

MYSAFE:LA'S COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# INTRODUCTION

Colleagues and partners,

I am privileged to reflect on our 2024 initiatives to strengthen wildfire resilience in Los Angeles. Our mission is to develop fire-safe communities, including from the ever-increasing risk of wildfires. Our collaboration with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) has been a productive and evolving engagement, and the objectives have been clear: to educate, prepare, and protect. Following are some of the key achievements from our collective efforts:

- 1. COMMUNITY EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS:** We held workshops, school presentations, and community events on wildfire safety that included defensible space, home hardening, evacuation procedures, and emergency plans.
- 2. WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES:** We worked with area homeowners' associations to help them become recognized as Fire Safe Councils. Under that umbrella, we supported smaller groups of homeowners in applying for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise recognition.
- 3. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP):** This plan identifies risks and initiatives to enhance community safety in fire-prone areas. In Los Angeles, the CWPP will be completed in 2025 and will detail ways to improve wildfire preparedness and resilience in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) / intermix neighborhoods.
- 4. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS OUTREACH:** We tailored programs to meet the unique needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income households, providing these groups with critical safety information and support.
- 5. ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION:** Besides collaborating with the LAFD, we worked closely with the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and other partners to promote fire-safe practices and sustainable planning and reduce wildfire risks.

As we prepared this report, the aftermath of destructive wildfires in Los Angeles was still being addressed while new fires erupted nearby. Although we will mention these fires, assessing their immediate and long-term effects is premature. In 2025, we will face critical challenges as we strive to reduce escalating wildfire threats to homes and families and bring the community together to build a safe and resilient environment.

Warm regards,



David Barrett  
Executive Director  
MySafe:LA





# REVIEWING THE RISK FACTORS IN LOS ANGELES

California communities are increasingly experiencing severe wildfire seasons annually due to a confluence of environmental, climatic, and human factors. Prolonged droughts, elevated temperatures, and erratic weather patterns have led to the development of drier and more combustible vegetation. Furthermore, the construction of structures in areas designated as wildland urban interface (WUI) has created vulnerable targets for ignition.

The building up of vegetation caused by decades of fire suppression policies and climate impacts has resulted in excessive fuel loads. These dense reserves allow wildfires to spread quickly and intensify, often outpacing suppression efforts. Extreme weather events like Santa Ana and Diablo winds carry embers over long distances, igniting spot fires and structures and increasing the scope and size of destruction.

In California, issues with human-made infrastructure like downed power lines, or human actions such as mismanaged campfires or arson are prominent contributors to wildfires. Consequently, California communities face significant difficulties in preparedness, response, and recovery from wildfires.

The latest overview of wildfire risks in Los Angeles raises serious concerns, primarily influenced by environmental, climatic, and urban elements that heighten fire danger. Key factors that characterize this wildfire risk include the following:

## 1. IMPROPERLY DEFENDED STRUCTURES

The rapid spread of wildfire is exacerbated by the lack of “home-hardened” structures, as many homes are built with flammable materials, have vulnerable roofing, or lack defensible space. Without fire-resistant construction and proper vegetation management, embers can easily ignite homes, creating a domino effect where entire neighborhoods are consumed. In areas like the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Fernando Valley, and communities bordering wildland areas, this combination of human-caused ignition sources and highly flammable structures significantly increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires, endangering lives, property, and air quality across Los Angeles.

## 2. WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

Los Angeles encompasses extensive areas where urban development converges with wildland regions, (the WUI). These regions, including but not limited to the Santa Monica Mountains, Sepulveda Pass, Sylmar, Hollywood Hills, and Griffith Park, are characterized by highly flammable vegetation and infrastructure. Consequently, these areas face substantial risks from wildfires. The recent expansion of urban areas into previously undeveloped land has significantly increased the frequency and intensity of wildfires in these regions. Furthermore, the majority of structures within the WUI lack adequate fire resistance, making them vulnerable to ignition during wildfires.

