

# THE IMPENDING DANGER OF GLOBAL WILDFIRES

## THE PRESENT

Wildfires are a major concern worldwide due to their destructive effects on people and property and the costly reparations needed in their aftermath.



**UP TO 2 BILLION ACRES ARE LOST GLOBALLY** to wildfires annually.<sup>①</sup>



The number of wildfires resulting in US\$1 billion or more in damages has **QUADRUPLED SINCE 2000** compared to the previous two decades.<sup>②</sup>



**90% OF THE COSTLIEST FIRES IN U.S. HISTORY** have occurred since 2003.<sup>③</sup>



**WILDFIRES HAVE CAUSED US\$40 BILLION** in global economic damage since 2010.<sup>④</sup>

## THE FUTURE

Climate change has significantly increased wildfire risk worldwide. Scientific projections indicate wildfires will only become more common—and dangerous—in the future.<sup>⑤⑥</sup>



**WILDFIRES EMIT 8 BILLION TONS OF CO<sub>2</sub>** per year, fueling the increased rate of climate change.<sup>⑦</sup>



**WILDFIRE RISK HAS REACHED OR SURPASSED MODERATE LEVELS** on parts of every continent except Antarctica.<sup>⑧</sup>



**THE AVERAGE WILDFIRE SEASON IS 78 DAYS LONGER** in the U.S. today compared to four decades ago.<sup>⑨</sup>



**108% INCREASE IN BURNABLE AREA** worldwide due to longer fire weather seasons.<sup>⑩</sup>



The number of deaths caused by inhaling wildfire smoke in the U.S. could **DOUBLE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY**.<sup>⑪</sup>

## THE CHALLENGE

Outdated electric grid equipment is notorious for producing excessive sparks. If this equipment causes a fire, utilities can experience financial and reputational damage.



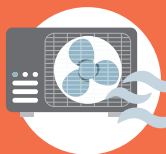
**NEARLY HALF OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRES** in California's history were caused by electrical equipment.<sup>⑬</sup>



In 2017 and 2018 alone, insurance claims from California wildfires **SURPASSED US\$24 BILLION**.<sup>⑭</sup>

### DISABLING THE GRID = MORE RISKS

On high fire-risk days, preventative measures such as disabling the grid only pose further risks.



**THE ODDS OF DYING DURING A HEAT WAVE** are approximately 77% lower with working air conditioners.<sup>⑮</sup>



**WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES RELY ON POWER** to provide clean drinking water, manage sewage systems, and assist firefighting efforts.<sup>⑯</sup>

<sup>①</sup>Earth Policy Institute: "Wildfires by Region: Observations and Future Prospects" <sup>②</sup>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: "Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters" <sup>③</sup>Insurance Information Institute: "Facts + Statistics: Wildfires" <sup>④</sup>Our World in Data: "Natural Disasters" <sup>⑤</sup>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: "Risk of Very Large Fires Could Increase Sixfold by Mid-Century in the US" <sup>⑥</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "Climate Change Indicators: Wildfires" <sup>⑦</sup>InsideClimate News: "How Wildfires Can Affect Climate Change (and Vice Versa)" <sup>⑧</sup>Forest Ecology and Management: "Trends in Global Wildfire Potential in a Changing Climate" <sup>⑨</sup>Center for Climate and Energy Solutions: "Wildfires and Climate Change" <sup>⑩</sup>Nature Communications: "Climate-induced Variations in Global Wildfire Danger from 1979 to 2013" <sup>⑪</sup>Science X: "US Wildfire Smoke Deaths Could Double by 2100" <sup>⑫</sup>The Medical Journal of Australia: "The Definite Health Risks from Cutting Power Outweigh Possible Bushfire Prevention Benefits" <sup>⑬</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "Power Resilience: Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities"

## THE SOLUTION

Discover new, low-spark technology to enhance your wildfire mitigation strategy.

VISIT [SANDC.COM/WILDFIRES](http://SANDC.COM/WILDFIRES)

