



Stanford Experts on Wildfires

Stanford scholars with expertise on wildfire drivers, impacts and other related issues are available to comment for coverage of the wildfires in California and elsewhere.

For assistance locating scholars, contact:

- Rob Jordan: rjordan@stanford.edu, (415) 760-8058
- Christine H. Black: christineblack@stanford.edu, (650) 725-8240

Fire and Climate

[Benjamin Bryant](#)

Bryant, a social science research scholar at Stanford, is an economist and decision support modeler with a joint affiliation between Stanford's Water in the West program and the Natural Capital Project. He has studied how risks from wildfire depend on the interaction of climate change and the way California manages growth and land use. He currently focuses on understanding how forest management to mitigate wildfire risk provides a range of other benefits, such as clean and reliable water supplies, and helping the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

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[Noah Diffenbaugh](#)

Noah Diffenbaugh is an expert on the climate system and understanding the influence of climate change on extreme events, including wildfires. He has served as a lead author for Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and has provided testimony and scientific expertise to the White House, the governor of California, and U.S. congressional offices. Diffenbaugh is a professor at Stanford's School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences and Kimmelman Family Senior Fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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[Chris Field](#)

Field, a climate scientist, is part of a rural air quality research project, in collaboration with the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford, that examines wildfires' effects on respiratory illness. He served from 2008 to 2015, as co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which provided the scientific foundation for the Paris Climate Accord. He is the Perry L. McCarty Director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment; founding director of the Carnegie Institution for Science's Department of Global Ecology; the Melvin and Joan Lane Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies at Stanford's School of Humanities and Sciences and School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences.

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[Rob Jackson](#)

Jackson studies a range of wildfire impacts, including those on the carbon cycle and soils. He is the Michelle and Kevin Douglas Provostial Professor at the Stanford's School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and the Precourt Institute for Energy.

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Fire, Air Quality and Public Health

Sharon Chinthrajah

Chinthrajah is a pulmonologist and allergist who studies allergies and asthma and cares for patients who suffer from these diseases. She is a clinical associate professor in the divisions of allergy/immunology and pulmonary/critical care medicine at Stanford, and serves as director of the clinical translational research unit at the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research.

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Kari Nadeau

Nadeau is the Director of the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research at Stanford University, Section Chief of Allergy and Asthma at the Stanford School of Medicine, and the Naddisy Foundation Professor of Pediatric Food Allergy, Immunology, and Asthma at Stanford University. Nadeau is one of the nation's foremost experts in adult and pediatric allergy and asthma and holds an M.D. and Ph.D. from Harvard Medical School. Her recent work includes investigating the impact of a prescribed burns versus wildfires on the immune and cardiovascular systems of children.

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Mary Prunicki

Prunicki is a research scientist who has studied the impact of air pollution on the immune system for several years in Fresno, an area of consistently elevated air pollution. Her research is currently focused on the health impacts of wildfires and prescribed burns.

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Sayantani B. Sindher

Sindher is a pediatric and adult allergist who cares for patients with food and environmental allergies as well as asthma. She is a clinical assistant professor in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Stanford University. In addition to seeing patients in her outpatient clinic, she is also involved in clinical research trials at the Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy and Asthma Research.

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Wildfire Management

Rebecca Miller

Miller, a graduate student in Stanford's Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources, researches historic and current wildfire policies and impacts in California. She examines how communities and governments prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfires.

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New Tools for Preventing Wildfires

[Eric Appel](#) and **[Craig Criddle](#)**

Appel and Criddle have developed an environmentally benign hydrogel that can retain fire retardants on target fuels such as dry grass for months. They've done small-scale trials in collaboration with Cal Fire and will do some large trials next fire season. Appel is a professor of materials science and engineering. Criddle is a professor of civil and environmental engineering and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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Wildfire Legislation

[Michael Wara](#)

Wara is the Director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program, a senior research scholar at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, and a commissioner on California's Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery Commission. He is a lawyer and scholar focused on climate and energy policy and collaborates with economists, engineers and scientists on the design and evaluation of technical and regulatory solutions. Wara is an expert in California law and policy concerning wildfires and the utility industry.

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Additional Stanford experts can be found at
<https://experts.stanford.edu>