## 3. FUEL LOAD

The 2024 wildfire season followed an exceptionally wet winter and spring, dramatically increasing the growth of vibrant grasses and dense shrubs. This surge in vegetation now provides abundant and easily ignitable fuel. Under the summer sun’s intense heat, these various flora dry out, making fine fuels highly susceptible to ignition, which significantly speeds up the spread of flames. The risk is exceptionally high in low-elevation areas below 3,000 feet, where thick layers of lush greenery have accumulated, significantly increasing both the chances of ignition and the speed of fire spread. Adding to this volatile situation are the region’s notorious Santa Ana winds, which can sweep across the landscape with incredible force, quickly spreading flames over large areas and posing a serious challenge for firefighting and containment efforts.

## 4. CLIMATIC FACTORS

Los Angeles, reflecting wider trends across California, is confronting a disturbing rise in temperatures that far exceed seasonal averages ([Climate.NASA.GOV, newsroom.ucla.edu](https://climate.nasa.gov/newsroom/ucla.edu)). This alarming increase in heat has resulted in a prolonged wildfire season, significantly escalating the threat of destructive fires (The Guardian, [ScienceNews.org](https://www.science.org)). The extreme conditions of fall 2024, characterized by a worrying lack of humidity and strong, gusty winds, have significantly increased the wildfire risk. Moreover, climate forecasts indicate a bleak outlook of persistently high temperatures and extended dry periods, worsening the already severe fire dangers affecting this vulnerable region.

A 2024 report from **CoreLogic** analyzed how many homes and apartments are at risk in Los Angeles County. The report looked at slopes, drought conditions, wildfire fuel, wind, and other factors to determine areas where residences were most at risk.

The CoreLogic report states that homes in Los Angeles “face an elevated risk because of their proximity to forested or undeveloped areas.” And that, “This geographic placement can pose challenges for firefighting and evacuation efforts in case of a wildfire.” Overall, more than 242,000 residences are at extreme risk.

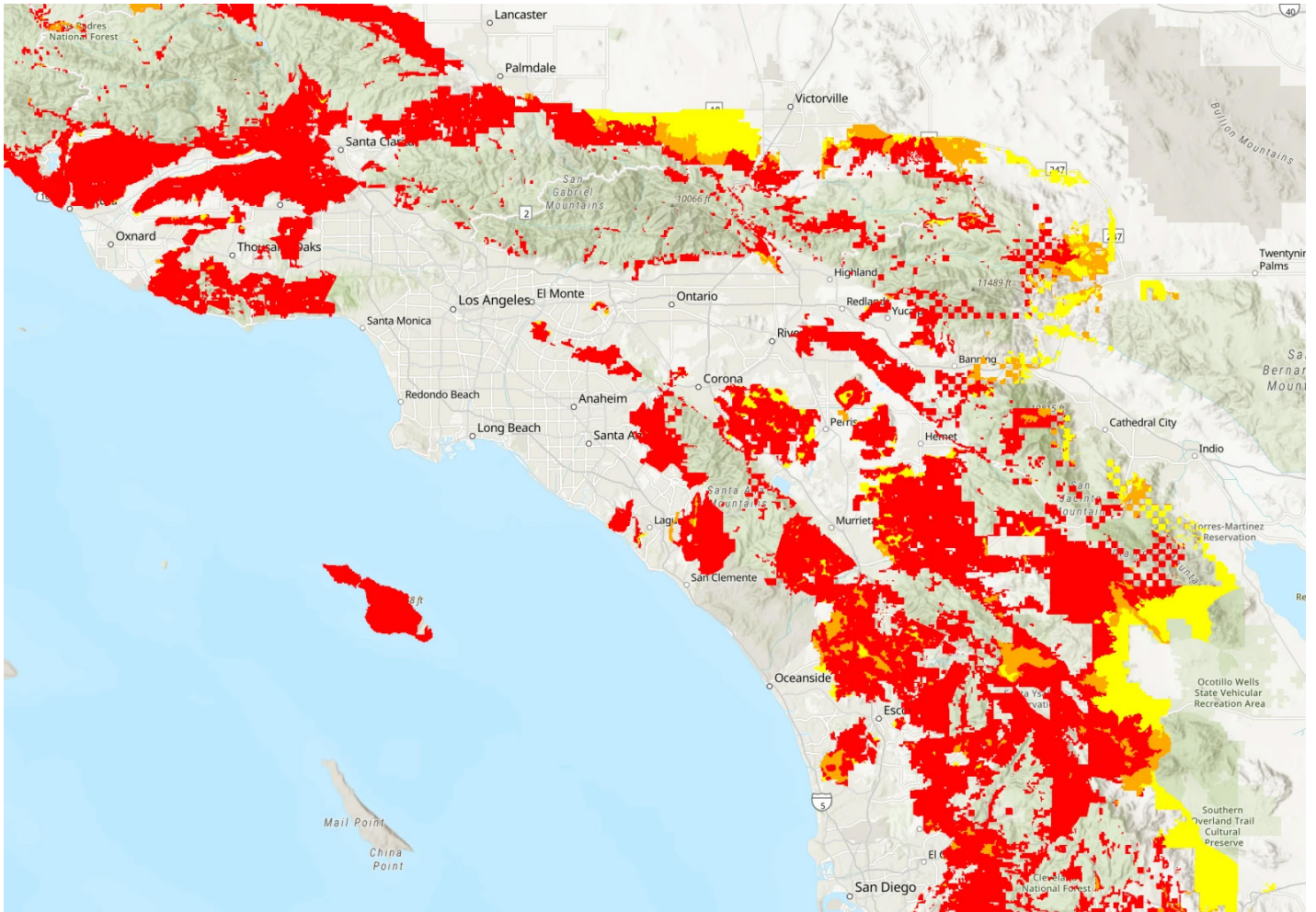
## 5. INFRASTRUCTURE

The wildfire risks in Los Angeles are worsened by outdated infrastructure, creating a complex challenge for the city. The power grid consists of aging transmission lines and transformers that are prone to failure in severe weather. Old electrical equipment can spark fires, particularly during high winds, and the water supply system, vital for firefighting efforts, also faces difficulties. Many of the city’s water mains are obsolete and susceptible to breaks, which may reduce water pressure during emergencies. The street system in Los Angeles was designed for a less populated urban setting so it often becomes congested and is problematic to navigate during wildfire evacuations, complicating access for first responders and putting lives at risk. While communication infrastructure has improved, some regions still depend on outdated tools, including but not limited to linkage to mobile communications providers, software, and computer hardware, resulting in breakdowns of emergency alerts and coordination. These linked vulnerabilities heighten the city’s wildfire risk, underscoring the urgent need for modernization and investment in a more resilient infrastructure.

# THE 2024 WILDFIRE SITUATION IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES REGION

The City of Los Angeles faces an escalating threat from wildfires and this threat is expected to intensify over the next five years. The **Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) National Risk Index (NRI)** uses an extensive compilation of data to create a color-coded map that illustrates fire risk and is searchable on a state, county, or neighborhood (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau) level. When calculating the risk score for each U.S. County, the NRI shows that Los Angeles is at the top of the risk index for wildfire in the United States.

The **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFSZ)** in Los Angeles are characterized by dense vegetation, rugged terrain, and proximity to urban areas, making those areas particularly susceptible to wildfires. These zones encompass significant areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, parts of the San Fernando Valley, and the hillsides surrounding neighborhoods such as Pacific Palisades, Topanga, Baldwin Hills, Laurel Canyon, Coldwater Canyon, Bel Air, Mount Washington, and Beverly Hills, among others.



VHFSZ MAP OF LOS ANGELES

# THE WET WINTER AND DRY SUMMER AND FALL IN LOS ANGELES

Substantial rain fell in Los Angeles during winter 2023-2024, significantly surpassing seasonal averages. Multiple atmospheric rivers contributed to consistent and heavy rainfall, replenishing reservoirs, soaking the ground, and promoting widespread plant growth. Although this rainy winter offered short-term respite from drought, it also led to unforeseen repercussions that increased the threat of wildfires later in the year.

## VEGETATION GROWTH: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

During a wet winter, rapid plant growth leads to vibrant vegetation. However, as summer heat rises and humidity decreases, this same vegetation dries out, becoming highly combustible and raising the risk of wildfires.

### 1. RAPID GROWTH OF GRASSES AND SHRUBS

- The plentiful rainfall created perfect conditions for germinating and growing grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and other plants.
- Open areas, slopes, and empty lots rapidly filled with vibrant greenery that was denser than usual because of the abundant moisture and nutrients in the soil.

### 2. EXPANSION OF PLANT COVERAGE

- Regions previously affected by drought or past wildfires experienced quick vegetation regrowth, resulting in a broad and uninterrupted ground cover layer.
- Recent growth infiltrated WUI areas, such as canyons and hillside communities, bringing vegetation closer to residences and infrastructure.

