

# October 2017 Fire Siege

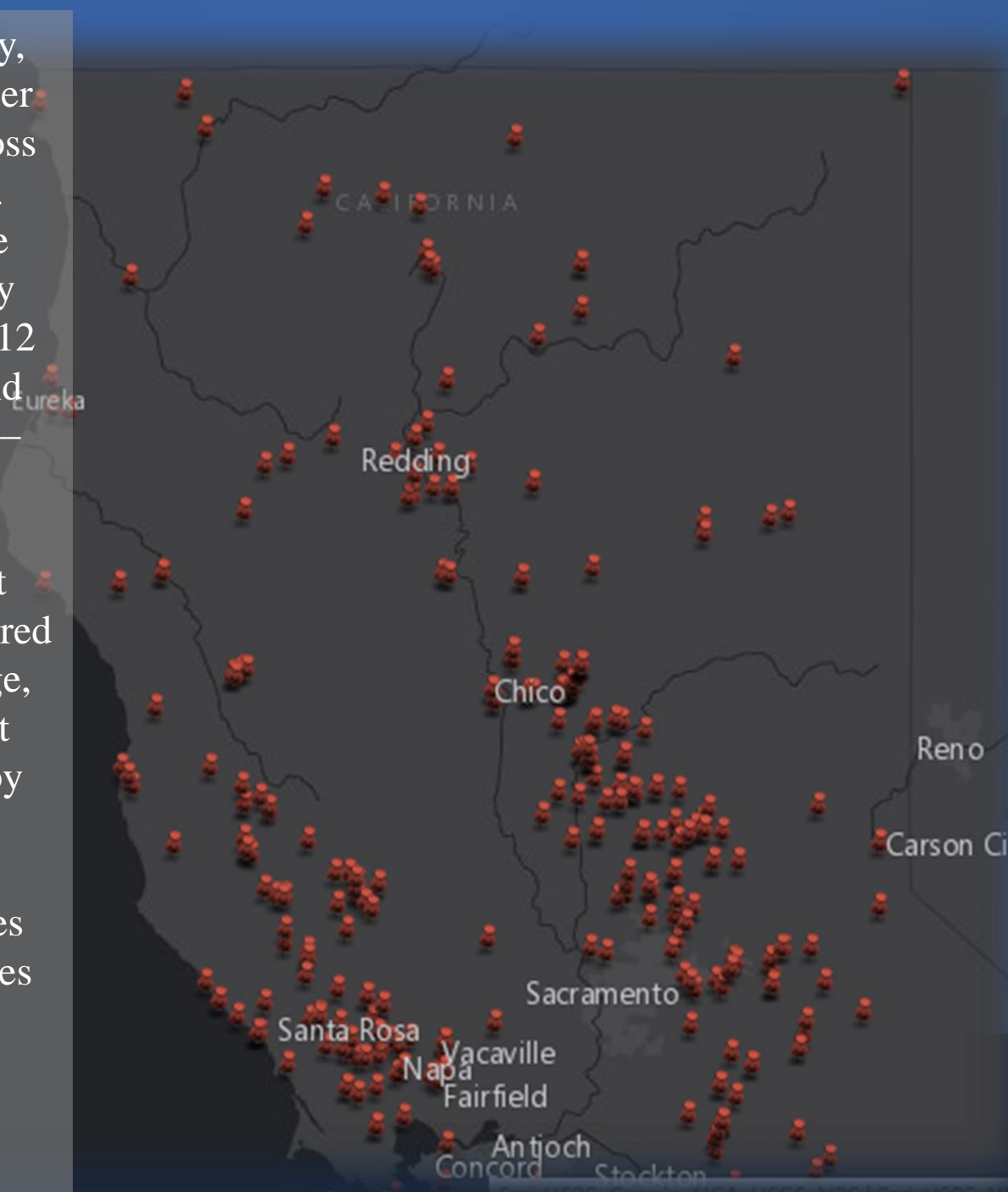


In the 48 hours spanning Sunday, October 8th and Monday, October 9th, 172 wildfires broke out across CAL FIRE's Northern Region. During that 48-hour period, the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Emergency command center alone – one of 12 CAL FIRE emergency command centers in the Northern Region – received 3,662 calls for help.

