



Western  
Area Power  
Administration

# Carr Fire and WAPA Response

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Golden State Power Cooperative  
(Palm Springs, CA)



# Carr Fire Facts

- Started: July 23, 2018
- Root cause: Sparks from a flat trailer tire
- Burned: 229,651 acres
- Fully Contained: August 30, 2018
- Fatalities: 8
- 6th largest fire in California history
- Structures Destroyed:
  - 1,079 Residences
  - 22 Commercial Structures
  - 503 Outbuildings



# My story at WAPA- SNR

- Day one
- Day four



# Demolished tower



# Burned vehicle on downed line



# Bent and twisted tower footings



# Temporary tower – we are LIVE!



# Under Cottonwood – Keswick line



# What Worked Well -

- Daily status meetings
- Safety meetings
- Restoration priorities
- Customer communication
- Use of photos
- Employee passion & commitment
- Rapid restoration



# What We Can Improve -

- Communication planning
  - Employees
  - Customers
  - Media
- National incident management system (NIMS) protocols
  - Train, practice
  - Pre-identify layers of roles
  - Relationships with fire, law enforcement
- Texting works, cellular spotty, sat phones ineffective



# What We Can Improve -

- Vegetation management within 6 feet of substations
- Employee accountable polls
  - Develop a template
  - Practice
- Procurement
  - Develop emergency plans
  - Develop contingency plans
- Crew training/ fire gear



# Questions?

