

Intensity of wildfires a challenge to officials

By Joshua Emerson Smith, San Diego Union-Tribune

Wildfire season is getting longer and more intense, and both scientific and forestry experts foresee hotter and drier conditions that would significantly exacerbate the situation.

State and local officials have in the last decade updated efforts to keep people and property safe from out-of-control conflagrations. This includes everything from updated building codes, requirements on defensible space around homes and various forest management techniques.

However, many fear these tactics won't be enough to keep pace with the worst consequences of powerful blazes, which have ripped through the state's forests with growing frequency and size over the last few decades.

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