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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**Senator Henry Stern**  
**Chair**  
**2025 - 2026 Regular**

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**Bill No:** AB 2473 **Hearing Date:** 6/30/2026  
**Author:** Committee on Emergency Management  
**Version:** 4/7/2026 Amended  
**Urgency:** No **Fiscal:** Yes  
**Consultant:** Cassie Royce

**SUBJECT:** Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center:  
forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions

**SUMMARY:** Directs the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC) to proactively coordinate with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the California State Warning Center (CSWC) to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions with potentially affected agencies, as specified.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Designates the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) under the California Emergency Services Act as the lead state agency responsible for state emergency response to natural, technological, or man-made disasters, as specified.
- 2) Provides that CAL FIRE, in accordance with a plan approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, is responsible for the prevention and suppression of forest fires.
- 3) Establishes the WFTIIC, jointly led by Cal OES and CAL FIRE to serve as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire-related forecasting, weather information, and threat intelligence.
- 4) Authorizes the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency, and local agencies to proclaim a local emergency, when specified disaster conditions are met.

- 5) Requires all state agencies to use the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for emergency and disaster response involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the WFTIIC to proactively coordinate with the NWS and the CSWC to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions to ensure wide distribution of information for all potentially impacted agencies.
- 2) Directs the WFTIIC to create a written report with specified information analyzing forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions and disseminate it to the CSWC.
- 3) Requires the CSWC to proactively disseminate the extreme fire weather report in 2) above and related information to operational area duty officers and public safety answering points within the geography of the impacted area, and provides that Cal OES duty officers shall proactively contact operational area duty officers, as specified, to share the extreme fire weather report.
- 4) Authorizes the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency and a local agency to proclaim a local emergency based on the information contained in the extreme fire weather report.
- 5) Requires the WFTIIC to create and disseminate, via SEMS, a training program for operational areas, and their emergency managers, to interpret the analysis of the extreme fire weather report and educate the managers on the urgency, information, and potential actions to take upon receipt of the report.

## **Background**

*Author's statement.* 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."

*The WFTIIC.* The WFTIIC serves as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat-related intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination. It coordinates wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing among federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, utilities, other service providers, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. According to its website, the mission of the WFTIIC is two-fold: 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. WFTIIC's website includes real-time data on active weather watches and incidents, forecasts, and threat indices, providing advance planning information to incident commanders on the ground.

*The CSWC.* Cal OES operates the CSWC, which is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to identify potential and emerging threats to California and provide alert notification to all levels of government. The CSWC operates various notification platforms, uses standardized messaging and communication techniques, and maintains 24-hour emergency points of contact for local government, state agencies, critical infrastructure operators and other key partners.

The CSWC receives and makes thousands of notifications annually. Upon detection of a threat, the CSWC coordinates information needed to determine the potential impact of the event and provides notifications, monitors progress and provides situational updates until the event is resolved. A Mobile Command Unit that takes 15 minutes to set up and be operational was recently added to the CSWC to ensure seamless continuity of operations in the event of a disruption or an emergency impacting the primary CSWC facility.

*The SEMS.* SEMS is the state framework used to standardize emergency response involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies to ensure response activities are performed rapidly and effectively during an incident. According to Cal OES, SEMS uses the Incident Command System (ICS) to provide the on-scene emergency management structure needed to respond to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. The ICS combines facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications to operate within a common organizational structure responsible for managing resources effectively.

This bill tasks the WFTICC with producing reports related to extreme fire weather forecasts and proactively disseminating this information and a related training program for operational area emergency managers through SEMS.

**Prior/Related Legislation**

SB 209 (Dodd), Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019, requires Cal OES and CAL FIRE to jointly establish and administer the WFTIIC.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:**

None on file

**OPPOSITION:**

None on file