

2026 UNIT FIRE PLAN COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



UNIT FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Fire Plan developed for the County of Los Angeles:

This Plan:

- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met.
- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties within the unit – city, County, State, and federal agencies – have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.

Anthony C. Marrone

Anthony C. Marrone, Fire Chief
Forester and Fire Warden

5/19/26

Date

Theron Cheatham for RD

Ron Durbin, Chief, Forestry
Forestry Division

5/21/26

Date

Daniel Sanchez

Daniel Sanchez, Deputy Forester, PFE
Forestry Division

5/21/26

Date



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 California Strategic Fire Plan (Plan) is the current evolution of the first Statewide Fire Plan developed in 2010. It was a collaborative effort between the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Plan recognizes that wildfires will occur in California and works to answer the question, “How do we prepare and live with that risk?” The 2010 and 2018 Plans build upon this concept first developed in the 1996 California Fire Plan which led to collaborative efforts in fire prevention. A copy of the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California can be found at [2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California](#).

The vision of the Plan for California – a natural environment that is more resilient and man-made assets, which are more resistant to the occurrence and effects of wildland fire through local, State, federal, and private partnerships.

The Plan outlines eight goals focused on enhancing protection of lives, property, and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improving environmental resilience to wildland fires. Each goal is meant to build upon the previous one; the eight goals are listed below:

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property, and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social, and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, County, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
4. Increase awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires. Actions can include creation of defensible space and other fuel reduction activities, educating homeowners about fire prevention, and encouraging fire safe building standards.
5. Develop a method to integrate fire and fuel management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, State, and federal responsibility areas.
6. Determine the level of resources necessary to effectively identify, plan, and implement fire prevention using adaptive management strategies.

7. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
8. Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Department) is one of six contract counties (Orange, Los Angeles, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Marin), which have executed a contract with the State of California to provide wildland fire protection on State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The Department has the responsibility as a Contract County to implement the Fire Plan in Los Angeles County. As such, the Department functionally operates as a CAL FIRE unit and is responsible for all Strategic Fire Plan activities within the County. The Department's 2026 Unit Fire Plan replaces the previous Unit Fire Plan.

The most current Department Unit Fire Plan can be found here: [OSFM Strategic Fire Plan for California](#).



Brush Clearance Deadline Signage and Shaded Fuel Break Examples

SECTION I: LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNIT OVERVIEW

LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNIT DESCRIPTION

Los Angeles County (County), one of California's original 27 counties, was established on February 18, 1850. The County originally occupied a comparatively small area along the coast between Santa Barbara and San Diego counties, but within a year its boundaries were enlarged from 4,340 square miles to 34,520 square miles, sprawling east to the Colorado River.

In 1853, a bill was introduced dividing the eastern portion of the County to create San Bernardino County. During the subsequent years, the County slowly reduced to its present size and the last major detachment occurred in 1889, with the creation of Orange County. The County encompasses approximately 4,084 square miles of land, in which 1,741 square miles are flat, 1,875 square miles are mountainous, 246 square miles consist of hills, 59 square miles of mountain valleys, and 28 square miles of marshland. It also includes 131 square miles on San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands.

The County has the largest population (9,757,179 people - U.S. Census Bureau July 2024 Estimate) of any county in the nation and is exceeded by only 9 states. Approximately 25 percent of California's residents live in the County.

The Board of Supervisors (Board), created by the State Legislature in 1852, is the governing body within the County, consisting of five supervisors elected to four-year terms by voters within their respective supervisorial districts. The Board has executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial roles in addition to appointing all department heads other than the Assessor, District Attorney, and Sheriff, which are elected positions.

As a subdivision of the State, the County is charged with providing numerous services affecting the lives of its residents. Traditional mandatory services include fire protection, law enforcement, property assessment, tax collection, public health protection, social services, relief to people experiencing homelessness, flood control, and recreational services through the Department of Parks and Recreation. Within the Department, the Forestry Division manages the Defensible Space Section containing the Defensible Space Inspection Unit; the Wildfire Preparedness Section containing the Vegetation Management Unit, Environmental Review Unit, the Forestry Technical Operations Unit, and the Fire Plan Unit; and the Outreach Section containing the Fuel Modification Unit, the Malibu Unit, the San Dimas Unit, and the Grants/Interpretive Unit.

There are 88 cities contracting with the County for municipal services to varying degrees. Sixty-five percent of the County, approximately 2,649 square miles, is unincorporated where the County provides all municipal services. For over one million people living in unincorporated areas, the Board serves as their "City Council." The County is the largest employer in the five-County region with just over 101,000 budgeted employees.

The Department started in the late 1800s with the formation of two separate departments. The first department, the Los Angeles County Board of Forestry, was charged with

protecting natural resources and responsible for planting and maintaining Department landscapes. The second department, the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Warden, was then assigned the responsibility as the Los Angeles County Fire Warden.

The Forest Protection Act of 1905 enabled local governments like the County to form fire districts and “appropriate money for the purpose of forest protection, improvement, and management” (Berg and Boyarsky, 2004). Financing in those early years, as it is today, was provided by the taxpayers of the County at the behest of the Board. In the early years, the budget was miniscule. In 1908, records indicate that the Board spent \$710 to extinguish 21 fires. On May 8, 1911, the Board created the County of Los Angeles Board of Forestry, which later became the Los Angeles County Forestry Department. By 1912, the Forestry Department’s budget had grown to \$1.5 million. Under the direction of County Forester Stuart J. Flintham, foresters went about planting trees along major avenues and roadways around the basin.

In 1919, over 135,000 acres of wildland fires blackened the County of Los Angeles, prompting the merging of these two departments which resulted in greater emphasis on fire suppression, creating the County Forester and Fire Warden. Between September 1923 and 1925, 31 separate fire districts were formed, the first two being in Signal Hill and Santa Monica Canyon. This became official in December 1925 when Spencer D. Turner was appointed head of all fire crews making him the County Forester, Fish and Game Warden, and Fire Chief.

In 1956, Fire Chief Emeritus Keith E. Klinger created the visionary Lakewood Plan, allowing incorporated cities within the County to contract with the Department for fire protection services. Today, 60 cities are served by the Department, which staffs a total of 175 engine companies, 35 truck companies, 117 Advanced Life Support units, and numerous specialized apparatus.

The Department created one of the nation’s first firefighter paramedic programs; its 50th anniversary was commemorated in 2019. Throughout its history, the Department has emerged as a leader in the fire service on local, regional, and national levels. In terms of total fire stations and personnel, the Department is the nation’s third largest metropolitan fire department.

The Department operates 8 bureaus, 9 Field Divisions, 23 Field Battalions, 177 fire stations and 9 fire suppression camps and answers over 455,000 emergency calls annually. Additionally, the Department has Fire Prevention, Forestry, Air and Wildland, Lifeguard, Health Hazardous Materials, Command and Control, Materials Management, Planning and Grants, Information Management, Financial Management, Human Resources, Training Services, Construction and Maintenance, Fleet Services, and Communications Divisions, which provide valuable services to over 3.9 million County residents, while Employee Relations, Organizational Development, Risk Management sections and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion all provide meaningful support to the Department in meeting its mission.

The Department’s Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Final Adopted budget is \$1,847,579,000. The budget is primarily funded by property tax revenue, making up approximately 63 percent of the Department’s revenue. Other funding sources include fee-for-service cities and the Prop E special tax.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services.

CORE VALUES

Integrity – Teamwork – Caring – Courage – Commitment – Community

FIRE DEPARTMENT VISION

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our national reputation, our regional strength, and our hometown attentiveness as we provide fire protection and life safety services.



LA Co Fire Dept. Core Values

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY C. MARRONE

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Department) provides fire protection and life safety services to over 4,100,000 residents within our jurisdiction of 60 cities and all unincorporated areas of the County, and the City of La Habra located in Orange County. The Department's service area includes suburban neighborhoods, city centers, commercial districts, sandy beaches, mountain ranges, hills of chaparral and more.

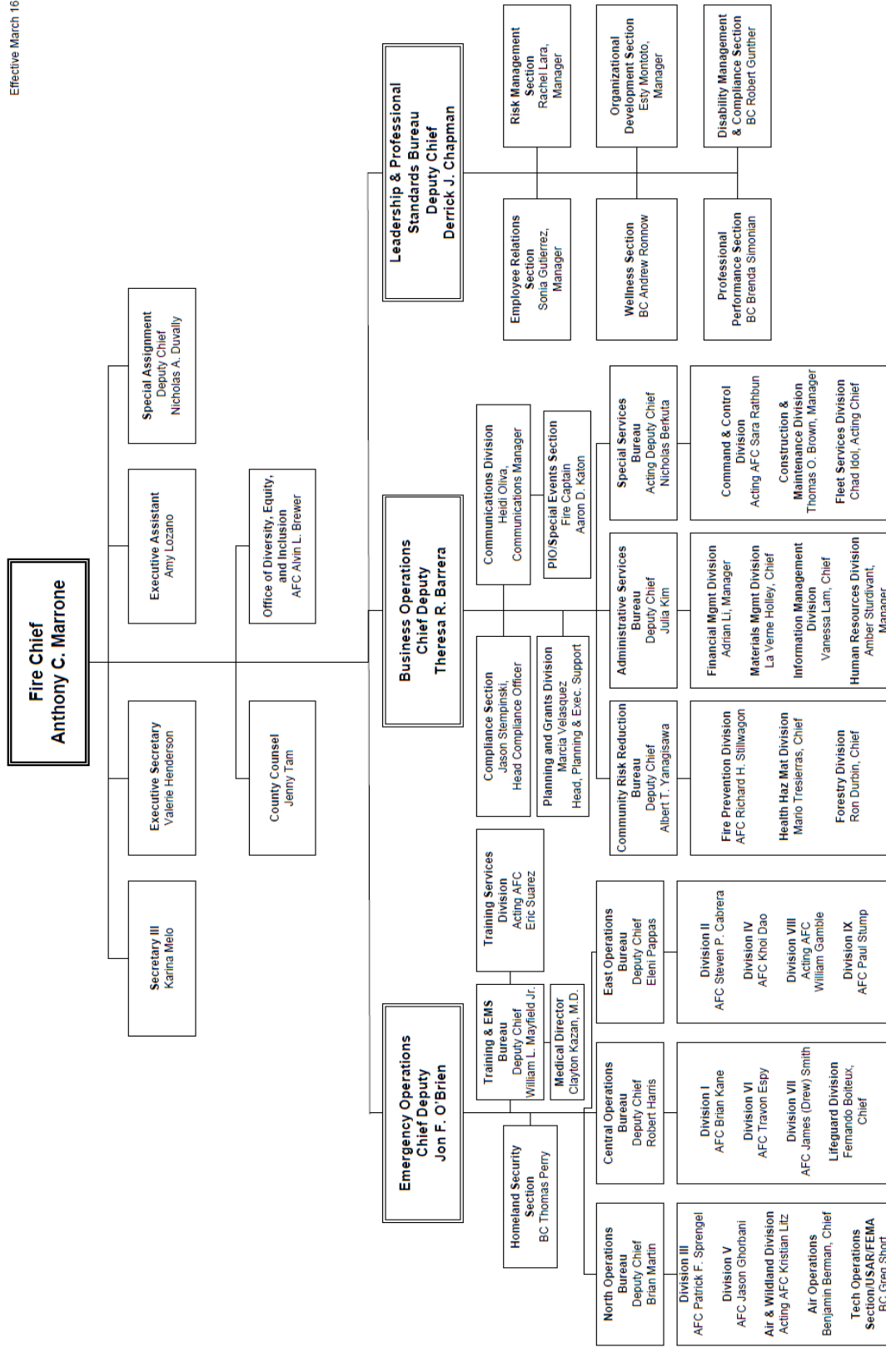
There are 4,963 budgeted positions within the Department's emergency and business operations bureaus, including firefighters, dispatchers, lifeguards, nurses, and administrative support.

