

MOTION

As California's wildfire season approaches, the continued novel coronavirus outbreak is likely to make preparation and response even more difficult. Across the state, a number of fire departments have had to cancel training exercises and mitigation work, such as brush clearance and controlled burns. While these steps are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they put the state at a disadvantage as fire season starts. In addition, a number of jurisdictions, including the City of Los Angeles, are using sites traditionally available for wildfire evacuees as temporary homeless shelters in an effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus, which may impact their ability to house people displaced during wildfires.

The significant amount of late-season rain in southern California will result in an abundance of brush in the fall, a time when many public health experts believe we may see another outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The City should prepare for a scenario where our first responders must battle wildfires while simultaneously taking steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The City should also study the potential impacts that the novel coronavirus will have on shelter operations during the fire season.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department report on their preparations for the upcoming wildfire season in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and include a discussion of impacts to training, brush clearance and any other fire prevention operations resulting from the pandemic, and the potential impacts of a secondary outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the fall, at the height of the fire season.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Emergency Management Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks report on potential impacts to shelter operations during wildfire evacuations resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and provide recommendations for how to best address them.

PRESENTED BY:



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SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL