A New Grim Fire Record Announced by Cal Fire

A grim new record was set Sunday when Cal Fire officials announced that the California wildfires of 2020 have now scorched a record 4 million acres — in a fire season that is far from over. The unprecedented figure, an area larger than the state of Connecticut, is more than double the previous record for the most land burned in a single year in California. In a statement released Sunday afternoon, Cal Fire officials report, so far in this year’s historic fire season, more than 8,200 California wildfires have killed 31 people and scorched “well over 4 million acres in California” or 6,250 square miles, and have destroyed more than 8,400 buildings. The astonishing figure is more than double the 2018 record of 1.67 million burned acres (2,609 square miles) in California. Virtually all the damage has occurred since mid-August, when five of the six largest fires in state history erupted. Lightning strikes caused some of the most devastating blazes. The wildfires have incinerated hundreds of homes and killed 31 people but large parts of them are burning in largely unpopulated land. This year is far from over and fire potential remains high, so please be cautious outdoors. Across the state about 17,000 firefighters are at work battling nearly two dozen major blazes.