As the communities we serve continue to grow and diversify, our County remains committed to expanding and adjusting to ever-changing demands and needs. Together, with the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, and other County departments, we partner and collaborate on numerous challenges confronting our communities (e.g., health pandemic, large-scale disasters/emergencies, homelessness, mental health, etc.).

As an all-hazard Department, we are focused on providing the highest quality professional emergency and medical service to residents, property owners, and visitors through accountability and transparency.

By continually evaluating our performance and accomplishments, we set goals and standards while implementing improvements in the areas of service delivery, operational effectiveness, emergency preparedness, workforce welfare, workplace inclusivity, equity, and fiscal solvency.





VEGETATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County has a vast range of vegetation types across coastal areas, the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, valleys, and the desert. The Antelope Valley is located on the western side of the Mojave Desert. Vegetation types consist of California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), California scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and many native and non-native grasses (*Poa spp.*). Traveling east, the landscape is dominated by pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) woodlands and a desert chaparral understory. Streambeds have cottonwoods (*Populus spp.*), willows (*Salix spp.*), and related vegetation requiring more water.

High country areas located in the eastern portion of the County include elevations from 5,000-10,000 feet. Dominant vegetation types are conifers, hardwoods, and more traditional forest communities. This landscape consists of Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*) and mixed conifers on dry slopes, whereas bigcone Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and Jeffery pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) populate slopes receiving more precipitation. There are also significant oak woodland communities along shaded canyon slopes and riparian communities within streambeds.

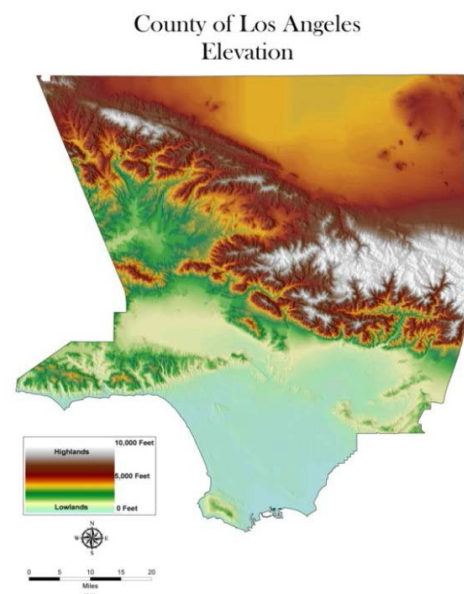
Much of the Santa Clarita Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains have the following vegetation types: coastal sage, riparian, oak woodlands, and chaparral. Coastal sage communities are typically found in lower elevations and drier sites of coastal south-facing slopes. The coastal sage community can be referred to as soft chaparral where foliage is soft, grey-green, and aromatic. Various plants include purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*). Riparian communities are woodlands with multi-layered vegetation, including Arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Oak woodlands are found on northern slopes blanketed with coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) in warmer areas, hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

Chaparral communities typically have shrubby vegetation seen on both coastal and inland hillsides and are separated into two types: soft chaparral (usually called coastal sage scrub) and taller, hard chaparral. Chaparral is dominated by evergreen and drought deciduous shrubs one to fifteen feet tall. Most plants are recognized by tough, leathery leaves that reduce water loss in dry climates. Many chaparral plants contain volatile oils, which produce a strong odor and increase flammability. Common examples include various species of ceanothus (*Ceanothus spp.*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*), sage (*Salvia spp.*), sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), sumac (*Malosma spp.*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and chamise (*Adenostoma spp.*).

Determining wildfire risks in the County involves assessing fire-adapted chaparral ecosystems, dynamic Mediterranean weather conditions, values at risk, and the fire protection system's ability to respond. The California Strategic Fire Plan employs an intensive assessment process graphically depicting fuels, weather, and assets at risk in a Geographic Information System (GIS) program. GIS layers are field-validated and used to identify areas within or adjacent to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) most at risk. *The California Forest and Rangeland Assessment 2022* ([CAL FIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program](#)) produced a variety of GIS data layers identifying assets, threats, and priority landscapes (combinations of assets and threats into priorities).

TOPOGRAPHY AND WEATHER OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County encompasses 4,084 square miles. Forty-seven percent of this is mountainous, while the remainder consists of alluvial valleys, coastal plains, and high desert. Large mountain ranges within the County include the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, Santa Susana, and Verdugo Mountains and run east to west, while main canyon drainages flow north and south. This natural topography creates airflow patterns linking the desert with the Pacific Ocean. The County elevations start at sea level and rise to 10,064 feet at the Summit of Mount San Antonio, also known as Mount Baldy, in the San Gabriel Mountains.



The Los Angeles basin experiences a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. Due to various micro-climates found in the County, coastlines experience cooler temperatures of 40°F to 80°F, while inland areas experience more extreme temperatures, from light snow in winter to 100+°F in summer. Precipitation occurs approximately 35 days a year averaging about 15 inches. Southern California received substantial rain in 2022-23 and 2023-24. For the 2025-26 wet season (starting October 1), Southern California received below average precipitation. Higher temperatures in March and high pressure led to rapid melting of the snowpack. Temperatures will likely be above normal through July with below normal precipitation through June.

During the autumn and winter months, high-pressure weather systems develop over the Great Basin and upper Mojave Deserts, heating up the air. These systems often produce strong offshore winds, known locally as Santa Ana winds, with powerful down slope winds blowing through Southern California mountain passes. These hot, dry winds blow through valleys and canyons, from the high desert to the coast, pre-heating and dropping fuel moisture and relative humidity in all areas of the County. This condition produces a high risk of wildland fires where temperatures are high, fuel moisture is low, and winds blow at 30-70 miles per hour.

Climate change has brought an increase in temperatures and extended drought these have created an increased risk and severity of wildfires in the western United States. Research shows that these changes are leading to longer and more active fire seasons along with drier forest fuels during fire season.

Due to vast differences in weather across the County, ranging from the desert to the ocean and covering five different Fire Weather Forecast Zones (FWFZ), the Department has placed 22 Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) throughout the County aligning with the FWFZs ([RAWS ArcGIS Online Map](#)). Information from these stations (including temperature, relative humidity, 20-foot wind speed, 10-hour dead fuel moisture percentage) feed into the national Weather Information Management System (WIMS) and help inform a Daily Fire Weather Forecast and Fire Danger Rating for each FWFZ in the County. These products inform and influence augmented staffing decisions within the Department.

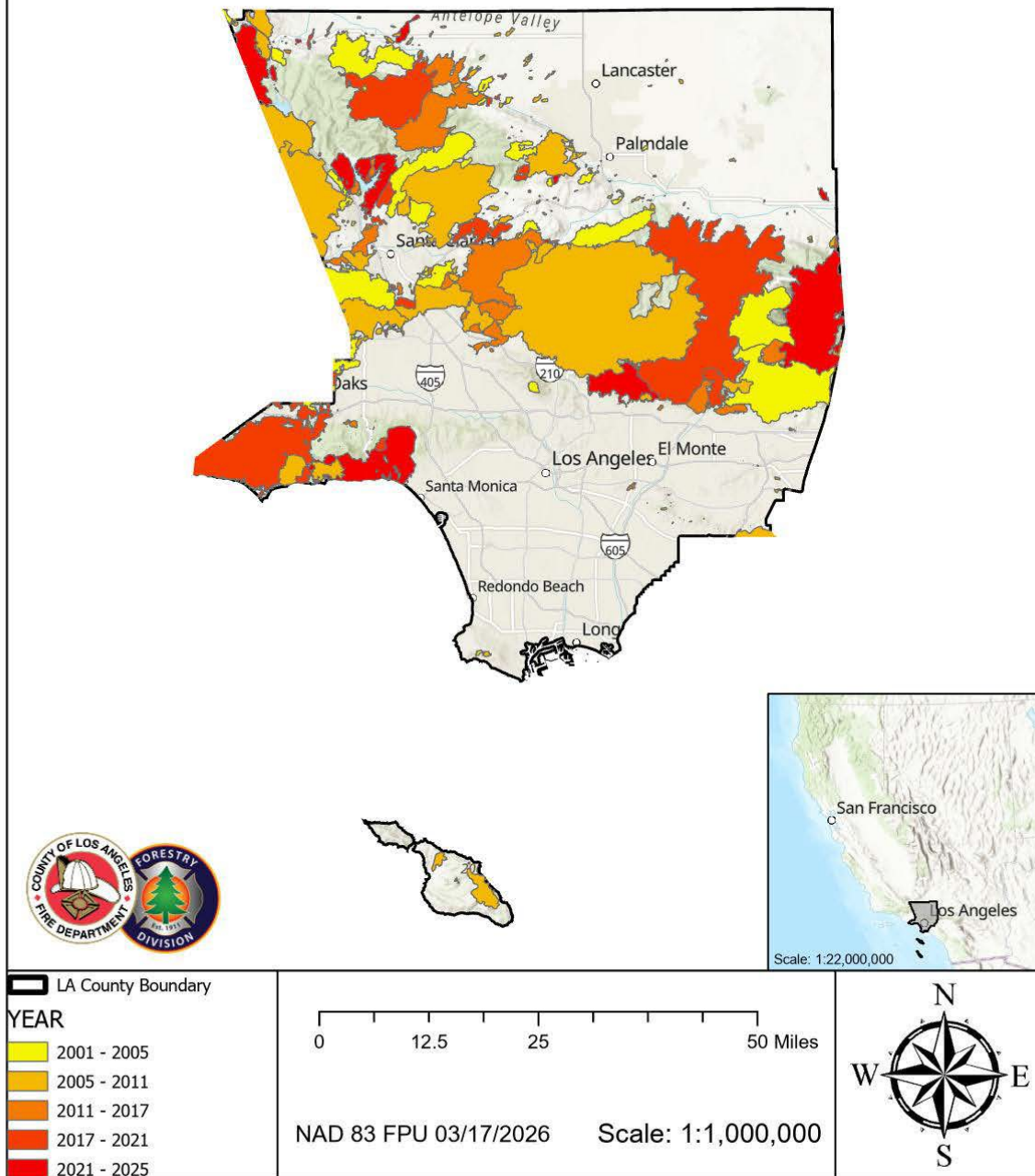
FIRE HISTORY

The County has a vast fire history dating back to Native Americans using fire to create biological diversity and maintain landscapes. Today, the County experiences large, damaging, and costly wildfires which affect a significant number of residents. In recent years, the County battled large, wind-driven fires destroying hundreds of homes and hundreds of thousands of acres of scenic landscape. The 2025 Eaton Fire consumed 14,021 acres, destroyed 9,414 structures, damaged 1,074 structures, and claimed 19 lives.



The 2025 Palisades Fire consumed 23,448 acres, destroyed 6,837 structures, damaged 973 additional structures, and killed 12 residents. The 2024 Bridge Fire consumed 56,030 acres with 81 structures destroyed and 17 additional structures damaged. The 2020 Lake Fire consumed 31,089 acres with 33 structures destroyed and 6 structures damaged. The 2020 Bobcat Fire burned 115,796 acres with 171 structures destroyed and 47 other structures damaged. The 2019 Santa Ana wind-driven Tick Fire scorched 4,615 acres. The 2018 Woolsey Fire consumed 96,949 acres, destroyed over 1,643 structures, and claimed three lives. The 2016 Sand Fire burned 41,432 acres consuming one home, a movie ranch, and claimed one life. Due to ongoing growth and development within the County, the Department continues working to protect and prevent catastrophic fires from destroying vulnerable communities; addressing wildfire potential continues to be the top priority.

