10 years of wildfires in Australia and California

As climate change exacerbates extreme heat and drought in areas like Australia and California, catastrophic fires are becoming more frequent and more intense. During Australia’s 2019-2020 fire season, wildfire consumed 5.5 million hectares (over 13 million acres) in New South Wales, resulting in unprecedented destruction. Meanwhile, the 2020 California wildfire season was the largest recorded in California’s modern history, with nearly 10,000 fires over 4.2 million acres, covering more than 4% of the state. This series of graphics below looks at extreme heat, drought, and wildfire activity over the past decade in California and New South Wales, Australia.

**ACREs BURNED SPIKED IN 2019-2020**

- **Yearly Area Burned in New South Wales**: 13.25 million acres
- **Yearly Area Burned in California**: 4.26 million acres

**Extreme Heat a Main Culprit of Wildfire Activity**

- Number of days each year with extreme temperature in Australia

**Wildfires Correlate to Extreme Drought**

For more information on global wildfire resilience, go to: [www.milliman.com/mcri](http://www.milliman.com/mcri)