Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Town Hall

AUGUST 25, 2021
So far in 2021, there have been over 6,600 fires and over 1,400,000 acres burned in CA.

Five of California’s 10 largest wildfires on record occurred in 2020, and the state set a new record for acres burned.

While California’s climate has always been fire prone, climate change affects how long, hot, and dry fire seasons are.

Wildfires release carbon emissions, which in turn affect climate and drive climate change-related events that contribute to more wildfires.

It is estimated that California wildfire smoke likely led to at least 1,200 and as many as 3,000 excess California deaths between August 1 and September 10, 2020 alone.
Congressman DeSaulnier’s Efforts

- A champion of policies that promote sustainability, protect the environment, and mitigate the harmful effects of climate change beginning as a member of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) (1997-2006) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) (1996-2006).

- Member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition and the Safe Climate Caucus.

- More than 10 efforts authored by Congressman DeSaulnier were included in the House-passed infrastructure bill, including initiatives to expand access to electric vehicles and promote alternative modes of transportation like biking.

- 3 bills Congressman DeSaulnier authored were included in the House Select Committee’s Climate Crisis Action Plan. Those bills support environmentally friendly vehicles and technology, promote innovation in America’s transportation systems, and improve transportation planning and decision making.

- Introduced the Wildland Firefighter Recognition Act (H.R. 938), to require the Office of Personnel Management to develop a distinct wildland firefighter occupational series.
Legislation Mark Sponsors

- **Green New Deal Resolution (H.Res. 332)** – To call for the creation of a Green New Deal and outline steps to address climate change, environmental injustice, and access to good-paying jobs over 10 years.

- **Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE) Act (H.R. 2919)** – To invest $1 trillion per year until 2031 to create 15 million union jobs that address climate change and advance gender, environmental, Indigenous, economic, and racial justice.

- **FEMA Climate Change Preparedness Act (H.R. 744)** – To direct FEMA to recognize and act on climate change.

- **Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (H.R. 8632)** – To provide for ocean-based climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and global warming; to make coastal communities more resilient; and to provide for the conservation and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats.

- **Smoke Planning and Research Act (H.R. 4641)** – To direct the EPA to conduct research on wildfire smoke and would provide grants to states, tribes, and local governments to plan and respond to wildfire smoke.

- **Wildfire Recovery Act (H.R. 1066)** – To make changes to the federal cost share for Fire Management Assistance Grants and ensure that the federal share is not less than 75% of the eligible cost.
Contra Costa County
- Community Warning System (CWS) - to register to receive fire evacuation alerts (and other emergency alerts), please visit: https://cwsalerts.com/.
- Access Contra Costa County Fire Protection District resources on how to protect your family and home from wildfire by visiting: https://www.cccfpd.org/wildfireprep.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- To build your personalized Wildfire Preparedness Plan and get text messages on active CAL FIRE incidents use the Ready For Wildfire App by visiting: https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/.

California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
- For information on active fire incidents, air quality information, wildfire recovery resources, and more visit: https://www.caloes.ca.gov/.

Information on Air Quality
- To get air quality data where you live, visit: https://www.airnow.gov/.
- For air quality advisories, visit Bay Area Air Quality Management District: https://www.baaqmd.gov/

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Download the FEMA app to receive real-time alerts, information about shelters and disaster recovery centers, register for disaster assistance, and more.