

# 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires Lessons Learned

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# Multiple Wildfires at the Same Time

There were a series of 14 wildfires across LA Metro and San Diego Counties

- Drought
- Low Humidity
- Vegetation Buildup
- Hurricane Force Winds that reached 100mph



# Fire Impacts

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More than 200,000 people  
evacuated

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Destroyed more than  
18,000 homes and  
structures

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Burned over 57,000 acres

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Killed at least 30 people  
\$65 Billion in damages

The Eaton and Palisades Fires  
are the second and third most  
destructive fires in California's  
History

Eaton Fire in  
Altadena and  
Palisades Fire  
in Pacific  
Palisades

# California Building Codes

California Building Codes require homes built in fire risk areas to use more fire resistant, but many of the homes in these areas were build in the 1950's and 1960's so were not compliant and burned much easier

# Water Supplies

- Water storage tanks in residential neighborhoods in the high-elevation areas pumping stations were designed for urban fires, not wildfires, and couldn't keep up with the demand and water had to be brought in
- After a 1961 wildfire in Bel Air that burned 500 homes, they build a new reservoir for 1117 million gallons for upper Pacific Palisades, and had emptied it January 7<sup>th</sup> to repair a tear in its cover

# PSPS: Public Safety Power Shutoff

PSPS stands for Public Safety Power Shutoff. It's a preventative measure used by utility companies, particularly in areas with high fire risk, to temporarily turn off power during severe weather conditions to reduce the risk of wildfires. These conditions often include strong winds, low humidity, and dry vegetation

# Hospital Evacuation

- Four hospitals were in varied stages of preparing to evacuate.
- No hospitals had to evacuate.
- Certain hospitals did transfer certain patients as a precaution.



# Challenges to Health Care Services

- There were challenges with access, especially when patients needed to cross county lines.
- For example, if a patient on Medi-Cal needed to be discharged to a skilled nursing facility in another county, placement should not be delayed because the facility was out of network.
- The fires reduced capacity, hospitals needed the space to care for acute care patients

# Negative Effects

- School Closures
- Air Quality
- Water Contamination
- Loss of homes
- Price Gauging
- Looting



# Fire Evacuations

- The Terraces at Park Marino you saw pictures in the media of abandoned wheelchairs on street corners, evacuated 95 senior citizens

# Challenges and Helping Staff

- Housing, not only where to live now but challenges with rebuilding
  - Permits
  - Costs
  - Toxic cleanup
- Transportation
- Loss of neighbors/friends/relatives nearby
- School/childcare
- Psychological Effects

# 2025 California Wildfires

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## Questions