop regulations prohibiting privately contracted private fire prevention resources from hooking up their equipment to public water sources, unless certain conditions are met.

## BACKGROUND AND EXISTING LAW

### ***Wildfire in California.***

Catastrophic and devastating wildfires have occurred repeatedly in the state in recent years. Thirteen of the 20 largest and 15 of the 20 most destructive wildland fires in state history have occurred since 2015. The 2020 August Complex Fire in northern California – the largest fire in California's modern history – burned over one million acres, and the 2021 Dixie Fire was almost one million acres. Two wildland fires in recent years burned over the crest of the Sierras, which had not been previously observed. In the last several years, tens of thousands of structures – mostly homes – have been destroyed from wildland fire, insured losses incurred are in the billions of dollars, prime habitat has been destroyed or damaged, and, tragically, hundreds of lives have been lost. Most recently, the Palisades and Eaton Fires in Los Angeles in January resulted in the loss of approximately 17,250 structures and 30 deaths.

### ***Privately-contracted private fire prevention resources.***

The Palisades and Eaton Fires have restarted the discussion of privately-contracted private fire prevention services with reports of these services supposedly hooking up to public water systems, putting additional pressure on already overstressed infrastructure. Following the 2017 California wildfire season, and reports of private contractors hired by insurance companies to provide prevention and protection services for homeowners, the Legislature approved and the Governor signed AB 2380 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 636, Statutes of 2018), requiring Cal OES, in collaboration with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the board of directors of the FIREScope Program, to develop regulations to govern the use of their equipment by privately contracted private fire prevention resources during an active fire incident. Specifically, the regulations were required to include, but not be limited to, that all equipment shall be clearly labeled nonemergency; privately contracted private fire prevention resource vehicles shall not use emergency lights or sirens; and privately contracted private fire prevention resource vehicles shall not have any labeling that indicates emergency personnel or fire department.

***FIRESCOPE Program.***

The Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies Program (FIRESCOPE) is jointly administered by Cal OES, CAL FIRE, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal to maintain and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of managing multiagency firefighting resources in responding to an incident. According to its website, the FIRESCOPE Program “is intended ... to unify [the] various fire agencies together into one voice and direction. [...] The synergy created by these diverse fire agencies truly provides valuable input to the Director of Cal OES in addressing the future of fire/rescue services in California and assures excellent representation for the continued development of FIRESCOPE products.”

***Existing law:***

- 1) The California Emergency Services Act establishes Cal OES within the office of the Governor, under the supervision of the Director of Emergency Services (Director).
- 2) Provides that Cal OES is responsible for the state’s emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or manmade disasters and emergencies.
- 3) Prescribes a process for the declaration of a local emergency and permits a local emergency to be proclaimed only by the governing body of a city or county or by an official designated by ordinance adopted by that governing body.
- 4) Establishes the FIRESCOPE Program, administered by Cal OES, to maintain and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of managing multiagency firefighting resources in responding to an incident.
- 5) Requires Cal OES, in collaboration with CAL FIRE and the board of directors of the FIRESCOPE Program, to develop standards and regulations for any privately contracted private fire prevention resources operating during an active fire incident in California.
- 6) Requires Cal OES, in collaboration with CAL FIRE and the board of directors of the FIRESCOPE Program, to develop regulations to govern the use of equipment used by privately contracted private fire prevention resources during an active fire incident. Requires the regulations to include, but is not limited to:
  - a) All equipment to be clearly labeled nonemergency.
  - b) Privately contracted private prevention resource vehicles are prohibited from using emergency lights or sirens.
  - c) Privately contracted private fire prevention resource vehicles are prohibited from having any labeling that indicates emergency personnel or fire department.

**PROPOSED LAW**

This bill would:

- 1) Additionally require the regulations include that privately contracted private fire prevention resources shall not hook up their equipment to public water sources, unless approved by incident command or the authority having jurisdiction over the active fire incident and unless the equipment includes a backflow prevention device.
- 2) Specify that the regulations governing the use of equipment used by privately contracted fire prevention resources during an active fire incident does not alter, impair, or interfere with the authority of a community water system to operate a water distribution system.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT**

According to the author, "AB 1075 would protect municipal water systems by prohibiting private firefighters from hooking up to public water sources. During the Palisades and Eaton Fires, LA residents were asked to limit their water usage to minimize demands on water systems. Similarly, private firefighters working for a select few individuals should limit their reliance on these systems. Public fire hydrants are a public good and we must preserve them for use by official fire departments during a fire incident."

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION**

None received

**COMMENTS**

***This bill is double referred.*** This bill has been referred to both the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and this Committee for hearing. This Committee is the second committee of referral. This bill was heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee on June 10, 2025, and passed out with a vote of 14 – 0 – 1. Elements of this bill under the jurisdiction of the Senate Governmental Organization Committee are included here for completeness and context only.

**SUPPORT**

California Professional Firefighters

**OPPOSITION**

None received

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