



## Paradise Rebuild Support Program

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The Camp Fire of November 2018 was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California's history. It nearly destroyed the town of Paradise and surrounding communities in Butte County, including Concow and Magalia.

Some key statistics from the disaster include:

- Fatalities: 85 confirmed deaths (some sources later updated to 86).
- Structures Destroyed: 18,804 total structures, including nearly 14,000 homes—roughly 95% of Paradise.
- Area Burned: 153,336 acres across Northern California.
- Economic Loss: Estimated at \$16.5 billion, making it the costliest individual wildfire in state history.

A nearly 100-year-old electrical transmission line owned by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) failed near Pulga on the morning of November 8, 2018. A fatigued metal hook broke, causing a line to arc and ignite dry brush. Extreme drought had left vegetation critically dry. Strong "Jarbo Gap" katabatic winds reached gusts of up to 55–70 mph, driving the fire at an estimated rate of 80 football fields per minute. Heavy gridlock on limited exit roads, coupled with a late and incomplete emergency alert system, trapped many residents.

The disaster prompted widespread utility power shut-offs during high-wind events to prevent similar ignitions. The utility pleaded guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter in 2020 and filed for bankruptcy due to massive liabilities. A \$13.5 billion settlement was established for wildfire victims.

Parsons is involved in the recovery effort and they will showcase their role in restoring utility infrastructure in the fire impacted town.



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