

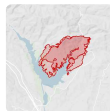
Death Toll Rises to 25 as Strong Winds Threaten L.A. Again

Fire crews quickly extinguished new blazes, but the largest ones are far from fully contained. Forecasters say a new round of fierce winds could blow through the area again.

Published Jan. 14, 2025 Updated Feb. 13, 2025



THE LATEST CONDITIONS



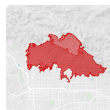
Hughes fire: Ignited Wednesday

The fire in northwestern L.A. County spread swiftly to more than 10,400 acres but is now 95% contained.



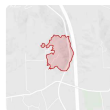
Palisades fire: Nearly contained

The largest fire, covering 23,448 acres in western Los Angeles, is 90% contained.



Eaton fire: Nearly contained

The blaze has burned 14,021 acres near Pasadena. It is 98% contained.



Other active fires

Border 2: 6,625 acres near Mexico border, 10% contained. Laguna: 83 acres near Camarillo, 98% contained.

📌 Pinned



Sam Stanton, Claire Moses, Patricia Mazzei and Mitch Smith Sam Stanton and Claire Moses reported from Southern California.



Here's the latest on the fires.

Firefighters across the Los Angeles region battled new wildfires that ignited in dry riverbeds and parched vegetation on Tuesday, as strong winds that have created dangerous fire conditions over the past week swept again across Southern California.

Many of the new fires were brought under control, even as the two largest blazes, the Palisades and Eaton fires, were far from contained, burning through brush and the remains of scorched neighborhoods. Officials warned that it might take weeks, or longer, to fully extinguish those fires.

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Jan. 15, 2025, 3:08 a.m. ET

Nazaneen Ghaffar Reporter on the Times's weather team



The National Weather Service in Los Angeles warned that the region was “not out of the woods yet.” Although winds were not as strong as forecast on Tuesday, they are expected to pick up through Tuesday night and Wednesday. The particularly dangerous situation warning will be in effect from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday for some parts of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.



Jan. 15, 2025, 3:08 a.m. ET

Nazaneen Ghaffar Reporter on the Times's weather team

The forecast is for widespread wind gusts of 40 to 55 m.p.h. across much of Ventura County; the mountains of Los Angeles County, including the Santa Monicas; the northern and western valleys of Los Angeles County; and the Malibu Coast. There will be local gusts of 60 to 65 m.p.h. in the windiest locations from just before sunrise until noon on Wednesday.



Jan. 15, 2025, 1:58 a.m. ET

Amy Graff Reporting from Los Angeles



L.A. air quality improves, but windblown ash could rapidly worsen it again.



The Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles, a few miles south of the Palisades fire, on Tuesday. Kyle Grillot for The New York Times

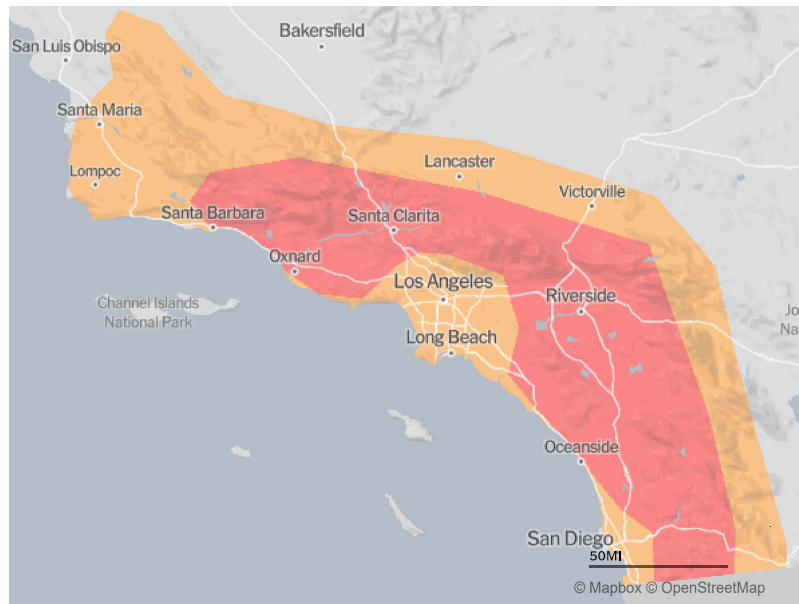
The sky was clear over Los Angeles on Tuesday, a welcome respite after acrid smoke from wildfires choked the region last week.

In Santa Monica's waterfront Palisades Park, the air was fresh enough for people to jog.

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Forecast risk of fire weather on Wednesday

Risk Elevated Critical Extremely Critical



Source: National Weather Service • Notes: Fire weather risk is based on the presence of dry fuels and the forecast for sustained winds, relative humidity, and temperature. Data is as of Jan. 15 at 11:49 a.m. Eastern and is not available for Alaska and Hawaii. • By The New York Times



Jan. 15, 2025, 1:29 a.m. ET

Mike Ives and Conor Dougherty Conor Dougherty, who writes about housing for The Times, reported from Los Angeles.



Officials seek to stem property speculation and eviction.



An aerial view of the damage caused by the Palisades fire in a residential neighborhood in Malibu on Tuesday. The wildfires have destroyed thousands of

structures. Mark Abramson for The New York Times

Gov. Gavin Newsom of California and members of the Los Angeles City Council took steps to prevent property speculation and evictions, as concerns grow that the devastating wildfires will make the city's housing shortage worse.

Mr. Newsom issued an executive order on Tuesday that is intended to limit speculation on properties in areas where the fires destroyed or damaged homes. A council member, Eunisses Hernandez, later said she had introduced a motion calling for a yearlong moratorium on certain types of evictions in fire-affected neighborhoods.

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Jan. 14, 2025, 10:34 p.m. ET
Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs



A ninth person is believed to have died in the Palisades fire, according to the Los Angeles County medical examiner's office. The office also determined that one set of remains in the Eaton fire was not human remains, so the death toll of that fire is 16. The overall death toll remains 25.



Jan. 14, 2025, 9:44 p.m. ET
Mark Abramson



The Palisades fire tore through the Pacific Palisades, damaging or destroying about 5,000 structures. Residents are not yet able to re-enter the area and the blaze is 18 percent contained.



Mark Abramson for The New York Times



Jan. 14, 2025, 9:17 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



The Ventura County Fire Department said the Auto fire, which erupted Monday night, was now 47 percent contained. It also adjusted the amount of land burned, to 61 acres from 55.7, after surveying the damage by air. Officials said the fire had not moved beyond its previous footprint, and that firefighters had benefited on Tuesday from higher humidity and westerly winds.



Jan. 14, 2025, 9:10 p.m. ET
Conor Dougherty



Governor Gavin Newsom on Tuesday issued an executive order that aims to limit speculation on properties in areas that were destroyed or damaged by the fires. The order covers about a dozen fire-ravaged zip codes and extends for three months.



Jan. 14, 2025, 9:03 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



A fire that burned 2.6 acres this afternoon near downtown Riverside, Calif., is now completely contained, officials said. The fire began along the the Santa Ana River near a homeless encampment and is believed to have been deliberately set, the Riverside Fire Department said. Dozens of firefighters responded to the blaze, which did not result in any injuries or damage to buildings.



Jan. 14, 2025, 8:32 p.m. ET
Esha Ray



For Black residents, Altadena represented something more than suburban living; it was a foothold in generational prosperity. Now, entire neighborhoods in the town of 42,000 have become deserts of ash in the Eaton fire, and the loss of a unique haven has been shattering.



Jan. 14, 2025, 8:30 p.m. ET
Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs Reporting from the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles



In Pacific Palisades, proof of a previous life is hard to find.




A fireplace on the grounds of a home in Los Angeles destroyed by the Palisades fire. Ariana Drehsler for The New York Times

A walk-in shower, its blue tiles shimmering in the sun. A washing machine, charred. Christmas ornaments hanging from a tree.


On Tuesday, a week after a fire started blazing through Pacific Palisades in Los Angeles, incinerating homes and upending lives, a few objects offered proof of what was.

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Jan. 14, 2025, 8:08 p.m. ET
 Mitch Smith



Firefighters in Riverside, east of Los Angeles, have made progress combatting a small wildfire that started in a homeless encampment near that city’s center. The fire, which started in the afternoon near the Santa Ana River, had burned almost three acres by evening and was 25 percent contained, according to the city. State officials said all evacuation orders had been lifted.


