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