

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA25-2

EARLY JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

COMMENCING JANUARY 7, 2025

Prepared by:  
California Department of Transportation  
Division of Budgets  
Federal Resources Office

## **Introduction**

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to statewide wildfire events impacting Los Angeles County, which began on January 7, 2025. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to "summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125." The DSSR also "provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program."

## **Damage Description**

Beginning on January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire began burning, spreading rapidly due to dry fuels, high winds and low humidity impacting Los Angeles County. The fire has caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure and roadside facilities.

For the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles County, on January 7, 2025 a Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation was executed, a copy of which is included in this Damage Survey Summary Report. In addition, a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration identified Los Angeles County as being eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance under DR-4856-CA.

The Damage Assessment Form (DAF) due date for this disaster is April 30, 2025.

## **Damage Estimate**

To date, the preliminary estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 for the Palisades Fire is \$66.5 million for State damages, subject to increase. No Local damages have been reported at this time.

In accordance with 23 CFR 668.105(j), the minimum \$700,000 threshold for event eligibility will be applied to each individual fire event identified under this Disaster.

Additional fire damages are expected to supplement this initial ER Application Letter requesting eligibility for ER funding through the DAF approval process. As state and local agencies assess damages, additional counties may need to be added to this Disaster via Supplemental ER Applications. Additional fires associated with this disaster event will be submitted under separate cover through a Supplemental ER Application Letter to determine eligibility for ER funding, if required.

## **Additional Information**

The following attached information describes the statewide wildfire damage in additional detail:

- Governor's Proclamation (Palisades Fire - executed on January 7, 2025)
- State damage estimates (to date)
- FIRE incident information and sampling of news articles
- Photos of reported damage

DISASTER CA25-2

EARLY JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS** on January 7, 2025, the Palisades Fire ignited in Los Angeles County, burning over 1,200 acres as of the time this Proclamation is issued; and

**WHEREAS** high winds, low humidity, and dry conditions have increased the intensity and spread of the Palisades Fire, causing imminent threat to life with Red Flag warnings in effect in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and widespread dangerous windstorm conditions with damaging wind gusts of 50 to 80 mph forecasted; and

**WHEREAS** the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions threaten structures, homes, and critical infrastructure, including power lines and water tanks, and have prompted evacuation orders and warnings and impacted the access route to the Palisades Highlands community; and

**WHEREAS** in response to a request from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a Fire Management Assistant Grant to assist with the mitigation, management, and control of the Palisades Fire on January 7, 2025; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to impacts of the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authorities are inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to the Palisades Fire and windstorm conditions.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of this emergency. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of this emergency.
4. The California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by the Office of Emergency Services, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.
5. Adequate state staffing during this emergency is necessary for all state agencies and departments with an assigned response and/or recovery role. Consistent with applicable federal law, work hour limitations for retired annuitants, permanent and intermittent personnel, and state management and senior supervisors, are suspended. Furthermore, reinstatement and work hour limitations in Government Code sections 21220, 21224(a), and 7522.56(b), (d), (f), and (g), and the time limitations in Government Code section 19888.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 300-303 are suspended. All other restrictions must be adhered to for retired annuitants. The Director of the California Department of Human Resources must be notified of any individual employed in state government pursuant to these suspensions. The suspension of statutes identified in this Paragraph shall also apply to local governments, as applicable, to ensure adequate staffing to appropriately respond to this emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Local governmental agencies shall notify the California Public Employees' Retirement System of any individual employed by an agency pursuant to this Paragraph.

6. The limitation for the period of employment for State Personnel Board emergency appointments, as provided in Government Code section 19888.1, is suspended for positions required for emergency response and/or recovery operations related to this emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The requirements and period of employment for such appointments will be determined by the Office of Emergency Services, but shall not extend beyond the termination date of the State of Emergency.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 7th day of January 2025.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**