Jan. 14, 2025, 8:00 p.m. ET
 Brooks Barnes Reporting from Burbank, Calif.



Bob Iger on Disney’s relief efforts: ‘Can we help in setting up temporary schools?’



“We want to help rebuild,” Robert A. Iger, the chief executive of Disney, said in an interview on Tuesday. Philip Cheung for The New York Times

As Disney reopened its corporate headquarters in Burbank on Tuesday, the monumental “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” statues holding up the roof grinned their usual grins. Inside, though, it was not quite business as usual.

At least 64 Disney employees have lost their homes in the wildfires. They include the president of Disney Branded Television (“Mickey Mouse Clubhouse”) and the president of Walt Disney Music, which handles songs for animated and live-action movies. Hundreds more remain evacuated from their homes, including Robert A. Iger, Disney’s chief executive.

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Jan. 14, 2025, 7:38 p.m. ET
Isabelle Taft



Jabari Williams, captain of the Altadena Sheriff’s Station, said that crews have searched more than 3,600 properties in the Eaton fire area, up from 1,800 yesterday. Residents can search their address at recovery.lacounty.gov.



Jan. 14, 2025, 7:36 p.m. ET
Kellen Browning and Amy Graff Reporting from Los Angeles and Santa Monica



In parts of Los Angeles, life carries on but is hardly normal.



Venice, Calif., on Tuesday was quiet, as people around Los Angeles took stock of life in a city in crisis. Kyle Grillot for The New York Times

Angelenos have spent the past week under a haze of smoke, barraged by evacuation warnings, many of them searching for a place to stay after fleeing their homes.

On Tuesday, though, the sky over Mid-City, a Los Angeles neighborhood about 15 miles east of where a major wildfire devastated Pacific Palisades, was clear and blue. The air was refreshing and the temperature was a balmy mid-60s, with little wind. People lined up for the bus, FedEx trucks made deliveries, and a truck serving tortas was opening. A city parking officer scribbled out a ticket for a van.

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Jan. 14, 2025, 7:34 p.m. ET

Judson Jones and Amy Graff Judson Jones is a meteorologist and reporter for The Times. Amy Graff reported from Los Angeles.



Tuesday's winds didn't reach their predicted speeds, but Wednesday's might.



By early Tuesday afternoon the winds were, briefly, proving to be less strong than predicted. Kyle Grillot for The New York Times

Meteorologists get it wrong sometimes.

Thankfully, when they got a Los Angeles weather forecast wrong this week, it was because the winds were weaker than predicted on Tuesday and no longer met the National Weather Service's criteria for a "particularly dangerous situation." The phrase describes a rare, high-level warning that is meant to be used only every few years for the worst possible wildfire conditions of dried vegetation, low humidity and strong winds.

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Jan. 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m. ET
Isabelle Taft



James White, incident meteorologist on the Eaton fire, said the weather over the last 24 hours had been "almost all good news." A new round of fierce winds didn't materialize at lower elevations. He cautioned that a red-flag warning remained in effect until 6 p.m. tomorrow, but that recent forecasts had "continuously showed this wind event weakening."



Jan. 14, 2025, 7:24 p.m. ET
Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs



A 25th person has died in the wildfires around Los Angeles, according to the county's medical examiner, raising the death toll by one. The victim died in the Eaton fire, which has killed 17 people in all, making it the fifth-deadliest wildfire in California's history.



Etienne Laurent/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



Jan. 14, 2025, 7:12 p.m. ET
Isabelle Taft



With inspections in the Eaton fire area 40 percent complete, nearly 4,000 structures have been found destroyed, Kevin Bohall, the incident commander for the Eaton fire, said at a community meeting.



Kyle Grillot for The New York Times



Jan. 14, 2025, 7:16 p.m. ET
Isabelle Taft

Though residents are eager to return to their homes, many areas are still under evacuation orders, and Bohall rattled off a long list of the hazards that remain days after a fire has been extinguished: flare-ups, downed power lines, unstable walls and roofs, and unsafe water.



Jan. 14, 2025, 7:07 p.m. ET
Lauren Herstik Reporting from Pasadena, Calif.



A self-made weatherman used Facebook to warn of fire danger. People listened.