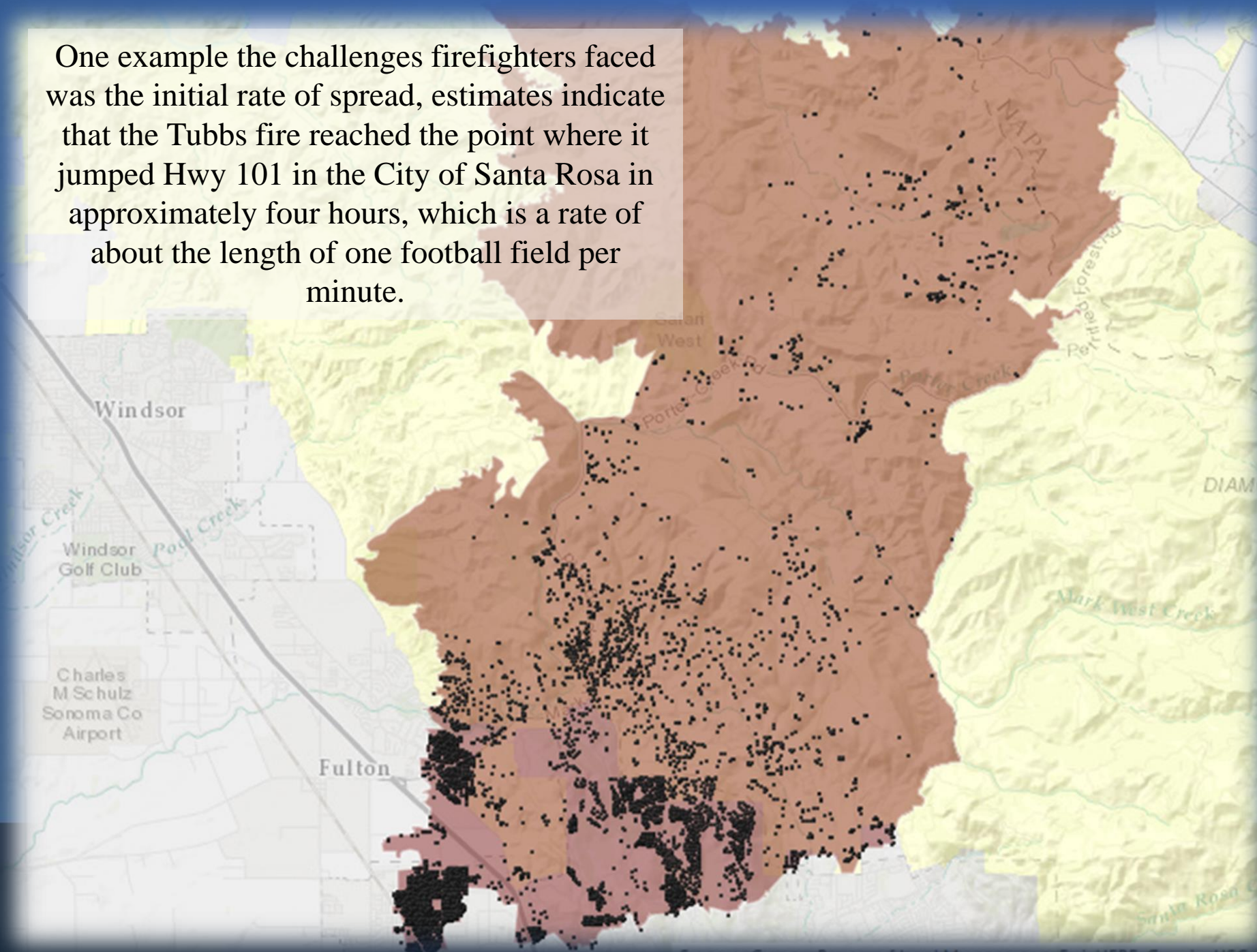
Of the initial 172 wildfires that ignited during what is being referred to as the October 2017 Fire Siege, 18 of them grew into large, fast moving conflagrations fanned by record-breaking strong winds.

During the siege 8,920 structures were destroyed and 736 structures were damaged.

44 people lost their lives.



One example the challenges firefighters faced was the initial rate of spread, estimates indicate that the Tubbs fire reached the point where it jumped Hwy 101 in the City of Santa Rosa in approximately four hours, which is a rate of about the length of one football field per minute.





## Mountain Wave

A windstorm known as a “mountain wave” produced some of the strongest winds ever recorded in several locations across the north bay.

The wind and topographical alignment resulted in some areas experiencing winds not seen in over 50 years. The extreme winds acted as a blowtorch, pushing fire down canyons and through structures.

