DRG HELPS CALTRANS MAINTAIN EMERGENCY ROUTES





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

With the help of Davey Resource Group, Inc.'s analysis to systematically pinpoint priority highways, the California Department of Transportation has been making strides to improve the safety and reliability of emergency routes.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency throughout California to help prepare for the coming fire season. After the announcement, his administration worked to promote the completion of forest management projects to increase reliability and enhance safety. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) took the initiative to prioritize vegetation management along their highways, doing their part to adhere to the governor's proclamation.

















THE SOLUTION

Caltrans approached Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG) to provide priority mapping and analysis of vegetation along rights of ways. The main objective of priority mapping is to proactively take steps to ensure people safe passage during fires. To support this, DRG used 21 different criteria to determine the highways and sections to prioritize for vegetation management.

DRG's GIS team also gathered shape files and geospatial information files from the public records to glean data on the property owners of priority areas. A unique aspect of this program is that every type of landowner, from federal to tribal, is involved, necessitating a lot of data and communication prior to approaching them about performing mandatory work on their properties.

Supporting Caltrans in the process of navigating California's regulatory landscape is an important part of this project. The project team travels throughout the state to hold meetings regarding the continuation of emergency road maintenance efforts. They attend inter-agency meetings to discuss dividing the work.

THE RESULTS

Caltrans' project is ongoing. It serves as an important part of the larger effort to prevent damage from devastating wildfires. DRG maintains excellent rapport with Caltrans, and the team continues to provide invaluable analytical support for this initiative.