Hundreds of posts have streamed into Edgar McGregor's Altadena Weather And Climate Facebook group.

Ariana Drehsler for The New York Times

As embers rained down around Eaton Canyon last week, Edgar McGregor, 24, went live on Facebook while evacuating from his home.

“This is imminent,” he said, flames glowing in the background. “Do not wait for official evacuation orders. Get. Out.”

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Jan. 14, 2025, 6:55 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



Lindsey Horvath, a Los Angeles County supervisor, told residents to prepare for the possibility that increased winds would lead to overnight power shutoffs. “If you have power now,” she said, “charge your phones, charge your batteries and be prepared to be without power:”



Jan. 14, 2025, 6:31 p.m. ET
Shawn Hubler



Gov. Gavin Newsom said at least 11 fresh fires were extinguished overnight because fire crews were well positioned ahead of time. Most were small blazes east of Los Angeles in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, in inland suburbs and wildlands. But pre-positioning also helped firefighters in Ventura County hold the Auto fire to 56 acres, officials said.



Jan. 14, 2025, 6:21 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



Officials say they know residents are eager to return to neighborhoods damaged in the Palisades fire, but that it remains unsafe to do so. Cmdr. Christine Coles of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said there were no firm dates for reopening evacuated areas.



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images



Jan. 14, 2025, 6:19 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



A Los Angeles County Fire Department battalion chief said “there’s very little activity” in the Palisades fire “when it comes to visible flames.” But he added that “we do have a lot of heat along the edges, so we’re working very hard to mitigate any of those sources.”



Jan. 14, 2025, 5:47 p.m. ET
Tejal Rao Reporting from Los Angeles



As the Eaton fire still burns, locals gather seeds to regrow.



Nina Raj, a docent at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, led workshops on harvesting and germinating native plant seeds. Nina Raj

When Nina Raj saw the sky glow orange outside her Altadena home as the Eaton fire approached last Tuesday, the first thing that she packed for evacuation was her seed collection: Matilija poppy seeds, Engelmann oak acorns, California buckeye, sage and buckwheat seeds, along with so many others she had gathered around Eaton Canyon.

“That first night we were down our block putting out fires,” she said. “We’re smoky, but safe.”

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Jan. 14, 2025, 5:06 p.m. ET
Kate Christobek and Sam Stanton



In picturesque Ventura County, the threat of fire looms.



A firefighter monitoring the spread of the Auto fire in Oxnard, Calif., on Monday night.
Etienne Laurent/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Just two months after grappling with a catastrophic fire that scorched more than 20,000 acres, Ventura County, Calif., was again bracing for dangerous fire conditions through Wednesday morning.

The National Weather Service downgraded the severity of its forecast for the county on Tuesday afternoon to a more common red-flag warning, which indicates an increased risk of fire danger. But forecasters expected higher wind gusts on Wednesday that could lead to “explosive fire growth.”

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Jan. 14, 2025, 4:36 p.m. ET
Judson Jones Reporter and meteorologist



Forecasters have temporarily dropped the highest level of fire weather warning, the particularly dangerous situation, for the rest of the day. A more typical red flag warning still remains in place. They believe winds may pick back up tomorrow morning, so the warning will go back into effect on Wednesday from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Jan. 14, 2025, 5:23 p.m. ET
Judson Jones Reporter and meteorologist

Forecast models show that on Wednesday, winds may reach 30 to 50 miles per hour in coastal and valley areas, and up to 70 m.p.h. in the mountains. While dangerous fire weather may still occur tomorrow, it isn’t forecast to be as intense as last week’s first event.



Jan. 14, 2025, 4:13 p.m. ET
Mitch Smith



A small vegetation fire was reported early Tuesday afternoon in Riverside, Calif., about 55 miles east of Los Angeles. The fire has so far burned about an acre near the Santa Ana River, not far from downtown Riverside, and 28 firefighters were at the scene, according to information published by the city.



Jan. 14, 2025, 4:12 p.m. ET
Corina Knoll Reporting from Los Angeles



A historically Black enclave within Altadena has been shattered.



Black residents were disproportionately affected by the fire that ravaged Altadena, Calif. Philip Cheung for The New York Times

Scenic and charming and tucked into the foothills, Altadena seemed like a secret just outside the reaches of Los Angeles.

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