

November 6, 2017

October was a rough month for California. The wild land fires have been devastating with damage and loss of life as never seen in our lifetime. The memories of this event will be a constant reminder of how fragile our infrastructure actually is and how quickly life can change.

This event has impacted so much in California, the loss to agriculture will be immense with a large number of vineyards and wineries burning to the ground. Not mention other agricultural commodities that were also affected as well as other types of commerce and the transportation industry.

The loss of life was unimaginable! Many now must continue on without members of their family, leaving a void that will be impossible to fill. One thing I am confident in is the resilient spirit of many Californians and their desire to move ^{ON} and rebuild the lives they have lost.

Many lessons have be learned and changes in the way California manages its wild lands are inevitable. Such things as fuel reduction, water storage, defensible space around houses and subdivision's will be explored. Along with increased support for the fire services with equipment and personnel throughout the state.

California has a climate that makes it very susceptible to wild fire's especially in the late summer/early fall. Some years, when it is very dry those early rains are a very welcome sight.

Yes it has been a very tough year for California and much of the rest of the nation. It is hard to fathom the devastation to the Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and much of the gulf area as well as the east coast.

The number of hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit those areas is unbelievable. Literally when one storm would pass and another would be right behind it ready to make land fall, leaving a great deal of devastation in its wake. It will take a great deal of money and time to recover from these anomalies of nature.

One thing is certain, based upon the response to all these disasters, is that people are willing to help they're neighbors in distress both physically and financially. The outpouring of support across the nation has been and will continue to be a testament to the caliber of people Americans really are.

Whether it be here at home or halfway around the world we are willing to give and to help those in need. So you see despite the devastation, loss of life and horror of these events and others we as a people are always prepared to help those in need. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment