

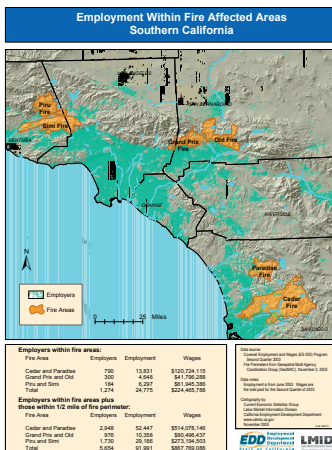
# Success Stories

## Geospatial Information Making a Difference

### CHALLENGE:

#### *Assessing Economic Impact of California Wildfires*

In November 2003, catastrophic wildfires in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties burned thousands of acres, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses and forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents. The Labor Market Information Division of the California State Employment Development Department needed to quickly collect data from multiple sources about the numbers of jobs impacted and businesses disrupted by the wildfires and to assess the overall economic impact.



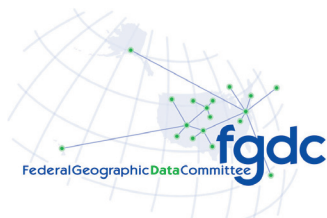
GIS enabled California counties to quickly and easily assess the impact of wildfires on businesses and jobs

### ACTION

Working with employment and wages data, the Labor Market Information Division mapped business locations and density in the vicinity of the fire impacted counties. Combining this data with detailed fire maps enabled them to produce an economic impact report in only three days. The information contained in the report allowed the agency's Workforce Development Branch to quickly allocate emergency grant monies received from the U.S. Department of Labor.

### RESULTS

- Geocoding of employment and wage data significantly advanced the Department's analysis capabilities
- Through a GIS enabled database, non-confidential sub-county level data, previously available only by ZIP code, was made available to customers
- Use of GIS allows access to information by census geography, city boundaries, neighborhoods, legislative and congressional districts, and other specialized geography, such as fire areas
- State and local government officials and private firms now have access to more useful and pertinent data for additional analysis



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