

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2473 (Committee on Emergency Management)
As Amended April 7, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC) to proactively coordinate with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the California State Warning Center to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions with all potentially impacted agencies and create, and widely share, a written report analyzing extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions; and specifies a state of emergency or a local emergency may be proclaimed based on information in the report.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires the WFTIIC to proactively coordinate with the NWS and the California State Warning Center to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions to ensure wide distribution of information for all potentially impacted agencies.
- 2) Requires the WFTIIC to create a written report, as specified, analyzing any extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions, as specified, and disseminate it to the California State Warning Center.
- 3) Requires the California State Warning Center to proactively disseminate the report and related information to the relevant operational area duty officers and public safety answering points, as specified.
- 4) Specifies a state of emergency or a local emergency may be proclaimed based on information in the report.
- 5) Requires WFTIIC to create and disseminate, via the standardized emergency management system structure (SEMS), a training program for operational areas, and their emergency managers, to interpret the analysis of the reports and learn the level of urgency, information, and potential actions to take when receiving this report.

COMMENTS

California's Wildfire Forecast & Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC). The WFTIIC serves as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, threat intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination. Established by SB 209 (Dodd), Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019, the WFTIIC also coordinates wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing among federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, utilities, other service providers, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. WFTIIC's website includes real-time data on active weather watches and incidents, forecasts, and threat indices. The WFTIIC's mission is to 1) collect, assess, and analyze fire weather data, atmospheric conditions, and other threat indicators that could lead to catastrophic wildfires and 2) develop and share intelligence products for government decisionmakers to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfire incidents and safeguard the lives, property, and resources of California.

California State Warning Center: The California State Warning Center (CSWC) is the official State Warning Point. The CSWC is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to identify potential and emerging threats across the state, give alert notification to all levels of government, and provide critical situational awareness during an emergency or disaster. The mission of the CSWC is to be a central intelligence hub for statewide emergency communications and notifications. The CSWC serves as a highly reliable and accurate "one-stop" resource for emergency management, law enforcement, fire, and key decision making personnel throughout the state.

Annually, CSWC staff make over 1,155,000 notifications due to weather related warnings, fires, power outages or power utility Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), seismic incidents, and other significant and potentially significant incidents that may have emergency management impacts to California. In addition, CSWC staff complete an average of 10,000 hazardous material spill reports, which results in more than 395,000 hazardous materials notifications to federal, state and local government agencies.

California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS): In order to respond to frequent and multiple disasters occurring anytime and anywhere in the state, it is important that emergency response agencies operate within a clear and consistent organizational structure. SEMS is the cornerstone of California's emergency response system and the fundamental structure for the response phase of emergency management. The system unifies all elements of California's emergency management community into a single integrated system and standardizes key elements.

According to the Author

As California continues to face catastrophic wildfires, the state must fully leverage its existing forecasting capabilities to ensure local emergency managers receive timely, actionable intelligence ahead of extreme fire weather. This bill requires the Wildfire Forecast & Threat Intelligence Integration Center to proactively provide written reports to all potentially impacted agencies when life-threatening conditions are forecasted, including clear information on the severity, urgency, and timing of the threat. By ensuring this information is consistently shared in advance, the bill equips state and local officials with the situational awareness needed to take early action, including making timely emergency declarations that can save lives and protect communities."

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations:

- 1) Costs of approximately \$3.3 million in the first year and \$3.1 million annually thereafter to OES for five additional positions and a one-time consulting contract to create and proactively disseminate extreme fire weather reports and the related training program for operational area emergency managers (General Fund (GF)). CAL FIRE will also incur its own costs for its role as a joint leader of the WFTIIC (GF).

- 2) Cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, across all state agencies to execute directives if the Governor proclaims a state of emergency in response to an extreme fire weather report (GF or special fund). The magnitude of cost pressures depends on when or whether the proclamation would otherwise occur absent the report, as well as the fact pattern of the weather event and response efforts.

VOTES

ASM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: 6-0-1

YES: Ransom, Hadwick, Arambula, Bennett, Calderon, DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bains

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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