



# CALIFORNIA CAMP FIRE: DEPENDABILITY IN MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Q&A WITH TRAVIS BOETTCHER, REGIONAL VP FOR THE WEST

The California Camp Fire started in Butte County Nov. 8, 2018. It spread rapidly over a two-week period, covering more than 150,000 acres and destroying more than 18,000 structures. The Camp Fire was the most destructive wildfire to occur in California and the sixth-deadliest wildfire in U.S. history.

## How did the Motorola Solutions Emergency Response team help?

It's impossible to predict when a disaster of this scale will occur. A rapid response was needed by first responders to control the blaze, assist with search and recovery efforts, and most importantly, get those in the fire's path to safety. The radios and networks they depend on every day are even more important in situations like this and require interoperability as local and national agencies converge on the scene to help.

As soon as the magnitude of the fire became apparent, we deployed our emergency response team to Butte County and shipped 200 APX 8000 portable radios for first responders to use, as well as batteries and chargers. Upon arrival, the team programmed the donated radios for recovery workers. They also remained onsite for the duration of the fire to keep the 200 new radios charged and serviced, as well as the radios already in use in Butte County. The team remained accessible at all times, working up to 16 hours a day, even sleeping in their cars. Additionally, they participated in daily tactical meetings with the Butte County Search and Rescue Team to train recovery workers and address communications roadblocks in real-time.

**"Motorola Solutions has gone above and beyond to help us. When we needed 200 additional radios for our rescue and recovery efforts, Motorola Solutions delivered them within 24 hours. Their communications experts also worked on-site with us for the duration of the fire. Their service has been exceptional."**

- Weedy Hannibal, Butte County telecom manager

## How did Motorola Solutions' LMR systems perform during the California Camp Fire?

Our LMR systems enabled mission-critical communications throughout the two-week lifecycle of the fire and the recovery efforts that continued thereafter. The APX 8000's always-on, reliable push-to-talk functionality allowed rescue workers to communicate in real-time, even as power went out and telephone poles burned around them. What's more, the interoperability of our APX 8000 radios made it possible for local and national agencies to communicate, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Guard, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Paradise, California police department.

## What is Motorola Solutions doing as recovery efforts continue?

Our emergency response teams will remain in affected areas to provide support for recovery efforts over the coming weeks and months. Additionally, the Motorola Solutions Foundation, our charitable giving arm, made a \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross to assist with recovery efforts and is matching personal donations made by employees.