SHIRLEY WEBER, PH.D.  
Secretary of State

DISASTER CA25-2

EARLY JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

STATE  
DAMAGE ESTIMATE



# State Damage Estimate CA25-2:

| 2024-25 Wildfires (Palisades, Eaton, Hurst) |          | Caltrans Preliminary Major Damage Assessment REPORT (PMDAR) |                |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        |                 |                 |                           |               |                       |                 |                    |               |  |
|---|----------|---|----------------|----------|------|--|--|--------|-------|----------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Count                                       | District | Date of Incident  | Event Name     | DO (Y/N) | EA # | Main Damages   | Work Description   | County | Route | Begin PM | End PM | FEMA Cat A Cost | FEMA Cat B Cost | ER Potential Eligibility? | Cost Estimate | No. of ER Program DAT | ER Program Code | TOTAL COST TO DATE |               |  |
| 1   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Palisades Fire | Y        | TBD  | Burned buildings at the Las Flores Maintenance Station   | Replacement building (mechanic shop), storage sheds and replacing damaged equipment.   | LA     | 1     | 43.7     | 43.7   |                 |                 |                           |               |                       |                 |                    | \$ 2,500,000  |  |
| 2   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Palisades Fire | Y        | TBD  | Burned timber lagging retaining walls.   | Remove fire damaged timber lagging (hazardous waste), repair retaining walls with concrete/shotcrete facing. 5 separate walls at 5 different locations within the limits listed.   | LA     | 1     | 37       | 43.3   |                 | \$2,000,000     | Y                         | \$50,000,000  |                       |                 |                    | \$ 52,000,000 |  |
| 3   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Palisades Fire | Y        | TBD  | Burned side slopes, fire retaining walls, hazardous waste removal, fire debris in + fire damaged drainage systems                            | Remove fire debris including possible hazardous waste from State RW, remove & replace fire damaged guardrail with steel posts, place erosion control on fire damaged slopes including slope drapery protection systems, clean fire debris from drainage systems and drainage channels, inspect drainage systems and replace fire damaged drainage systems as needed. | LA     | 1     | 36.99    | 42.61  |                 | \$1,000,000     |                           | \$4,000,000   |                       |                 |                    | \$ 5,000,000  |  |
| 4   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Palisades Fire | Y        | TBD  | Burned timber lagging retaining walls, fire debris in + fire damaged drainage systems  | Remove fire debris including possible hazardous waste from State RW, remove & replace fire damaged guardrail with steel posts, place erosion control on fire damaged slopes including slope drapery protection systems, clean fire debris from drainage systems and drainage channels, inspect drainage systems and replace fire damaged drainage systems as needed. | LA     | 1     | 42.61    | 48.17  |                 | \$1,000,000     |                           | \$4,000,000   |                       |                 |                    | \$ 5,000,000  |  |
| 5   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Palisades Fire | Y        | TBD  | Rocks slide and fire debris, fire damaged guardrail, burned side slopes, fire debris removal, fire debris in + fire damaged drainage systems | Remove rocks and fire debris from State RW, repair fire damaged guardrail, place erosion control and slope drapery, protection systems, clean fire debris from drainage system, and replace fire damaged drainage systems.   | LA     | 27    | 0.0      | 11.0   |                 | \$1,500,000     | Y                         | \$8,500,000   |                       |                 |                    | \$ 10,000,000 |  |
| 6   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Eaton Fire     |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        |                 |                 |                           |               |                       |                 |                    | \$ -          |  |
| 7   | 7        | 1/7/2025  | Hurst Fire     |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        |                 |                 |                           |               |                       |                 |                    | \$ -          |  |
| SUB-TOTAL                                   |          |   |                |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        | \$ -            | \$ 5,500,000    |                           |               | \$ 66,500,000         |                 |                    |               |  |
| TOTAL                                       |          |   |                |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        | \$ -            | \$ 5,500,000    |                           |               | \$ 74,500,000         |                 |                    |               |  |
| GRAND TOTAL                                 |          |   |                |          |      |  |  |        |       |          |        | \$ -            | \$ 5,500,000    |                           |               | \$ 74,500,000         |                 |                    |               |  |

DISASTER CA25-2

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES



Incident Update

# Palisades Fire



Date: 01/15/2025 Time: 6:30 AM

- LosAngelesFireDepartment [↗](#)
- LAPDHQ [↗](#)
- CALFIREBDU [↗](#)
- LACoFD [↗](#)