County of Los Angeles Fire History 2001-2025



Previous Decade Fire History Map

THE WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

A thorough wildfire environment evaluation is essential in understanding fire severity potential in the County. With greatly varying fuel types, weather, and topography, recognizing each component is vital to firefighter safety and helps in determining which projects and programs are most efficient in preventing catastrophic wildfires; this is a major focus of the Department's Fire Plan Unit.

Fuel

Wildland fuel is vegetation covering the landscape. Fuel provides the thermal energy source that fire needs to spread. Ornamental vegetation around homes and structures is also considered fuel. Large WUI areas of great concern within the County are where native fuels and residential communities come together and provide a dangerous wildfire environment.

Weather

Weather can change rapidly, making it the most dynamic component of the fire environment. It is comprised of temperature, wind, relative humidity, cloud cover, precipitation, and atmospheric stability.

Topography

Topography includes slope, aspect, and elevation. These factors play an important role while fighting wildland fires. Slope affects the rate of spread, while aspect may affect fire intensity. Elevation changes impact the amount of oxygen in the air and vegetation types.

FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM

As part of the National Fire Danger Rating System, the Department has 22 RAWs in five Fire Weather Forecast Zones across the County. The 1500-hour outputs from these stations (temperature, relative humidity, 20-foot wind speed, 10-hour dead fuel moisture percentage) are plugged into the National Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS) to produce a Burn Index (BI) for each RAW location. Station Burn Indices are averaged per Fire Weather Forecast Zone to develop an adjective rating for that zone (Smokey Bear's arm). When used in conjunction with the current Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) for that zone, a Fire Danger Rating Forecast is developed. This forecast and the BIs inform departmental preparedness for high fire danger days, including red flag and Santa Ana wind events.

In 2022, the Department transitioned to the 2016 NFDRS Fuel Models which, in turn, created new BI threshold numbers for the 90th and 97th percentiles for Very High and Extreme Fire Danger Days. In 2025, the long-time authoritative national database system for all fire dangers transitioned from WIMS to FEMS. As a result, underlying inputs into all calculated indices changed and the resulting indices are all changed as well across the board.

The daily outputs can be found at [LACoFD Fire Weather Danger & LFM](#).

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

The Department currently has 4,963 budgeted positions, a total of 176 fire stations (including FS55 and FS155 on Catalina Island), 237 fire engines (including reserve engines), 3 light forces, 32 quints, 76 paramedic squads, 9 fire suppression camps, 12 bulldozers, 10 helicopters, 2 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) task forces, 3 Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) task forces, 6 swift water rescue units, 58 lifeguard beach patrol vehicles and 8 rescue boats, 23 Prevention offices, 13 Forestry units, and numerous other response vehicles and facilities. The Department serves unincorporated areas of the County as well as 60 incorporated cities.

The Department has a contractual agreement with CAL FIRE to provide wildland fire protection for SRA. The Gray Book staffing agreement identifies resource allocations CAL FIRE considers necessary for protection of SRA and provides funding accordingly. In the County, the Gray Book provides funding for 24 stations and fire prevention activities.

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

AGREEMENTS / AGENCIES / COMMUNITY

Cooperative Fire Service Agreements

In emergency services, mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response exceeding the capability of local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple alarm fire. Mutual aid may be requested only when such an emergency occurs or may be a formal standing agreement for cooperative emergency management on a continuing basis, such as ensuring resources are dispatched from the nearest fire station, regardless of the incident's jurisdictional boundary. Agreements sending the closest resources are regularly referred to as "automatic aid agreements." Current agreements include:

- Los Angeles County Operational Area Mutual Aid Plan
- California Fire Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement
- California Fire Assistance Agreement

Additional Fire Agencies in Los Angeles County:

US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
 National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area

City of Alhambra	City of La Habra Heights	City of San Gabriel
City of Arcadia	City of La Verne	City of San Marino
City of Avalon	City of Long Beach	City of Santa Fe Springs
City of Beverly Hills	City of Los Angeles	City of Santa Monica
City of Burbank	City of Manhattan Beach	City of Sierra Madre
City of Compton	City of Monrovia	City of South Pasadena
City of Culver City	City of Montebello	City of Torrance
City of Downey	City of Monterey Park	City of West Covina
City of El Segundo	City of Pasadena	
City of Glendale	City of Redondo Beach	

Agencies coordinating with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department:

POLITICAL ENTITY	JURISDICTION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT/LAW ENFORCEMENT
ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS	STATE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, RECREATIONAL USE
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	STATE
LOCAL WATER COMPANIES	PUBLIC & PRIVATE, WATER STORAGE & TREATMENT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES	PRIVATE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CalFire)	STATE
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	STATE/COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE	STATE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) - SOILS CONSERVATION	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE (USFS)	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TOPANGA COALITION FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION
FIFTY-NINE (59) CONTRACT AND FEE FOR SERVICE CITIES	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TWENTY-EIGHT (28) INDEPENDENT CITY FIRE DEPARTMENTS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Community Participation

FireSafe Councils (FSCs) – [California FireSafe Council](#)

FSCs are grassroots community-driven organizations whose objective is making California's communities less vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. FSCs protect residents and provide firefighters with a safe place to fight the oncoming wildfire through education programs and fire hazard reduction projects such as shaded fuel breaks or home hardening. FSCs started in the early 1990s; there are now over 200 FSCs statewide. Through the Fire Plan Unit and community services liaisons (CSLs), the Department supports these community-based organizations and efforts. In the early 2000s, the Department developed support mechanisms for the 21 currently active FSCs in the County.



NFPA Firewise Communities Program – [NFPA Firewise USA®](#)

Brush, grass, or forest fires do not have to be disasters. The National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from wildfire risks. There are currently 86 active Firewise Communities in the County.



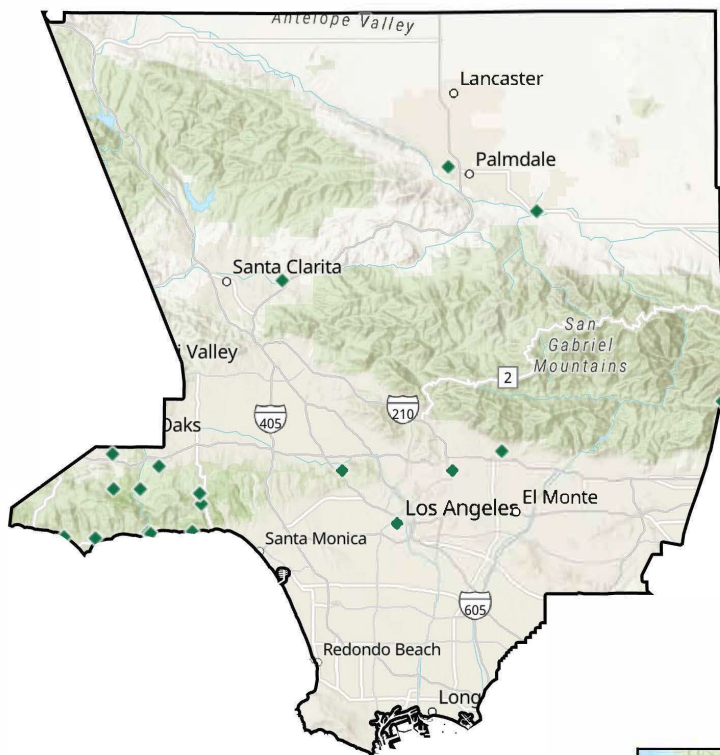
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – [LACoFD CERT](#)

The CERT program educates and trains people in disaster preparedness for hazards impacting their community, providing basic disaster response skills, such as fire-safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using training learned in classrooms and exercises, CERT members can assist neighborhoods or workplaces when professional responders are not immediately available. CERT members are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking active roles in emergency preparedness projects in their community. In June 2003, the Department began offering the Federal Emergency Management Agency-approved 20-hour CERT training curriculum to cities and communities we serve.



County of Los Angeles

FireSafe Councils



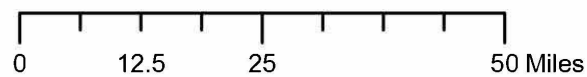
FIREWISE USA®



 LA County Boundary

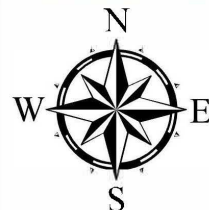
Active Fire Safe Councils
(21 Active)

 Fire Safe Council



NAD 83 FPU 03/19/2026

Scale: 1:1,000,000

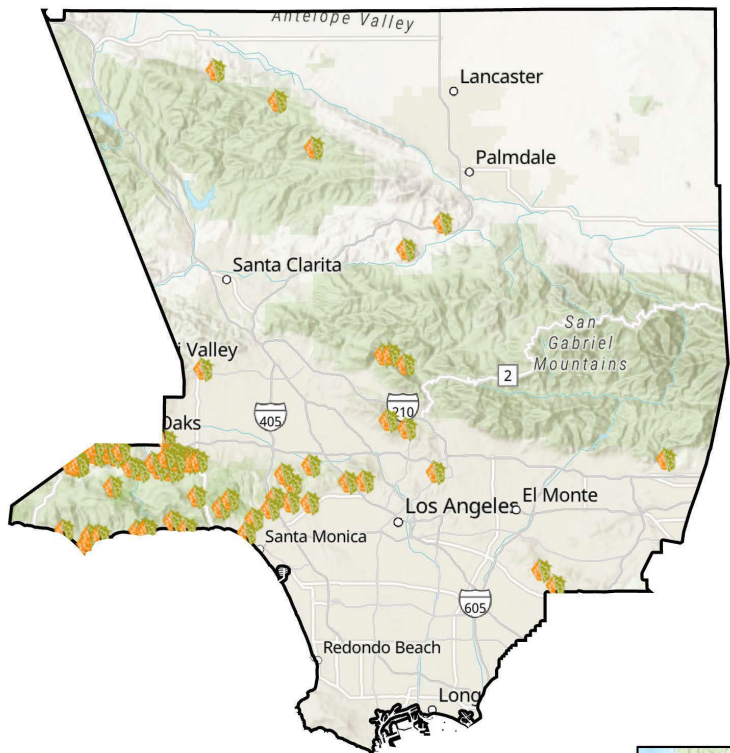


Map by S. Haynes, 2026

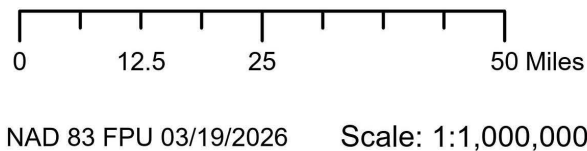
21 Active Fire Safe Councils in Los Angeles County

County of Los Angeles

Firewise USA Communities



- LA County Boundary
- Firewise Sites In Good Standing (86 Active)



Map by S. Haynes, 2026

86 Certified Firewise USA Communities in Los Angeles County

SECTION III: VALUES

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Priority Landscapes as defined by *California's Forests and Rangelands: 2017 Assessment* prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) are landscapes featuring assets, such as water supply, urban population, and ecosystems threatened by any form of damage (i.e., fire, pollution, pest damage, etc.). It also presents an analysis of trends, conditions, and the development of priority landscapes throughout California. Based on the FRAP assessment, communities in the WUI, rangelands, and protected habitats in the County are considered high priority landscapes.



