

(Natural sound of fire)

California wildfires are getting bigger and more destructive, prompting a year-round statewide effort to confront our new normal.

“We just want residents here to know we are here for them, from start to finish.

Climate-fueled wildfires are burning more acres than ever before, with 6 of the 10 largest wildfires in state history happening since 2020.

“CalRecycle is part of the California “one team, one fight” that helps communities recover.

Coordinating with local, state and federal partners, CalRecycle-managed crews remove burned metal, concrete, contaminated soil and ash from burned properties at no cost to wildfire survivors who join the state program.

“Our very important role under our mission task is to come in and help communities remove all of the debris you see behind us in order for them to rebuild.”

In 2007, the state first called on CalRecycle to help manage an El Dorado County wildfire cleanup before contaminated runoff could reach Lake Tahoe.

Since then, CalRecycle has led the cleanup of over 22,000 properties across 33 counties. The Department works with its state, federal and local partners each year to make the program more efficient and more effective at tackling larger, more frequent cleanups.

With a sole focus on helping wildfire survivors recover and rebuild.

“We all give ourselves a hard time, government and all that, but they’re doing an excellent job of cleaning up.”

“As they get ready to rebuild their lives and rebuild their community, California and CalRecycle is here for them.”

“This is the one little area, one little window that we will always look back with a little bit of a smile because of these guys and their crews that were very professional and very capable. And they were also very human. We always remember that and always appreciate that.”