- LAFD [↗](#)
- LAPDHQ [↗](#)
- CALFIREBDU [↗](#)
- LACoFDPIO [↗](#)

Public Information Officer Erik Scott: <https://x.com/PIOErikScott>  
 Palisades Fire Public Information Line: (213) 484-5604  
 Palisades Fire Media Line: (323) 379-3841

## Incident Facts

|  |   |                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b><br>Palisades Fire                                      | <b>Start Date/Time</b><br>2025-01-07  | <b>Incident Status</b><br>Active    |
| <b>Location</b><br>Southeast of Palisades Drive, Pacific Palisades | <b>Type</b><br>Wildfire   | <b>Cause</b><br>Under Investigation |
| <b>Counties</b><br>Los Angeles                                     | <b>Administration Unit</b><br>Unified Command: CAL FIRE San Bernardino-Inyo-Mono Unit, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles City Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department |                                     |
| <b>Unified Command Agency(s)</b>                                   | <b>Size</b><br>23,713   | <b>Containment</b><br>19%           |
| <b>Structures Threatened</b><br>12,250                             | <b>Structures Destroyed</b><br>2,191  | <b>Structures Damaged</b><br>397    |
| <b>Civilian Injuries</b><br>3                                      | <b>Firefighter Injuries</b>   | <b>Civilian Fatalities</b><br>8     |
|  |   | <b>Firefighter Fatalities</b>       |

## Current Situation

### Situation Summary

Today, the Santa Ana winds are expected to diminish but humidity will remain at low levels, therefore, the **RED FLAG WARNING** will remain in effect till 6:00PM this evening. Firefighters continue to aggressively engage in fire suppression. Building and strengthening containment lines while providing for operational and personnel safety. Additionally, there are over 2,000 CAL Guard members involved in the firefight.

**Please be advised:** An inaccurate social media post is currently circulating on Facebook. The post claims that individuals can come to California to join a clean-up crew in areas affected by recent LA wildfires. This information is false, and we would like to clarify that there is no such opportunity available. We kindly ask that you refrain from calling to inquire about this.

Join the Effort: [How You Can Help During the Fires](#) [↗](#)

EVENT ENDED Last updated Jan. 13, 2025, 10:47 PM PST

# California wildfires: Death toll climbs to 24 with strong winds to continue

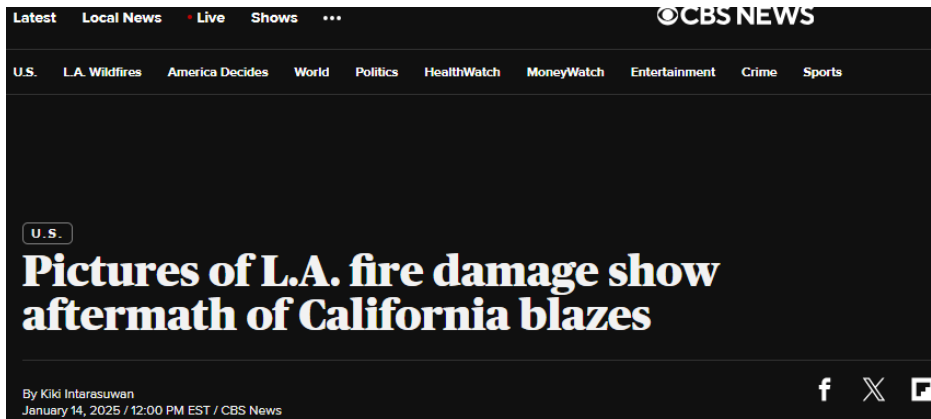
Critical fire weather is expected to last until Wednesday at the earliest, increasing the risk that fires will spread further.

Updated Jan. 13, 2025, 10:47 PM PST

By NBC News

## What to know about the California wildfires

- [Santa Ana winds](#) are set to cause critical fire conditions over the next three days across parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties as the region continues to battle historic and deadly blazes.
- The wind-fed wildfires have [killed at least 24 people](#) and [swept through 40,000 acres](#) in the Greater Los Angeles area, destroying entire communities and more than 12,300 structures.
- The largest blaze, the Palisades Fire, has burned over 23,000 acres and was only 14% contained as it threatened Brentwood, Encino and Westwood.
- Evacuation orders are in effect for 92,000 residents of Los Angeles, and 89,000 are in evacuation warning zones, which means they may need to leave at a moment's notice.
- [See a map of the evacuation zones here](#). Los Angeles County has declared a public health emergency, warning that smoke and particulate matter could pose immediate and long-term threats. [The full warning and a list of recommendations can be found here](#).