The Federal Mandate

In response to the 2008 Farm Bill, the 2017 FRAP Assessment shifted focus to a format developed by the USDA Forest Service for State forestry assessments. Each chapter included analyses of threats and assets to generate “Priority Landscapes,” to target potential areas more efficiently for investment and treatment.

The 2017 FRAP Assessment was developed in cooperation with our federal partners, including the Forest Service. However, the focus has changed to an indicator-based approach for tracking the State’s progress towards sustainability.

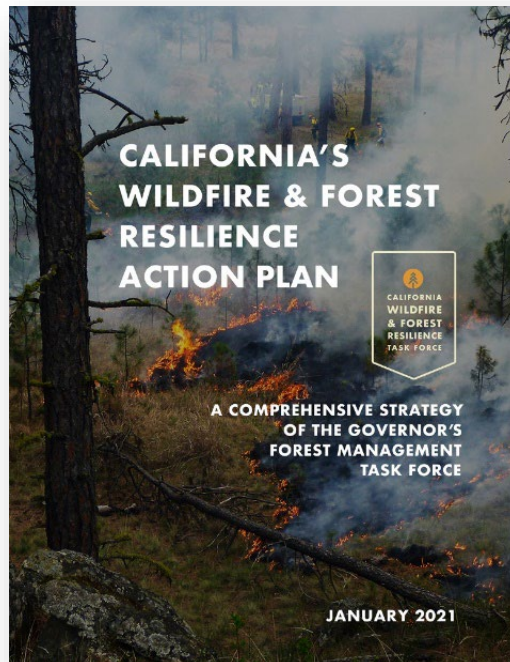
The State Mandate

By State law (PRC 4789), CAL FIRE must periodically assess California’s forest and rangeland resources. The previous effort was California’s Forests and Rangelands: 2017 Assessment. Assessment results are used by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and update a forest policy statement for California. In 2017, the strategy report, produced by FRAP as part of the Assessment process, served as the policy statement.

The 2022 Assessment considers various existing planning efforts; these range from local plans such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans to Statewide Plans, like the State Wildlife Action Plan, the State Water Plan, and the Forest Carbon Plan. The Assessment also integrates research related to renewable energy and climate change from the California Energy Commission, the Air Resources Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and various academic institutions. Many reports and data sources were used in preparation of this Assessment, including extensive use of forest inventory data from the Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis program.

In January 2021, Governor Newsom, with the help of California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), developed and released California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan ([Wildfire Task Force](#)). The plan set out four major goals that are to guide and strategically accelerate efforts to improve fire safety of our communities; to restore the health and resilience of California forests, grasslands and natural places; and to sustain the economic vitality of rural forested areas. These goals include restoration, increasing prescribed burns and fuels reduction work, improving regulatory efficiency, reducing health impacts, protecting wildfire-prone homes and neighborhoods, and utilizing best available science and research. This all works cohesively to help decrease the amount and size of wildfires and assist post-fire recovery. In March 2025, Governor Newsom created a task force to accelerate this action plan after the devastating wildfires that affected the County in January of 2025. This task force is focused on key deliverables, including improved home and community wildfire resilience, streamlining regulatory processes, expansion of landscape-scale resilience programs, rapidly increasing beneficial fire implementation, expanding post-fire restoration programs, creating a sustainable wood products market and forest sector jobs, and building a science-based framework to measure progress. The Task Force's complete road map can be found at [2025 Key Deliverables](#). The Department continues to progress these action items outlined by the Wildfire Task Force and the 2025 Key Deliverables as part of the fight against devastating wildfires.

In 2025 the update to California Building Code Chapter 7A along with California Residential Code Section R337, and California Fire Code Chapter 49 were combined to create California Title 24, Part 7. This has consolidated these three into one centralized WUI requirement. This has created a dedicated code book for building materials and construction methods to protect structures from wildfire.



TREE MORTALITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Approximately one million acres of forest within and adjacent to the San Bernardino, Cleveland, and Angeles National Forests have experienced severe tree mortality due to the drought-induced, pine bark beetle epidemic, Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), and Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB). These forests are directly adjacent to major metropolitan areas in the County; however, tree mortality is also widespread within the WUI and urban areas. Fire risks from dead or dying trees pose a major threat to public safety, private property, and ecosystem health. Currently, the Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM), the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the USFS and the local FSCs are actively involved in GSOB and PSHB monitoring and mitigation projects.

On January 27, 2016, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection declared the Community of Green Valley a Zone of Infestation for GSOB. Emergency measures were taken to mitigate the hazard posed by the GSOB infestation. In February 2019 the Department received a \$200,000 Fire Prevention grant and \$3 million Forest Health Grant to remove infested oak trees and help preserve 12,000 healthy trees to control the spread of GSOB. Over 6,000 oak seedlings were grown to promote reforestation and age-class diversity. As of March 2024, the Department contract vendors have removed 1,228 dead or infested trees. The grant was successfully amended to include basal injections as another tool to preserve existing oak woodlands, treating 785 trees as of the closing of the grant.

In March 2024, a new GSOB infestation discovery was made on Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) land, south of Santa Clarita. It appears that firewood movement is the most likely cause of this spread. This area is just 14 miles from the Santa Monica Mountains, where an estimated 600,000 coast live oaks reside. In April 2025, GSOB presence was confirmed in Marshall and Cobal Canyon in City of La Verne located within the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Through survey findings it was determined that GSOB might have reached this location six to eight years ago with approximately 45 percent of oak trees surveyed showing signs of infestation. The Invasive Pest Management Unit (IPMU) was established to serve as a resource in the collective efforts of various public agencies and stakeholders in the management of invasive/introduced pests, specifically gold-spotted oak borer. IPMU works with the public to educate on this oak tree threat, share survey findings with other agencies, and provide mitigation assistance to impacted agencies and the public. The focus is on collecting spatial and quantitative data on tree mortality throughout the County. This intensive forest inventory is being directed to areas of most concern, which show the highest appearance of tree mortality and declining vegetation conditions.

Forest health, resilient landscapes, fire adapted, and Firewise communities are the focus of land management planning and activities. Current Department work is supported by the National Fire Plan and California Strategic Fire Plan in developing short and long-term vegetation management and fire protection strategies.



Goldspotted Oak Borer Beetle



Camp Crews Chipping Infested Wood

VALUES

Generalized assets at risk must be identified within the County to show areas containing high value assets. Areas with the highest combined asset values and fire risk are targeted for fire plan projects, particularly where such projects reduce damage if a fire starts in the project area during high fire-hazard weather. We have brought values to align with the Wildfire Task Force and 2025 Key Deliverables.

In the County, the following are priority values and assets at risk (in no prioritized order):

- Public and firefighter safety
- Vulnerable populations and equitable protection
- Water and watershed
- Vital infrastructure (power lines, gas lines, highways, roads, etc.)
- Structures
- Wildlife and habitat (including rare and endangered species)
- Air quality
- Soil erosion
- Recreation
- Agriculture and rangeland
- Cultural and historic resources

Potential projects are identified, and an objective analysis determines the degree projects will reduce potential suppression costs and damage to valued assets within project areas. The asset framework and validation process are refined as stakeholders are identified and participate in the fire plan process. Multiple agencies have played a vital role in identifying assets within the County. Identifying locations of assets at risk is critical to fire protection planning. Fire protection resources should be allocated, in part, based on assets being protected. Considering resource limitations, a thorough understanding of assets at risk is necessary to determine pre-fire management projects providing the greatest benefit. The Department's primary concern is reducing fire risk and potential loss of assets, providing safety and protection of life, property, and the environment, while reducing suppression costs. Public and firefighter safety is paramount. As development expands into the WUI, it becomes exceedingly challenging to provide protection against the threat of wildland fires. With this growth, the Department has ensured to include vulnerable populations and

ensured equitable protection for everyone in the County. This includes looking at demographics of high-risk WUI areas that include residents that are 65 and older, residents who have limited mobility, and have language access needs. To reach these residents, the Department has coordinated with Los Angeles County Aging and Disabilities Department, Public Health, and Department of Mental Health. The Department has also worked on access and functional needs populations for evacuation planning with Los Angeles Metro. With the County also having a large linguistic diverse population, the Department takes steps to reach every resident.

In 2024, the Fire Plan Unit (FPU) worked with the Angeles National Forest to develop their Strategic Fire Zones (SFZ) and Potential Operational Delineations (PODs [Map](#)). These are strategic delineations that allow for firefighters to safely and strategically fight wildland fires. After working with the Angeles National Forest, the FPU started to take steps to develop a similar model for the Santa Monica Mountains.

California's Forests and Rangelands: 2022 Assessment identified 13 topics applicable to all areas of California. These include:

- Sustainable Working Forests
- Urban Forests
- Forest Pests and Diseases
- Climate Change
- Water Resources
- Communities-at-Risk
- Institutional Responses
- Sustainable Rangelands
- Wildfire
- Population and Development
- Non-metro Economies
- Wildlife Habitat
- Renewable Energy

Links to [FRAP](#) and [2022 Forest And Rangeland Assessment](#).

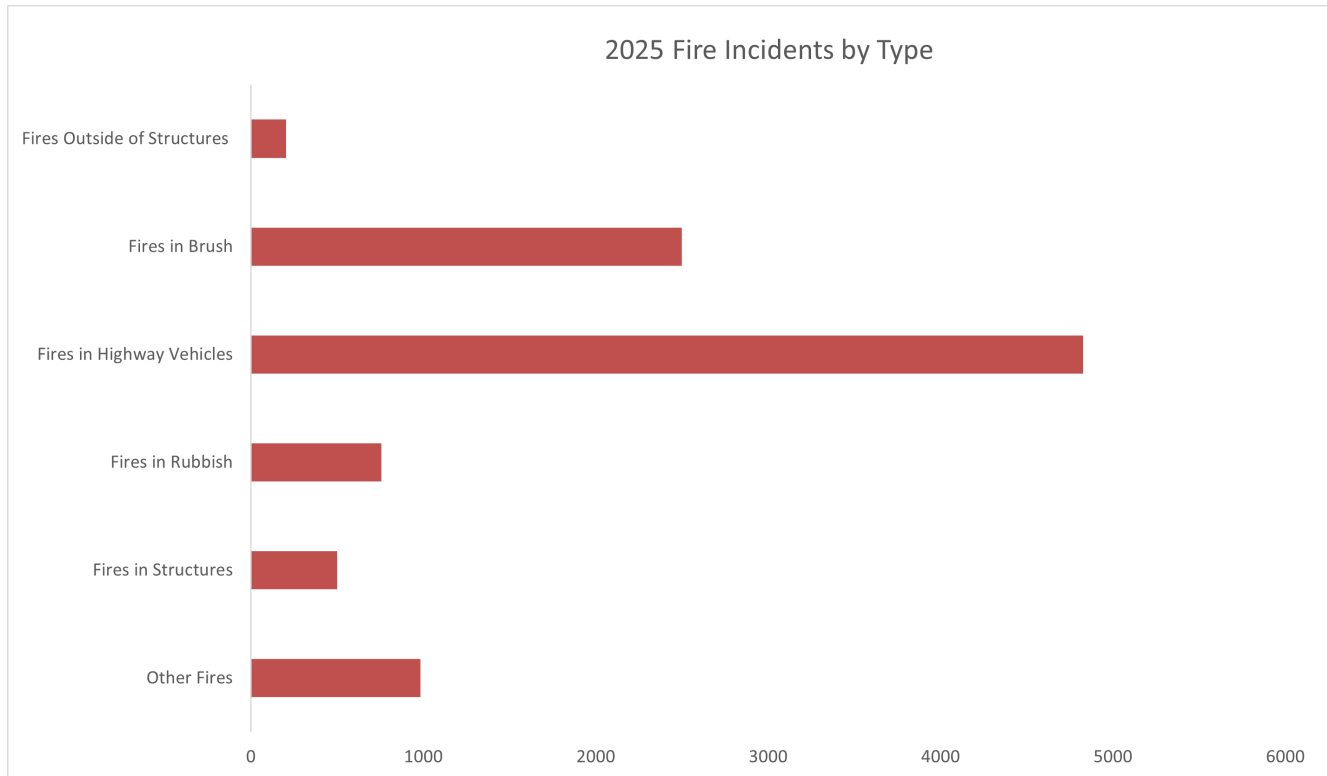
SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