*Coffey Park, Santa Rosa, California*

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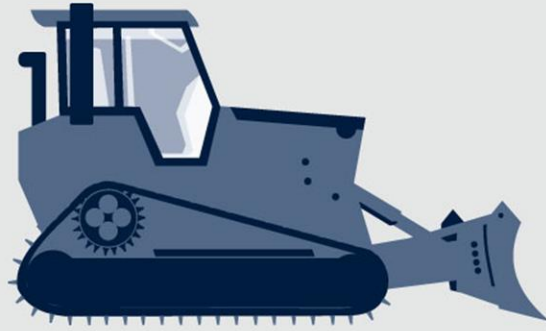


# PEAK STATISTICS

OCTOBER 16, 2017



**1,013** ENGINES



**179** DOZERS

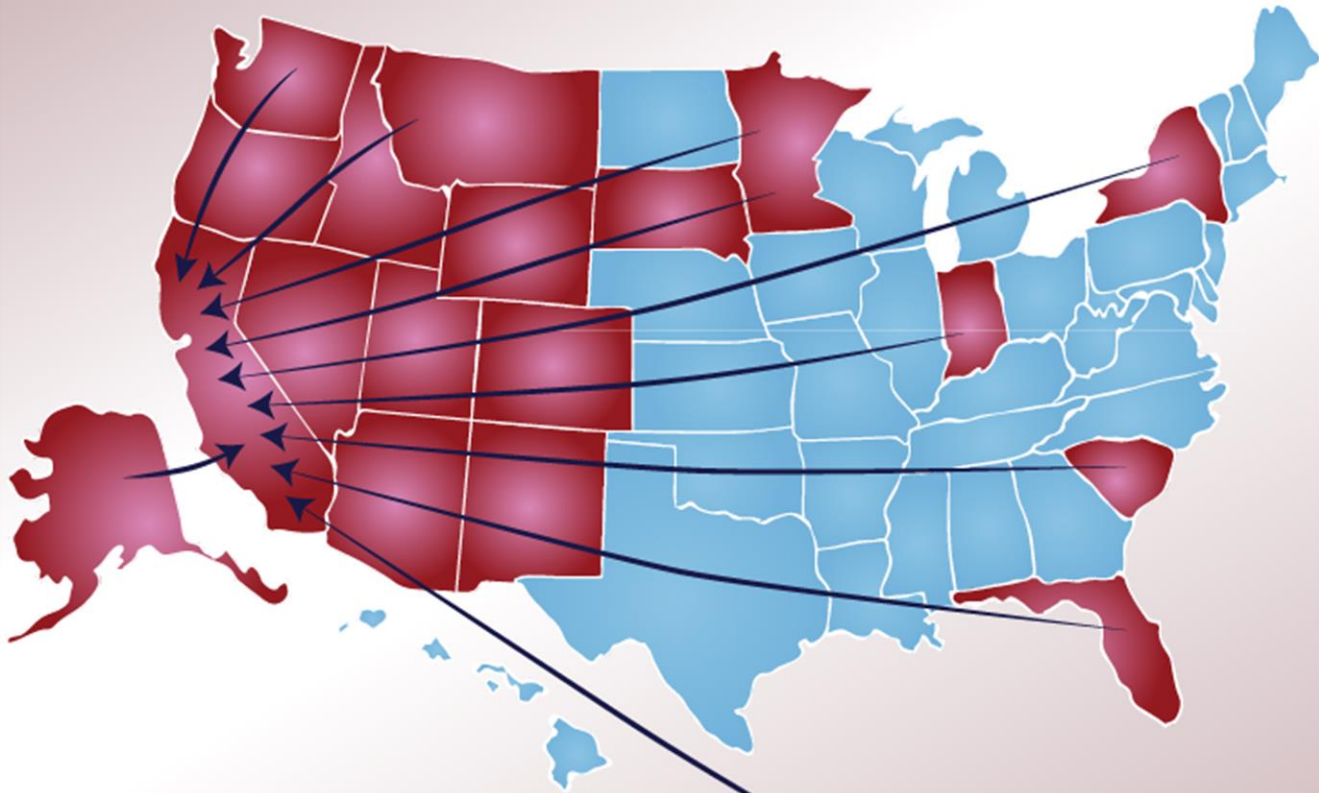


**263** HAND CREWS

Incident Management Teams

4 - Type I's • 3 - Type III's

# CALIFORNIA GETS ASSISTANCE TO BATTLE WILDFIRES



## 17 STATES AND 1 COUNTRY Offer Mutual Aid to Assist in Firefighting Efforts

Fire Engines: ..... **266**  
Fire Crews: ..... **79**  
Additional Personnel: ..... **56**



Out of state resources contributed 266 additional engines, 79 additional fire crews and 56 additional overhead to the fire siege.



# Declaration of Emergency

On the morning of October 9th the State Operation Center located in Sacramento opened.

On October 9th Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in Napa, Sonoma, Yuba, Butte, Lake, Mendocino, and Nevada counties due to the fires.

On October 10th Governor Brown added Solano County due to the Atlas Fire.

On October 10th a federal disaster declaration was approved for California.

