



Stanford Experts on Wildfires

Stanford scholars with expertise on wildfire drivers, impacts and other related issues are available to comment for coverage of wildfires and related impacts as well as response.

For assistance locating scholars, contact:

- Rob Jordan: rjordan@stanford.edu, (415) 760-8058
- Christine H. Black: christineblack@stanford.edu, (650) 725-8240
- Josie Garthwaite: josieg@stanford.edu, (650) 497-0947

Fire and Climate

[Noah Diffenbaugh](#)

Diffenbaugh studies the climate system, including the processes by which climate change could increase extreme weather events, including wildfires. He has served as a lead author for Working Group II of the IPCC and has provided testimony and scientific expertise to the White House, the Governor of California, and U.S. congressional offices. Diffenbaugh is the Kara J Foundation Professor of Earth System Science and Kimmelman Family Senior Fellow at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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[Chris Field](#)

Field is a climate scientist focused on the global carbon cycle and environmental risk reduction. His recent work analyzed fire risk and historical frequency to inform more equitable approaches to wildfire management. From 2008 to 2015, he served 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 the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability; and senior fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy.

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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 Doerr School of Sustainability; senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment; and senior fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy.

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[Alexandra Konings](#)

Konings is an ecohydrologist who studies the carbon cycle and vegetation water content. Her recent work looks at wildfire risk implications of drying in peat forests and using AI and satellite data to measure and map wildfire fuels. Konings is an associate professor at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and a center fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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Fire, Air Quality and Public Health

[Marshall Burke](#)

Burke's research focuses on social and economic impacts of environmental change and on measuring and understanding economic development in emerging markets. He has recently published work on air quality impacts to human health. Burke is an associate professor of Global Environmental Policy at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability; deputy director of the Center on Food Security and the Environment at Stanford; senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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[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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[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 of allergy and immunology in the division of Pulmonary & 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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[Lisa Patel](#)

Patel is the executive director of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, and clinical associate professor of pediatrics at the Stanford School of Medicine. She is a member of the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Environmental Health and Climate

Change, where she has led educational initiatives on climate and health, including wildfires. She is also lead author on *Climate Resilient Schools: A Call to Action*, a report that details the wildfire impacts on children's health and recommends policy solutions. The report has informed legislation in California to better protect children from wildfires and climate change.

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[Jessica Yu](#)

Yu is a research scientist in the Climate and Energy Policy Program at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. Her research focuses on developing generalized public health guidance and best practices to protect vulnerable populations from the health impacts of wildfire smoke. Since 2022, she has helped deploy over 100 air sensors in 19 schools across California to measure school- and classroom-level variations in air quality. She also leads an interdisciplinary team of study engineers and scientists aiming to develop innovative sensor solutions for monitoring and measuring smoke from prescribed fires and other controlled burns.

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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. Appel launched a startup called LaderaTECH to commercialize the technology, which led to the development of a wildfire prevention product called FORTIFY. The FORTIFY product is the main product in Perimeter Solution's wildfire prevention business and is commercially available all over the world. Appel is an associate 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. He authored [A New Strategy for Addressing the Wildfire Epidemic in California](#), a white paper identifying

needed interventions – such as natural fire regime restoration, prescribed burning incentives and institutional reform – and how to achieve them.

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Wildfire and Human Behavior

[Bruce Cain](#)

Bruce Cain is the Spence and Cleone Eccles Family Director of the Bill Lane Center for the American West, and Charles Louis Ducommun Professor in Humanities and Sciences. He is an expert in U.S. politics, and particularly the politics of California and the American West. His work has explored how California wildfires can [shrink partisan differences](#) about climate change strategies and the lack of will amongst Californians to [subsidize prevention](#) efforts.

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[Gabrielle Wong-Parodi](#)

Wong-Parodi is a psychologist who applies social, behavioral, and decision science approaches to understand how people react and are affected by global environmental change in order to develop interventions to improve adaptive capacity and resiliency. Her recent work has focused on the impacts of natural hazards and extreme events on individuals and communities coping with hurricanes and wildfires. Recently, she looked at how [personal experience with wildfires are associated with support for public safety power shut-offs](#), a response to ignition threats for wildfires in California. Wong-Parodi is an assistant professor of Earth System Science at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and a center fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment.

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[Additional Stanford experts can be found here](#)