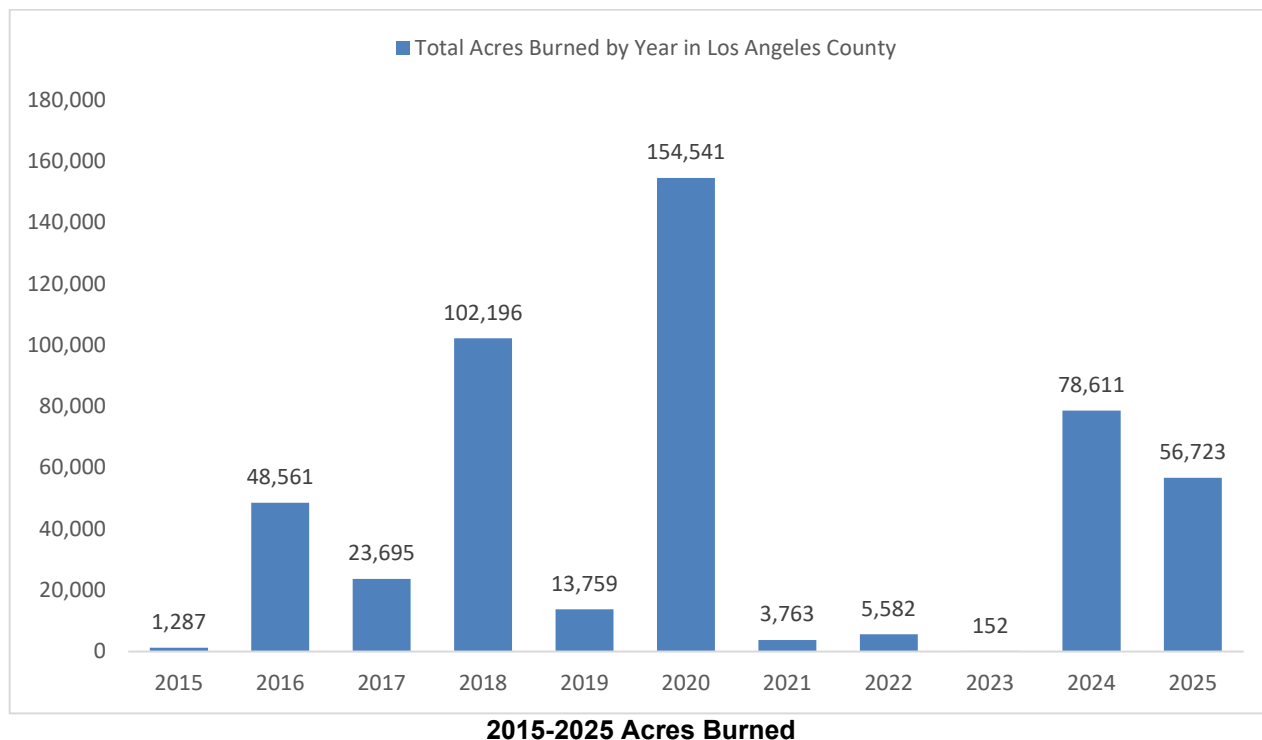
FIRE PREVENTION

In 2025, the Department recorded 9,772 ignitions (fire starts). Due to the large number of ignitions, the FPU evaluated and analyzed their cause to find methods in preventing fires from developing.

Ignition Starts

On January 1st, 2026, National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) was replaced by the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). These guides describe outside rubbish fires as trash, waste fires, garbage dump or sanitary landfill fires, construction or demolition landfill fires, dumpsters, other outside trash receptacle fires and outside stationary compactor, or compacted trash fires. Known sites can implement fire prevention practices, such as water misters and defensible space implementation.





These acres include fires both within and outside of County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Jurisdiction but had footprints within Los Angeles County.

Prevention

Fire Prevention's focus is educating citizens in reducing the risk from hazardous conditions through programs such as Ready-Set-Go, home hardening inspections, and working with stakeholders to apply for wildfire education grants. These programs focus on awareness of fire causes and reducing fire damage costs. The Department's FPU coordinates programs and activities to create efficient and timely Pre-Fire Management projects.

Passive Protection

Passive protection such as defensible space, hazard fuel reduction, fire-resistive landscaping, fire-resistive construction, and good housekeeping around structures plays a critical role in increasing wildfire survivability. The sum effect of passive protection is a force multiplier for active firefighting resources. A single firefighting resource may protect many more structures when passive protection is properly employed. In some cases, firefighting resources may not be necessary at all, thus freeing firefighters for additional assignments.

Engineering and Structure Ignitability

All newly constructed homes in the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) are subject to strict construction guidelines. Metal mesh with openings no greater than one-eighth inch (1/8") is required over all attic vents to prevent or limit ember intrusions. All eaves must be "boxed in," limiting susceptible exposed wood. Windows must be one-hour fire-rated, which means they can withstand one hour of heat from a wildfire before breaking. These are just

a few specific preventive methods reducing structure damage and loss that are contained in the Los Angeles County Building Code and California Building Code Chapter 7A.

Pre-Fire Management

The Pre-Fire Engineer (PFE) and unit staff work with stakeholders and cooperators including federal, State, and local government entities, Fire Safe Councils, Firewise Communities, and organizations to assist with the development and implementation of the Unit Fire Plan. PFE programming includes development of vegetation management projects, administration needs of fuels reduction project work, development of new Firewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils, fire prevention education within communities, development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant administration within the unit.

Fire Prevention Engineering

The Fire Prevention Division is under the leadership of the Department's Fire Marshal. This Division focuses on educating communities on the benefits of proper safety practices and identifying and eliminating all types of hazardous conditions posing a threat to life, property, and the environment. Safety inspections are consistently conducted in commercial, industrial, and residential developments. Numerous fires are investigated and tracked. Information acquired is used to update fire codes and fire prevention best management practices.

Arson/Fire Investigation Unit: Conducts cause investigations of major alarm fires, wildland fires, suspected arson, and other fires. This unit interviews witnesses, collects evidence, writes reports, and conducts training programs for Department personnel.

Codes and Ordinances Unit: Updates the County Fire Code. Conducts the research, answers requests for information, and maintains the Department's legal and historic library. This unit proposes code changes to the California Fire Code and California Building Code groups and coordinates the fire code adoption process with all contract cities.

Land Development Unit: Reviews firefighting water requirements and Department access for projects prior to a public hearing.

Building Plan Check Unit: Performs nonstructural fire safety plan review and approves architectural plans for various occupancies.

Communications Division: Is comprised of the Public Affairs Section, Communications Section and Headquarters Support Section. This Division serves as the first line of contact for all levels of media and the public on an emergency incident along with approving Department news released by the Fire Chief. This Division also advises Executive management and prepares sensitive communications for the Fire Chief regarding major organizational announcements. They also provide support for the Community Services Liaisons.



Featured on LACoFD's Fire Prevention Week

Information and Education: The Public Information Officer (while not under Fire Prevention) works closely with prevention personnel to develop specific programs, educational materials, and public statements. In 2026 the position of Public Education Officer position was created to work closely with the Communications Division. Ultimately, public education is the responsibility of all members of the Department. Each section interacts with the public and is responsible for increasing the public's awareness of wildfire safety and preparedness. The Department uses several publications to provide safety information to citizens of County.



Among them are:

- ✓ Ready! Set! Go!
[LACoFD Ready! Set! Go!](#)
- ✓ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
[LACoFD CERT](#)
- ✓ County of Los Angeles Fuel Modification Guidelines
[LACoFD Forestry Fuel Modification](#)
- ✓ For a complete list of WUI fire prevention education materials, please visit:
[LACoFD Defensible Space Program](#)
- ✓ County of Los Angeles Wildfire Preparedness and Fuels Reduction Program:
[LACoFD Wildfire Preparedness Section](#)

Additional WUI information and brochures are available through the Forestry Division's Interpretive Unit at (626) 969-2375.

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Links:

Website: www.fire.lacounty.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LACoFD

Instagram: [@lacountyfd](https://www.instagram.com/lacountyfd)

X: [@LACo_FD](https://twitter.com/LACo_FD)

Community Fire Hazard Reduction Project Support

The Department's FPU provides fire hazard reduction project design, development, planning, and implementation for communities in the County.

2025-2026 County of Los Angeles Grant-Funded Projects

County of Los Angeles Wildfire Prevention Grant Projects		
Organization	Description	Location
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (PHHPA)	Puente Hills Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	Puente Hills, City of Whittier
San Gabriel Valley Conversation Corps (SGVCC)	San Gabriel Valley Wildfire Resilience and Fuel Reduction Program	San Gabriel Valley, County of Los Angeles
Malibu West Beach Club	Hazardous Fuel Reduction (Prescribed Grazing)	Malibu West HOA, City of Malibu
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)	2023 MRCA Hazardous Fuels Reduction	County of Los Angeles
U.S. Green Building Council Los Angeles	Wildfire Defense Education & Tours	County of Los Angeles
City of La Cañada-Flintridge	Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Prescribed Grazing)	Gould Canyon, City of La Cañada-Flintridge
City of Agoura Hills/Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council (SMMFSC)	Community Planning (CWPP)	City of Agoura Hills
Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council (SMMFSC)	Wildfire Prevention Outreach/ Education	Santa Monica Mountains, County of Los Angeles
Emergency Preparedness in Calabasas	Community Wildfire Outreach, Education, and Mitigation	City of Calabasas
Conservation Corps of Long Beach	Catalina Community Wildfire Resilience Project	Santa Catalina Island

2025-2026 County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Fire Plan Projects

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects				
Description	Treatments	Status	Acres	Location
Tonner Canyon VMP Fuels Reduction Project	Broadcast Burn, Thinning	Active	50	Tonner Canyon, City of Industry
Annual Motorway Maintenance	Grading, Roadside Mastication	Completed Annually	75 miles	County of Los Angeles
Annual Helispot Maintenance	Mowing, Brush Clearing	Completed Annually	41	County of Los Angeles
Bradbury-Duarte Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project	Thinning, Chipping, Pile Burn	Completed In Maintenance	4	Cities of Bradbury and Duarte
Helispot 69 B Fuels Reduction	Prescribed Herbivory	Completed In Maintenance	32	Community of Topanga
Newhall Pass Fuels Reduction Project	Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	30	Newhall Pass, City of Santa Clarita
Santa Clarita Goat Grazing	Prescribed Herbivory	Completed in Maintenance	61	Towsley Canyon, City of Santa Clarita
Henninger Flats CalVTP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn	Active	60	City of Altadena
Bonelli Park Interior Rx	Broadcast Burn	Completed in Maintenance	25	City of San Dimas
Santa Fe Dam	Broadcast Burn	Planned	588	City of Irwindale
Kenneth Hahn Rx	Broadcast Burn, Pile Burn, Thinning	Planned	150	Kenneth Hahn SRA, City of Los Angeles
Pitchfork Ranch VMP	Broadcast Burn, Pile Burn, Thinning	Active	15	Community of Leona Valley
Gorrindo Ranch Rx	Broadcast Burn, Pile Burn, Thinning	Planned	28	Community of Leona Valley
Ritter Ranch Rx	Broadcast Burn, Pile Burn, Thinning	Planned	115	Community of Leona Valley
Spring Drills Live Fire Training	Broadcast Burn	Completed Annually	40	City of Santa Clarita
Del Valle Live Fire Training	Broadcast Burn	Completed Annually	25	City of Santa Clarita
Transition Habitat Conservancy Tumbleweed Rx	Pile Burn, Habitat Improvement	Completed Annually	3	City of Antelope Valley
Fern Ann Falls Thinning	Thinning	Planned	100	Santa Susana Pass, City of Los Angeles
Rice Canyon GSOB Rx	Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Ecological Restoration	Planned	100	Rice Canyon, City of Santa Clarita