### 3. ACCUMULATION OF FUELS

- The hot, dry summer of 2024 caused grasses, weeds, and other small plants to become a dangerously flammable fuel source.
- High winds common in the area intensified this process, dispersing dry plants into at-risk zones.

## THE TRANSITION TO A DRY SUMMER AND FALL

Lush vegetation in Los Angeles can dry out, die, and become wildfire fuel within days to weeks due to intense heat, low humidity, and prolonged Santa Ana winds, creating highly flammable conditions.

### 1. ABRUPT END TO RAINFALL

- Rainfall ceased entirely in April 2024, marking the start of an unseasonably dry period.
- Throughout the summer and fall, the region suffered from parched soils and rapidly drying vegetation.

### 2. PROLONGED DRY SPELL

- In early February 2024, Los Angeles faced a significant atmospheric river event that triggered record rainfall and rapid vegetation growth. However, prolonged dry conditions and higher temperatures soon dried this lush vegetation, increasing flammability and extending the wildfire season.

- Summer's extended summer heat in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the intense, arid Santa Ana winds, expedites the dehydration of vegetation, transforming it into a highly combustible fuel source.

## THE DANGER OF DRIED VEGETATION AS FUEL

Dried-out vegetation acts as highly flammable fuel, allowing wildfires to ignite more easily, spread rapidly, and intensify, increasing the risk of widespread destruction.

### 1. HIGHLY FLAMMABLE GROUND COVER

- The grasses, shrubs, and underbrush that thrived in the winter transformed into a dense layer of brittle, dry material.
- These fine fuels are hazardous because they ignite quickly and burn intensely, allowing flames to spread rapidly.

### 2. LADDER FUELS

- Dead shrubs and overgrown vegetation created "ladder fuels" that allowed flames to climb into tree canopies, resulting in more severe and unpredictable fires.
- Ladder fuels are especially problematic in WUIs where vegetation is close to structures.

### 3. INCREASED EMBER RISKS:

- Dry vegetation also contributed to the creation of embers, which the wind could carry into residential neighborhoods, igniting homes and other structures thereby creating new fires far from the original fire line.



## INCREASED RISKS IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles faces an increased wildfire risk due to the high density of closely spaced structures in the WUI, where homes and buildings are built near fire-prone vegetation, creating pathways for flames and embers to spread rapidly between properties.

### 1. WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACES (WUIs):

- Neighborhoods in canyons, hillsides, and other WUI areas faced significantly heightened fire risks. Dense, dry fuels near homes directly threatened structures, making firefighting more challenging.
- Popular areas like Topanga, Mandeville, Laurel, Coldwater, and Rustic canyons were quickly overrun by vegetation during the wet winter and early spring, increasing the fire exposure of the WUIs.
- Other areas in the WUIs, including Mountaingate, the Santa Monica Mountains, Mount Washington, Baldwin Hills, and Griffith Park, became hotspots for concern.

### 2. FASTER FIRE SPREAD:

- Regional wildfires that ignited during the summer and fall of 2024 spread more quickly because of the abundance of dry, combustible fuels and the effect of strong winds.
- The lack of moisture in the soil and vegetation reduced the natural barriers to fire, allowing flames to move unimpeded across large areas.

### 3. EXTENDED FIRE SEASON:

- The lack of rain since April 2024 extended the “wildfire season” well into late fall, with conditions remaining ripe for ignition and rapid spread.
- Fire suppression resources were stretched thin as crews responded to more extensive and frequent regional fires.

### 4. IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH:

- The intense wildfires produced large amounts of smoke, reducing air quality and posing health risks to residents, particularly those with respiratory issues.
- Following a wildfire, especially one that destroys structures, air quality deteriorates substantially due to elevated levels of smoke, fine particulate matter (PM2.5), toxic chemicals released from burned materials, and persistent ash, posing significant health risks.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Communities have been pushing for years to reduce the chances of wildfires starting, but they have paid little attention to the key dangers that impact neighborhoods. While climate conditions may create an environment conducive to wildfires, the people and structures they live in are where mitigation efforts must begin.