CALIFORNIA DE  
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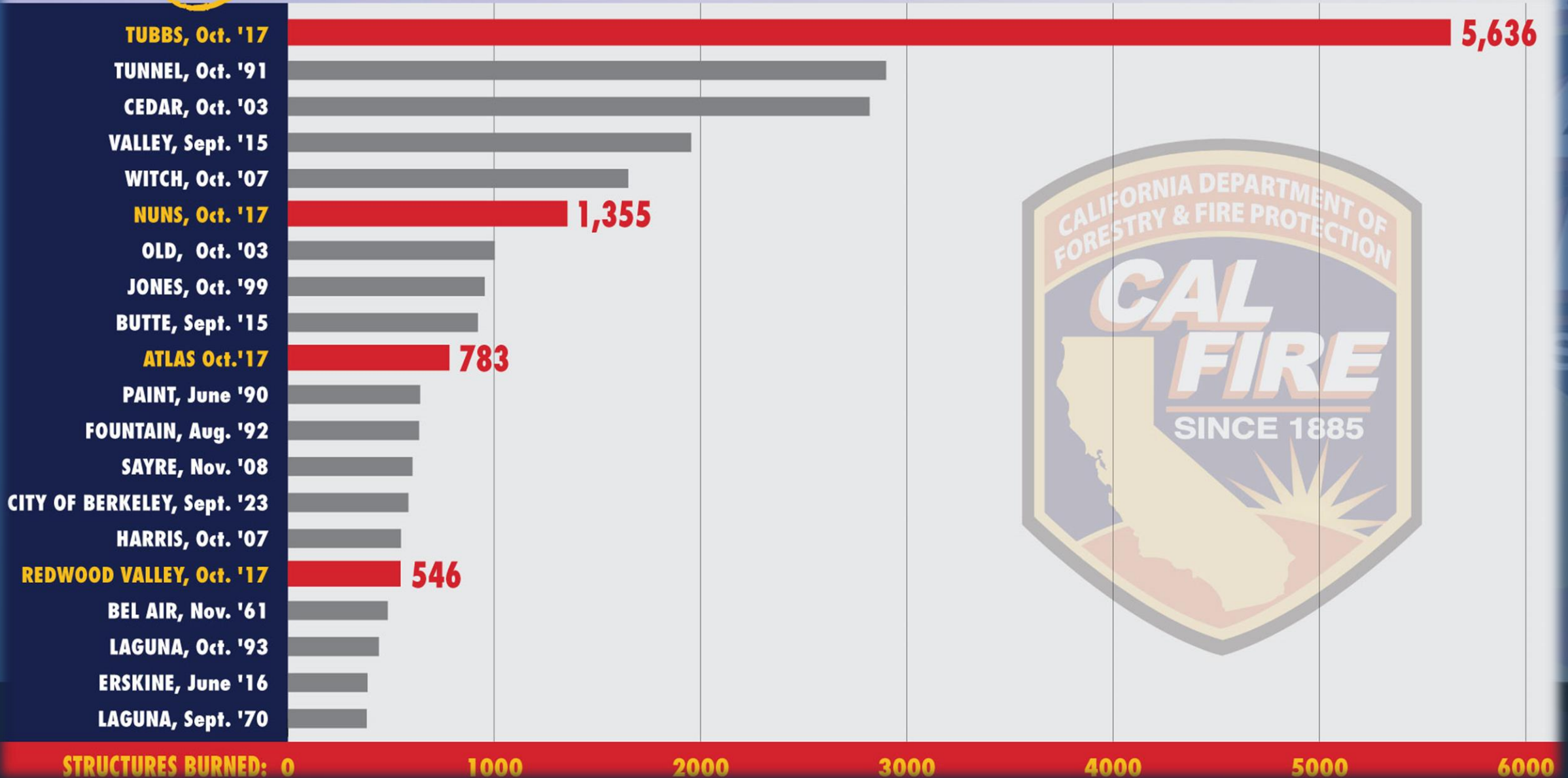
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# TOP 20 MOST DESTRUCTIVE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



# Aerial Firefighting

A large aerial firefighting operation helped fight the fires from above. Virtually every firefighting aircraft in the nation- 177 aircraft both planes and helicopters- was at our disposal but use was hampered at times due to lack of visibility (smoke inversion layers) and wind speeds.

*Photo from the Press Democrat.*

Rotary wing helicopters flew over 2,100 hours and dropped more than 11.1 million gallons of water.



Statewide, at the height of the fire fight, over 11,000 firefighters battled 21 major wildfires that consumed nearly 245,000 acres during the siege period.





## Recovery

Work continues by crews to clean up after the October fires. Crews are installing straw wattles and removing brush from water ways to help protect areas from potential flooding and erosion ahead of winter storms. Two CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams were activated after the fires were controlled to assist in managing the recovery efforts.



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