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects				
Description	Treatments	Status	Acres	Location
MRCA EPP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Active	580	Community of Topanga, Cities of Calabasas, Malibu, Agoura Hills
Foothills CalVTP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Active	557	Cities of La-Crescenta, Montrose, La Cañada-Flintridge
North Region CalVTP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	1000	Northern Los Angeles County
Central Region CalVTP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	1000	Central Los Angeles County
Hidden Hills MRCA Proposal	Thinning	Planned	200	City of Hidden Hills
Lady Face Mountain Open Space	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	1500	City of Agoura Hills
Camp 13 Fuels Reduction	Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	40	Santa Monica Mountains, County of Los Angeles
Eastern Region CalVTP	Thinning, Pile Burn, Broadcast Burn, Prescribed Herbivory	Planned	1000	Eastern Los Angeles County

FORESTRY DIVISION



Since its inception in 1911, the Department's Forestry Division has been involved in conservation and natural resource protection. The Division is comprised of three sections: Wildfire Preparedness, Outreach, and Defensible Space. Forestry Division employees serve citizens by using acquired knowledge to preserve and enhance the environment for the benefit of all residents of the County. The Division is responsible for reviewing environmental documents related to development and protection of Oak tree resources, development of vegetation management projects, coordination of wildland fire planning, enforcement of the Department's Defensible Space Program, fuel modification plan review, FSC support, and California Strategic Fire Plan implementation.

As the County's population increases, further expansion of residential areas into the WUI is inevitable. Panoramic views, wildlife, fresh air, and solitude are just a few reasons people choose to live in wildland areas of the County. Rewards may be numerous, but the increased risk of wildland fires, subsequent flooding and erosion pose a serious threat to life and property.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS SECTION

Fire Plan Unit

The Forestry Division's FPU oversees the implementation of the California Strategic Fire Plan (drafted by CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry) and the County of Los Angeles Unit Fire Plan. The planning process defines a level of service, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative inter-dependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

The FPU works with communities and organizations across the County to limit fire risk in WUI areas. The FPU focuses on strategic wildfire mitigation by modeling fire hazard with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and identifying the most effective fuels reduction treatments per project site. This provides a prescription to limit loss from catastrophic wildfire by using the right treatment in the right place to protect lives and property while minimizing environmental impacts. The FPU coordinates programs and activities with the intent of creating efficient and timely pre-fire management projects.

Vegetation Management Unit

The Vegetation Management Unit (VMU) assists with planning and implementing projects using the Board of Forestry California Vegetation Treatment Program and CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program. This unit helps the Pre-Fire Engineer plan vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risk while ensuring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The VMU works closely with the Air and Wildland Division's Prescribed Fire Office to implement projects outlined in this fire plan (aligning with the Department's priority areas) to reduce hazardous vegetation around WUI communities, to construct fuel breaks, and to restore healthy ecological fire regimes.

Environmental Review Unit

The Forestry Division's Environmental Review Unit (ERU) collaborates with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) in implementing environmental ordinances. ERU personnel review all County Oak tree permit applications submitted through the DRP and develop implementation recommendations. Additionally, unit personnel produce environmental documentation and recommendations, such as, non-significant impact documents, negative declarations, and mitigation measures consistent with CEQA mandates for construction projects and developments. The ERU ensures the Department's Forestry Division statutory responsibilities are addressed in the project planning phase.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE SECTION

Defensible Space Inspection and Enforcement Program (DSU)

The Defensible Space Program is a joint effort between the Department and the ACWM Weed Abatement Division. This unified enforcement legally declares improved and unimproved properties a public nuisance, and where necessary, requires the clearance of hazardous vegetation. These measures create "defensible space" for effective fire protection of life, the environment, and property. The Department's DSU enforces the Fire Code regarding clearance on improved parcels, coordinates inspections, and compliance efforts with fire station personnel, and provides annual defensible space training to station personnel. The DSU collaborates with CAL FIRE database developers to ensure consistent reporting.

Approximately 130,000 existing structures in the FHSZ were inspected by fire personnel in 2025. These inspections are performed in the spring and summer to evaluate properties for adequate defensible space. The County requires the State's 100 feet of clearance and may extend fire hazard reduction up to 200 feet depending on aspect, slope, and environmental conditions. Defensible Space inspection guidelines require no vines on structures, or large trees within the first 30 feet of the home. Inspectors look for adequate vegetation removal and breaks in fuel continuity and density. Depending on slope direction from the structure, fire intensity can be mitigated by decreasing density and clearing vegetation. If a property is found to be non-compliant DSU may impose fines and fees for inadequate fire hazard reduction. A non-compliant property requiring clearance by the Los Angeles County ACWM will be charged an administrative fine and an abatement enforcement fee. The ultimate goal is to educate homeowners who live in the FHSZ on how they can give their home the best chance to survive the next wildfire.

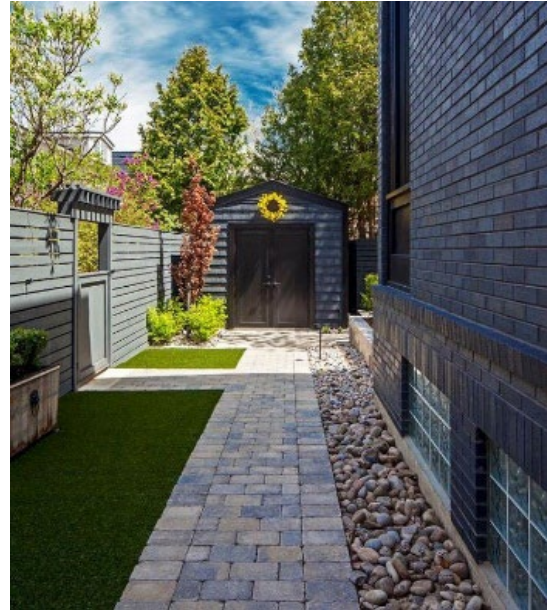


Defensible Space Zones Enforced by LACoFD

OUTREACH SECTION

Fuel Modification Unit (FMU)

The Forestry Division's FMU objective is to ensure defensible space necessary for effective fire protection in newly constructed homes (or remodeled 50 percent or greater) within the State's FHSZ. The FMU provides guidelines and reviews landscape plans for approval before construction or making additions to a structure. Fuel modification reduces radiant and convective heat and provides valuable defensible space for the structure. A fuel modification plan identifies specific zones subject to fuel modification within a property. Once homes are constructed, an inspection is performed confirming implementation of the approved landscape plan. After the occupancy inspection, fuel modification parcels are moved into the Defensible Space Inspection Program.



Fuel Modification Landscapes

A fuel modification zone is a restricted or limited planting area around a structure where vegetation (ornamental and/or native) has been modified and/or partially or totally replaced with drought-tolerant, low-fuel-volume plants. Zones may extend to 200 feet from structures. Fuel Modification Guidelines can be found at: [LACoFD Forestry Fuel Modification](#).



Fuel Modification Example Landscapes

FIRE SUPPRESSION PHILOSOPHY

Life safety is the number one priority for fire suppression efforts: during a WUI fire, protection of firefighters and civilians is paramount, followed by values at risk and natural resources. Rules and guidelines have been developed protecting firefighters and the public. These guidelines can help the public understand why firefighters deploy specific tactics on incidents.

Some of these guidelines are: *The 10 Standard Firefighting Orders, the 18 Watch-Out Situations, LACoFD's TIER - Take Initiative, Engage, & Report, the Risk Management Process, P.A.C.E.: Primary, Alternate, Contingent, Emergency Plans, and the WUI Guidelines*. In extreme wildfire conditions, such as a Santa Ana wind event, it can be extremely unsafe and unrealistic for firefighters to make an effective defensive stand on ALL values at risk within the WUI area.

With all wildfires, specific strategic and tactical actions must take place. From initial dispatch to containment of a wildfire unified command has become best practice. To accomplish this, all fire agencies in the County and the State use the National Incident Management System.

When a wildfire grows beyond initial attack, particularly in the WUI, two primary focuses are perimeter control and structure defense. These are identified by the Incident Commanders and developed in the Incident Action Plan. In addition, firefighting resources are assigned in the Operational area for tactical patrol to monitor values at risk after the fire front has passed.

THE FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

Although fire is a necessary component of local ecosystems, in most cases, unchecked wildfire is no longer a viable fire/fuel management option in the County. This is due to population growth and assets at risk having interfaced and intermixed with wildlands to an extent that uncontrolled fires must be quickly extinguished. Therefore, the main emphasis of wildfire protection in the County is an aggressive initial response firefighting strategy.

DIVISION/BATTALION/PROGRAM PLANS

The FPU assessment process utilizes weather, assets at risk, fuels and input from various regions, stakeholders, bureaus, divisions, and battalions to determine priority areas and prioritize hazard fuel reduction projects. The Fire Plan Assessment, with its science-based approach, is evaluated in conjunction with other intangibles to arrive at a "reasonable" assessment of the needs and likelihood of accomplishing a project.

The current assessment indicates there is a significant need for fuels reduction work throughout foothill communities, especially in WUI areas adjacent to local mountain ranges, such as the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains, Verdugo Mountains, and San Rafael Mountains.

Each battalion was consulted to determine pre-fire management projects considered important in reducing wildfire potential and impacts. Projects are assigned a relative ranking by the Vegetation Management Unit. Theoretically, a project with the highest hazard would have the highest priority.

Nonetheless, there are circumstances where projects less than the highest priority are given preference. Some of these circumstances include the following: the Department's current commitment to an existing pre-fire project, landownership, community participation necessary to complete a project, the preparatory work and ease of instituting the project, the project type, a required match for grant-funded projects and the established commitment between the Department, Fire Safe Councils, and communities. The FPU's primary function is to identify, propose, and support Countywide fire hazard reduction projects.