- **THE HIGHEST RISK IS RELATED TO STRUCTURES:** Wildfires are inevitable, and while technological advancements and firefighting resources can expedite their suppression, the most critical challenge lies in the vulnerability of homes to ignition. Regardless of its age, it is imperative that homeowners take proactive measures to mitigate wildfire risk by fortifying their dwellings.
- **FUEL DANGER:** In 2024, the transformation of lush winter vegetation into dry fuel significantly increased fire risks. The ladder fuels created conditions for fast-moving, destructive fires.
- **LACK OF RAIN:** The lack of measurable rainfall pushed the Los Angeles region toward drought conditions again, further heightening the risk for wildfire, as vegetation dried out and died because of the lack of moisture.
- **PROACTIVE MEASURES:** This pattern of drought and heat highlighted the urgent need for proactive measures, such as enhanced vegetation management, expanded community education, and improved fire response planning, to mitigate future risks.

The evolution from a wet winter to a dry summer and fall in 2024 served as a sobering reminder of how rapidly wildfire ignition conditions can shift and how critical it is to stay prepared in fire-prone regions like Los Angeles.

# WILDFIRES OUTSIDE THE CITY BOUNDARIES

In the fall of 2024, the Los Angeles region experienced multiple destructive wildfires, which posed significant challenges for firefighting and public safety. One of the most critical fires was the **Bridge Fire**, which burned over 54,000 acres in the Angeles National Forest, north of Azusa.

Another significant blaze was the **Line Fire**, which started in San Bernardino County in September. This fire grew to 43,978 acres and threatened more than 36,000 structures. The Line Fire put 9,200 homes under mandatory evacuation orders. Only one home was destroyed, but several others were damaged. On September 10, the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department arrested a 34-year-old Norco resident and charged him with arson.



The November 2024 **Mountain Fire** in Ventura County underscored the growing intensity and unpredictability of wildfires in Southern California. Driven by Santa Ana winds and severe drought conditions, it scorched 19,904 acres, destroyed 243 structures, and damaged another 120 structures. The fire swiftly moved through rugged landscapes, consuming vast areas in mere hours. Most concerning was the ember cast, where winds propelled embers over two miles ahead of the fire front, igniting spot fires in unanticipated locations and creating chaotic destruction in areas like Camarillo. MySafe:LA spent several days in Camarillo, assisting people who lost their homes and conducting interviews which support our home hardening and community resilience efforts throughout Los Angeles.

The **Franklin Fire** erupted on Monday, December 9, 2024, shortly before 11:00 p.m., near Malibu Canyon Road and Station Boundary. Fueled by fierce Santa Ana winds, the wildfire quickly spread, prompting mandatory evacuations and road closures. After scorching more than 4,037 acres, destroying 20 structures, and damaging 28 other structures, the Franklin Fire was declared 100 percent contained on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. There were no reported injuries or fatalities; the cause of the wildfire remains under investigation.





## THE JANUARY 2025 WIND EVENT AND RESULTING FIRESTORM

The **wind-driven wildfires** in Los Angeles in January 2025 were among the most destructive fires in the city's history.

Before the fires ignited, a high-pressure weather system over the Great Basin created a steep pressure gradient across Southern California, triggering powerful Santa Ana winds—dry winds that funnel cooler inland air through mountain passes toward warmer coastal areas. The Southern Coast had faced eight months without measurable rainfall, leading to moderate drought conditions.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issued red flag warnings on January 6, effective through Thursday evening, for regions including the Malibu coast, Santa Monica Mountains, and San Gabriel Valley. The NWS predicted a “life-threatening” windstorm with Santa Ana gusts reaching 60–80 mph, with some peak gusts reaching 90 mph in mountainous areas. Residents were urged to exercise caution with potential fire ignitions and to prepare for possible evacuations if they lived near forests and canyons.

High winds amplified multiple wildfires that spread more rapidly than firefighters could control. These fires devastated thousands of acres across the city's hills and canyons. Areas most affected included neighborhoods in the San Fernando Valley, the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, and much of the **Pacific Palisades**. Thousands of homes were destroyed, and at least 11 lives were lost. Tens of thousands of residents were compelled to evacuate despite the LAFD's efforts and assistance from neighboring counties. Containing the fires proved difficult because of hurricane-force winds, dry vegetation, and the swift movement of flames.