As wind-whipped fires turned the L.A.-area neighborhoods of Pacific Palisades and Altadena from sunny Southern California paradise into smoky hellscape, photojournalists who captured the blazes have also documented their aftermath.

The two largest Southern California fires that sparked last week have destroyed more than 12,000 structures, including homes and businesses. The fires continue to burn, and the full extent of the damage is still unknown.

These latest photos show what's left of places thousands of people call home:

## **Palisades Fire damage**

What caused the massive blaze in Pacific Palisades is still unknown, but CBS News has analyzed maps, photos and videos to link the Palisades fire that started last week to another fire in the same area on New Year's Eve.

Officials said they have not ruled out whether embers from the New Year's Eve fire sparked back up amid high winds on Jan. 7.



An aerial view of utility vehicles parked near beachfront homes destroyed in the Palisades Fire as wildfires cause damage and loss through the L.A. region on Jan. 13, 2025 in Malibu, California.

GETTY IMAGES

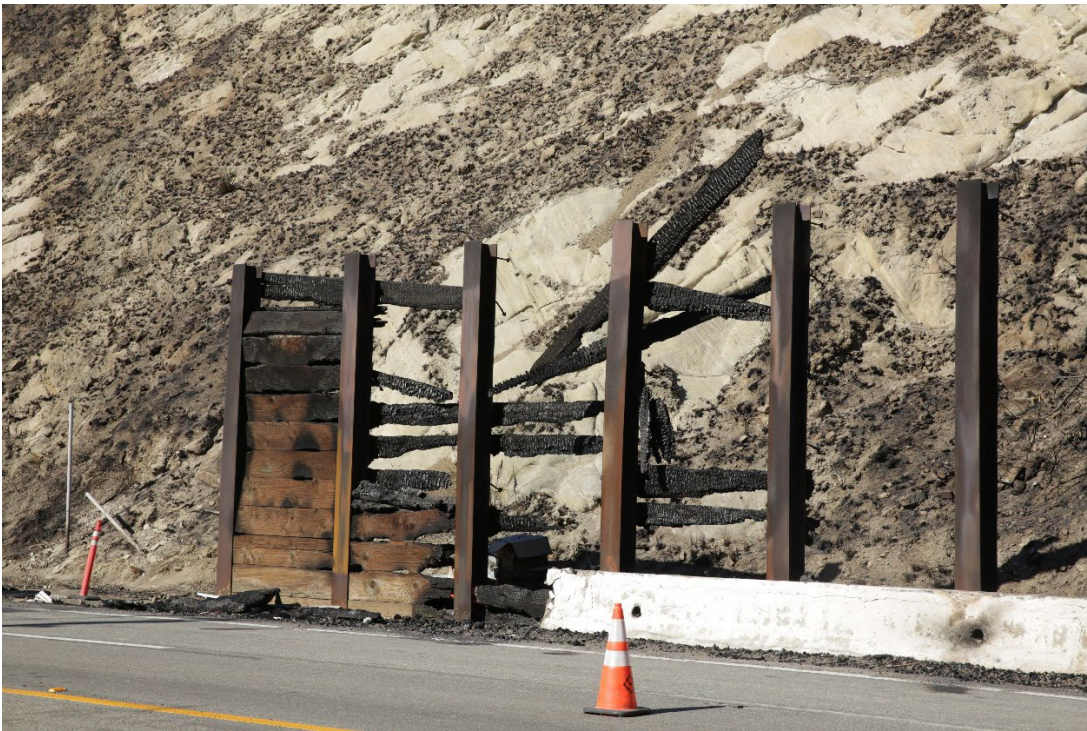
DISASTER CA25-2

EARLY JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHS

## Palisades Fire in Los Angeles County



**07-LA-Typical Wildfire Damage**

## Palisades Fire in Los Angeles County



**07-LA-Typical Wildfire Damage**