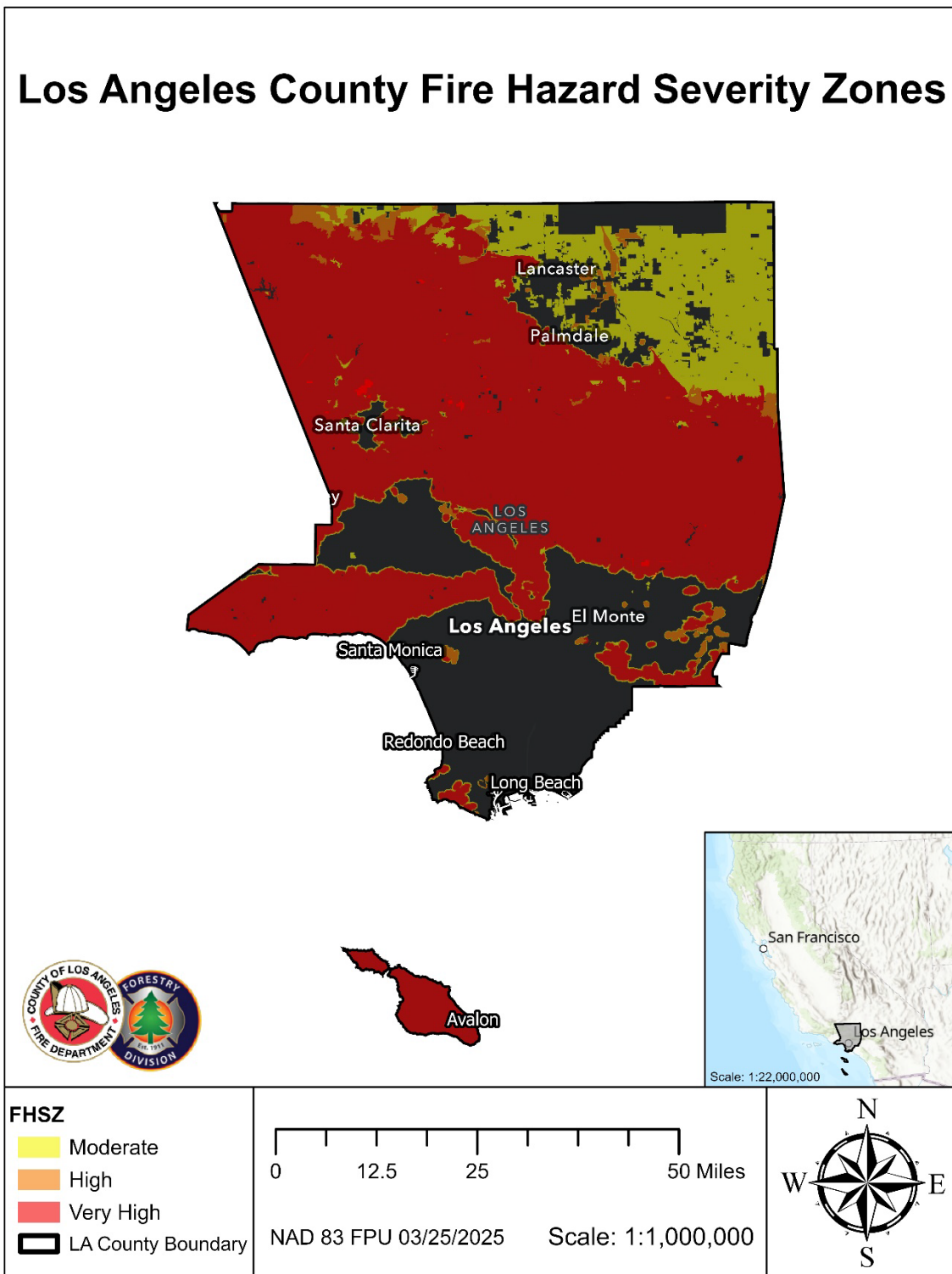


Defensible Space Before Mitigation

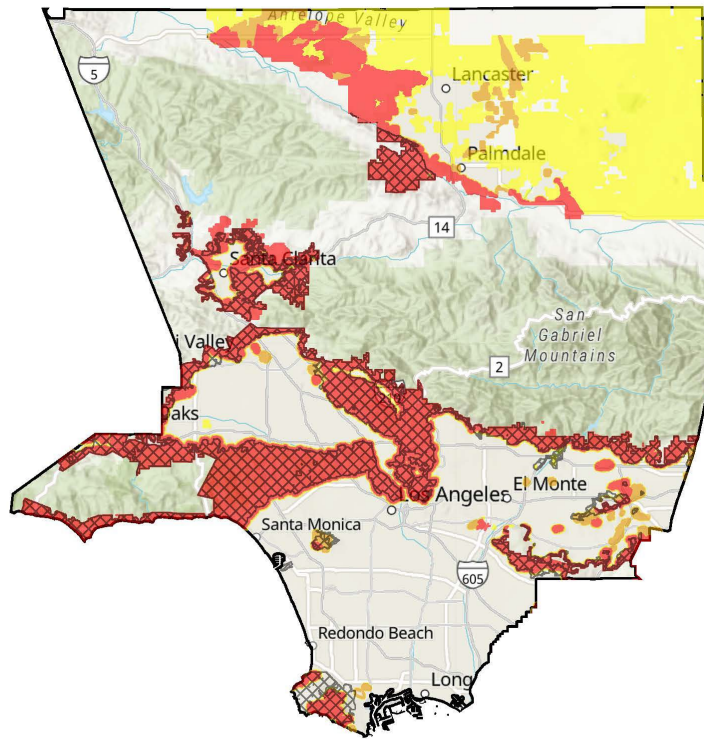


Defensible Space After Mitigation

APPENDIX A: MAPS



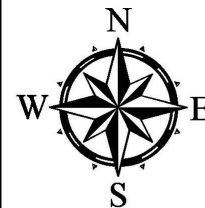
LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones (2010 vs 2025)



- LA County Boundary
- Very High (2010)
- LRA FHSZ (2025)**
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Very High

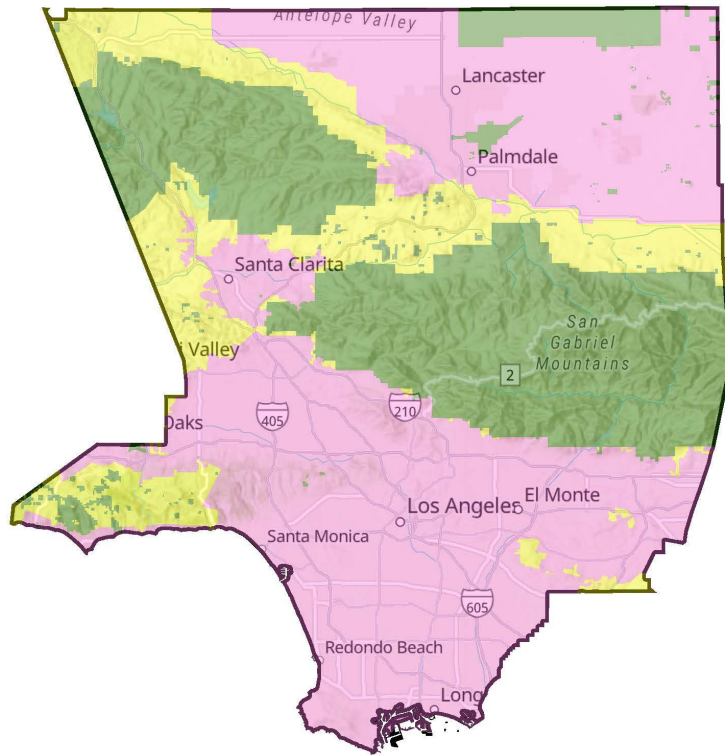
0 12.5 25 50 Miles

NAD 83 FPU 04/2/2025 Scale: 1:1,000,000



Map by C. Sweeney, 2025

Los Angeles County Direct Protection Areas



DPA Class

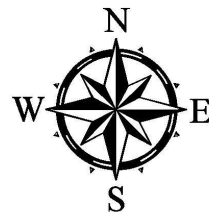
- Federal
- State
- Local

LA County Boundary

0 12.5 25 50 Miles

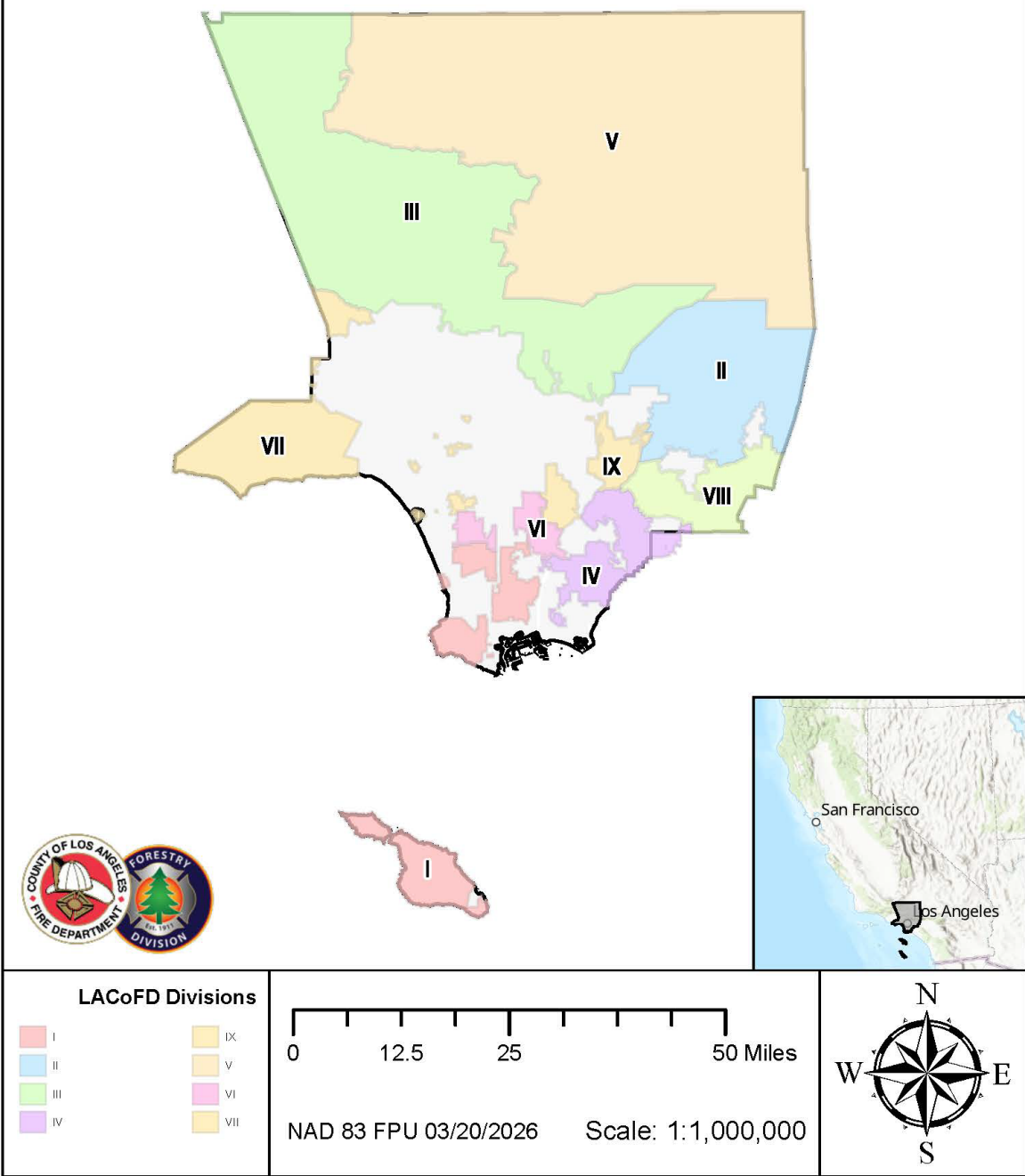
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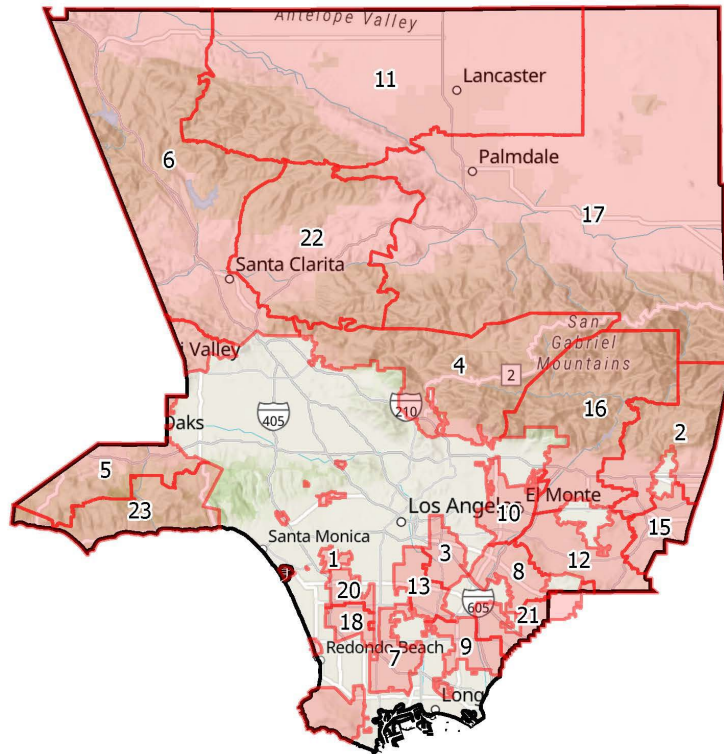
Map by I. Castillo, 2026