Later on January 6, the **Eaton Fire** ignited during dinner time, quickly spreading to over 1,000 acres within six hours. Like the Palisades fire, wind gusts reached 100 mph at the Mount Lukens Truck Trail near La Cañada Flintridge. By the following morning, the fire had burned through more than 10,000 acres with no containment achieved. The Los Angeles County Fire Department abandoned its aerial water-dropping efforts during that first night because of the strong winds. Over 100,000 people were evacuated, and despite firefighting efforts, at least 17 individuals lost their lives.



The fire destroyed more than 9,400 structures, including homes and businesses. The Eaton Fire is the fifth deadliest fire in California history. While the cause of the fire remains under investigation, residents have sued public utility Southern California Edison, alleging that eyewitnesses and video show the company had failed to de-energize above-ground transmission lines despite the NWS Red Flag warning.

In both cases, the fires transitioned from wildfires to conflagrations because the fires moved from burning uninhabited, vegetated areas to burning urban environments, where densely packed structures and infrastructure became the primary fuels. This change in fuel source escalated destruction and complicated suppression efforts. These events underscore the growing risks of wildfires in urban-adjacent areas and the critical need for resilient infrastructure and fire mitigation strategies in these zones.

Late in the evening of January 7th, the **Hurst Fire** took off at the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley. The following day, when Santa Ana winds remained fierce, the **Sunset Fire** ignited in the Hollywood Hills. Despite the considerable strain on firefighting resources, both the Sunset and Hurst fires were successfully contained and extinguished. MySafe:LA supported the LAFD with our repopulation team for the Hurst Fire, and we were observers for repopulation at the Palisades Fire and provided safety materials to the public and the LAFD in support of these incidents.

**NOTE:** Because this report was created during the January wind event and firestorm, it is premature to assess or determine causes, responses, or associated accountability. The Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments are globally recognized as leading responders and experts in WUI firefighting. Multiple investigations and studies will follow these incidents. Recovery and rebuilding will likely span several years.



# POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE HAZARDS IN LOS ANGELES

During 2024, the public/private partnership of the LAFD and MySafe:LA worked diligently to evaluate and pursue multiple strategies and tactics to mitigate the risks of wildfires in Los Angeles. Despite our proactive efforts in education, preparation, and protection, the fact is that no place is ever entirely safe. Wildfires are going to occur.

Our key goals included our members working to help people become better prepared - lowering the ignitability of their homes, defending their properties, and understanding the dynamics of wildfires. These objectives take time to accomplish, but the efforts in 2024 were clearly valuable.



## GOAL 1 : FIRE-ADAPTED COMMUNITIES

Human populations and infrastructure can evolve to withstand a wildfire without losing life and property. These actions are central to the MySafe:LA mission. Recommendations for public outreach/education and structural incombustibility include the following:

- Creation and support of Fire Safe Communities
- Creation and support for Fire Safe Councils
- Creation of NFPA Firewise USA sites
- Decreased ignitions from unhoused populations
- Defensible space and structural hardening improvements
- Scaled-up community education and awareness
- Certifications and inspections in support of insurance discount opportunities



## GOAL 2: RESTORE AND MAINTAIN LANDSCAPES

Restoring and maintaining landscapes in Los Angeles after a wildfire involves ecological restoration, erosion control, and active community participation. Emphasizing native vegetation in replanting is crucial to stabilizing soil, enhancing local ecosystems, and minimizing the risk of invasive species. Recommended strategies for managing hazardous fuels include the following:

- Fuel treatment and reduction using various strategies (contour wattling, mulching)
- Alignment with countywide planning, creating more collaboration in mitigation plans
- Installation of multiple types of fuel breaks creates segregation from flammable vegetation
- Erosion control blankets, especially when significant rainfall is expected
- Roadside fuel reduction, as often sparks or cigarettes can cause fire ignitions
- Planting of fire-resistant species and removal of invasive plants



## GOAL 3 : WILDFIRE RESPONSE

Los Angeles' dense population, WUI areas, and frequent drought conditions make it highly vulnerable to fast-moving wildfires. A robust and efficient response reduces the potential for loss of life and property by directing timely evacuations, effective resource deployment, and coordinated interagency action. Recommendations for improving fire response capabilities include the following:

- Addressing concerns related to poor ingress and egress in some high-risk communities
- Water supply improvements
- Communications improvements
- Better integration with technology, including AI-driven predictions on wildfire ignition and spread
- Evacuation planning and route identification
- Additional firefighting resources, including firefighters and apparatus
- Wildfire response personnel training and partnerships

Strengthening wildfire response is vital for safeguarding critical infrastructure, such as power grids, water supplies, and transportation systems, which are essential for the city's function. Enhanced response abilities facilitate quicker fire containment, reduce harm to natural ecosystems, prevent enduring ecological impacts, and mitigate smoke and air quality issues. An effective wildfire response strategy boosts community resilience, fosters public trust, and aligns with Los Angeles' broader sustainability and disaster preparedness goals.



