

Top 20 Largest California Wildfires

FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 THOMAS* (Under Investigation)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,620*	1,063*	1
2 CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
3 RUSH (Lightning)	August 2012	Lassen	271,911 CA / 43,666 NV	0	0
4 RIM (Human Related)	August 2013	Tuolumne	257,314	112	0
5 ZACA (Human Related)	July 2007	Santa Barbara	240,207	1	0
6 MATILIJA (Undetermined)	September 1932	Ventura	220,000	0	0
7 WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
8 KLAMATH THEATER COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Siskiyou	192,038	0	2
9 MARBLE CONE (Lightning)	July 1977	Monterey	177,866	0	0
10 LAGUNA (POWERLINES)	September 1970	San Diego	175,425	382	5
11 BASIN COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Monterey	162,818	58	0
12 DAY FIRE (Human Related)	September 2006	Ventura	162,702	11	0
13 STATION (Human Related)	August 2009	Los Angeles	160,557	209	2
14 ROUGH (Lightning)	July 2015	Fresno	151,623	4	0
15 McNALLY (Human Related)	July 2002	Tulare	150,696	17	0
16 STANISLAUS COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 1987	Tuolumne	145,980	28	1
17 BIG BAR COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 1999	Trinity	140,948	0	0
18 HAPPY CAMP COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2014	Siskiyou	134,056	6	0
19 SOBERANES (Illegal Campfire)	July 2016	Monterey	132,127	68	1
20 CAMPBELL COMPLEX (Powerlines)	August 1990	Tehama	125,892	27	0

*The Thomas Fire information will likely change until the fire is contained.

*There is no doubt that there were fires with significant acreage burned in years prior to 1932, but those records are less reliable, and this list is meant to give an overview of the large fires in more recent times.

**This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.



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