Los Angeles County Fire Department Divisions



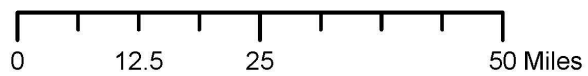
Map by I. Castillo, 2026

Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalions



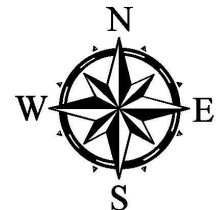
LACoFD Divisions

- Battalion Boundaries
- LA County Boundary



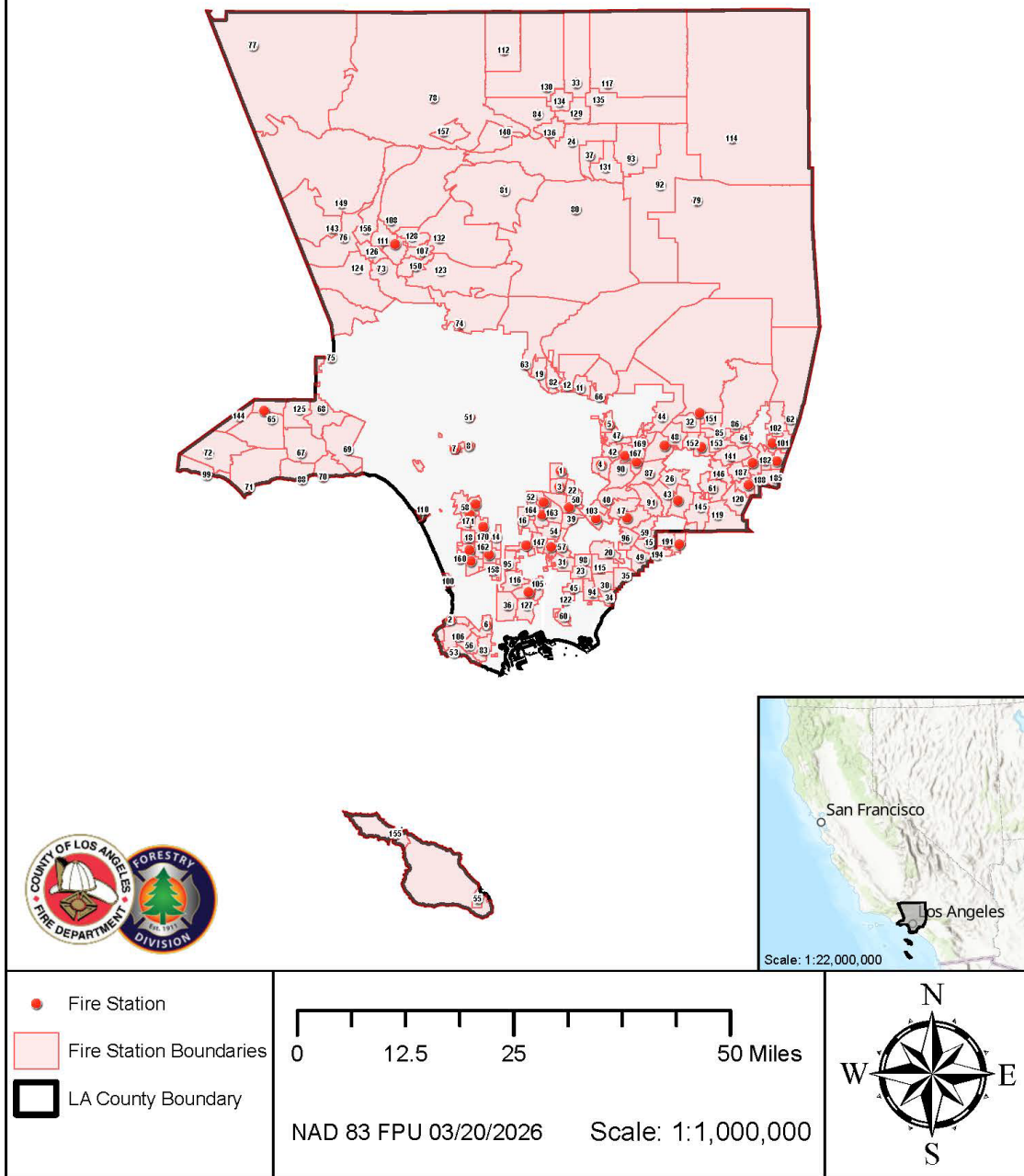
NAD 83 FPU 03/20/2026

Scale: 1:1,000,000



Map by I. Castillo, 2026

County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Stations



APPENDIX B: DEPARTMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Department's mission statement is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services. This mission complements the goal of the 2018 California Strategic Fire Plan. Therefore, the Department will continue to support and align with the intent of the 2018 California Strategic Fire Plan by addressing identified objectives. The goals of the Department's Unit Fire plan are as follows:

- Analyze the potential of wildfire threats to communities at the watershed and landscape level within and adjacent to the WUI.
- Prioritize within each battalion where hazardous fuel reduction projects can make the largest impact to protection of life, property, and natural resources.
- Develop landscape and watershed level maps identifying prioritized values and assets, and at-risk communities.
- Develop battalion-specific strategies and tactics within the Department's Unit Fire Plan.
- Determine landscape and watershed level scale fire prevention strategies which parallel the County's land using planning strategies.
- Continue to reach out and assist communities at risk to establish local FSCs and establish appropriate defensible space.
- Continue to work with communities at risk to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT BRUSH FIRE LOG 2025

Acres are all within County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Jurisdiction

Fire Number	Name	Incident Number	Jurisdiction	Date	SRA Area	CFPD Area
1	Palisades Fire	000738	67, 69, 70, 88	1/7/2025	7,718.00*	9,610.43
2	Eaton Fire	009087	11, 12, 44, 66, 82	1/7/2025	2,575.72*	12,863.34
3	Lidia Fire	010648	80	1/8/2025	338.93	347.70
4	Freddy Fire	010618	99	1/8/2025	6.53	6.53
5	Hurst Fire	003294	73	1/9/2025	279.26	558.49
6	Kenneth Fire	003155	125	1/9/2025	84.63*	119.54
7	Todd Fire	022024	149	1/16/2025	0.61	0.61
8	Hughes Fire	250270	76, 149	1/23/2025	2,911.17	10,425.34
9	Smokey Fire	072123	77	2/24/2025	8.20	8.20
10	Unnamed Fire	194050	79	6/3/2025	4.31	4.31
11	Grand Fire	213852	192	6/19/2025	0.43	0.43
12	Alamo Fire	215905	149	6/21/2025	8.32	8.32
13	Jasper Fire	235320	76, 143	6/26/2025	36.63	36.63
14	Subida Fire	230736	24	7/3/2025	33.41	33.41
15	Bert Fire	237029	76	7/8/2025	38.69	46.02
16	Allen Fire	236814	79	7/8/2025	12.19	12.19
17	Mike Fire	248072	84	7/17/2025	1.76	1.76
18	Canyon Fire	251151	74	7/19/2025	0.65	0.65
19	Canyon Fire	068268	143, 149	8/7/2025	4,017.46	4,093.06
20	Hawk Fire	300879	24, 81	8/14/2025	162.46	481.28
21	King Fire	282478	77	8/14/2025	267.35	577.45
22	Ellie Fire	306900	131	9/1/2025	0.00	15.74
23	Harold Fire	357703	75	10/12/2025	11.45	11.45
				TOTAL	18,518.16	39,262.88

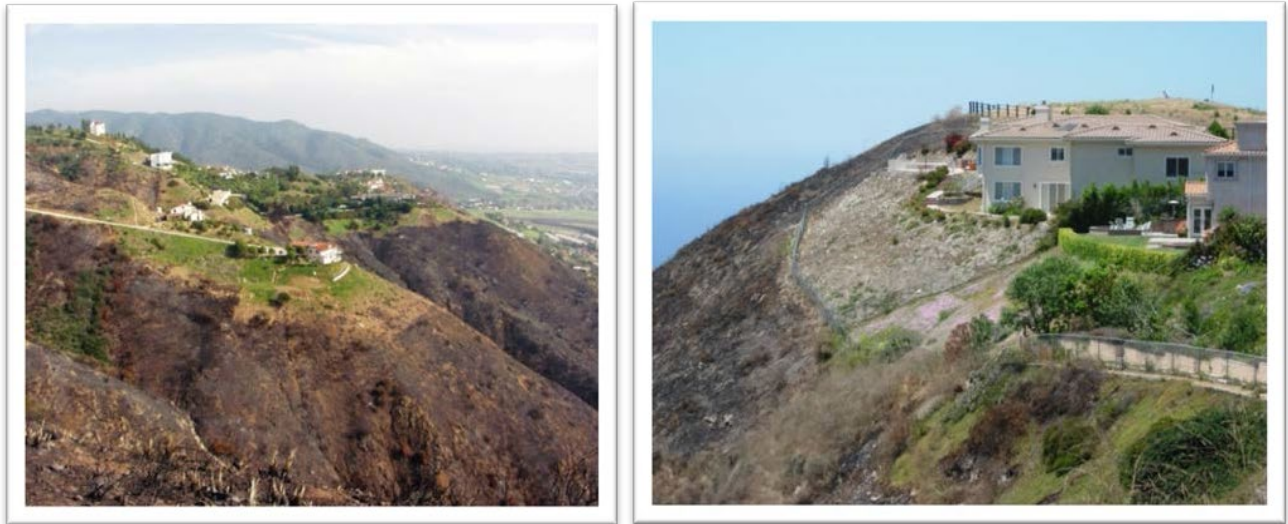
2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT OF UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, the Department completed 129,348 defensible space inspections. There were 360 violations after the second inspection by fire station personnel and forwarded to the Forestry Division Defensible Space Unit (DSU) for non-compliance follow-up. The DSU consulted with the property owners and 155 non-compliance letters were sent; 131 properties were cleared by owners, 24 parcels were cleared by the ACWM, Weed Abatement Division.

The Department's Fuel Modification Unit reviewed 1,013 Fuel Modification plans and performed 754 occupancy inspections on previously approved Fuel Modification plans.

The Department's Air and Wildland Division brushed and maintained roughly 75 miles of motorways and fire roads with the assistance of the Heavy Equipment Section. The Fire Suppression camps, both paid and correctional, treated 380 acres, which protected 500,000 structures, 99 communities, and involved approximately 3,000 crew and personnel hours.



Defensible Space Protection from Wildfire