# THE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRE RESILIENCE ALLIANCE



MySafe:LA is a division of the **Safe Community Project**, a 501c3 nonprofit public benefit organization that has been involved in public safety since its inception in 2008. In 2021, MySafe:LA and the LAFD agreed to collaborate on wildfire awareness and mitigation efforts. The result is the Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance (Alliance). Overall, reducing the threat of wildfire at a community level is the core objective. As a subset, creating safer neighborhoods through the development of Fire Safe Councils and NFPA Firewise USA Site communities is essential to creating a more resilient city.



The LAFD, consisting of four regional bureaus, is the primary fire and rescue agency for the City of Los Angeles. With 106 fire stations, more than 3,400 firefighters, and a small air force of rotor-wing aircraft and specialized units, the LAFD is a premier public safety organization. In addition to fighting fires within the city limits, the LAFD is often called on to send wildfire “strike teams” to support other areas of California and, on occasion, other states when wildfires impact those geographic regions.

MySafe: LA contributes to the L.A. Wildfire Resilience Alliance through public outreach, training, wildfire preparation, and support. The collaboration involves regular meetings to review recent progress, discuss forward-looking objectives and tactics, and discuss results. Overall, it has resulted in substantial improvements in at-risk communities. This is a time consuming process but in just the last year, we’ve created four Fire Safe Councils representing more than 18,800 homes and 43,800 people. We’ve also started the process of developing a dozen NFPA Firewise entities. Prior to our efforts, there were no such entities in the City of Los Angeles.

## OTHER ALLIANCE CONTRIBUTORS

In addition to the public/private collaboration between MySafe:LA and the LAFD, other collaborators are engaged in various ways. The **California Fire Safe Council (CFSC)** is a nonprofit organization that acts as a grants management entity for the **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**, commonly known as **CAL FIRE**. The CFSC conducts monthly meetings, engages in peer support, and oversees wildfire coordination at a community level throughout California.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, **Cal OES**, is another engaged collaborator. MySafe:LA works with Cal OES's NGO and Wildfire branches on wildfire awareness and mitigation. Cal OES has supported MySafe:LA with subject matter expertise and provided our non-profit organization with a wildfire mitigation trailer (grant).

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## 2024 STRATEGIES

MySafe:LA, working in conjunction with local partners and the CFSC, developed a series of objectives, or tasks, to mitigate the risk of wildfire in the city, including the following:

- To reduce the number of homes damaged or destroyed by wildfire, as well as limit the exposure of people and animals to injury or death
- To assist and promote Home Owners Associations (HOAs) / Property Owners Associations (POAs) in becoming recognized as California Fire Safe Councils
- To assist and encourage groups of homeowners to become NFPA Firewise USA sites
- To connect multiple communities for a coordinated wildfire prevention and response initiative, including home hardening, defensible space development, and evacuation planning
- To connect county fire department programs, creating a network of valuable initiatives promoting unified messaging

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## 2024 TACTICS

Taking the core topics and establishing tactics to support the objectives, MySafe:LA inspectors and educators reached out to multiple types of community groups with the following efforts:

- Creation of wildfire committees
- Support for NFPA Firewise USA Site applications
- Development of a 5-year threat analysis
- Development of a 3-year action plan
- Home hardening support
- Defensible space support
- Fuel removal programs such as Chipper Days and related activities
- LAFD support

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## CORE RESILIENCE TOPICS

When working with homeowner and property owners associations, ad hoc homeowner groups, and the public in general, several key topics were identified, including the following:

- How to create a "wildfire" committee
- Why rebuilding actually starts before the wildfire
- How to secure wildfire insurance in today's market
- Establishing communications – who calls who?
- Establishing roles and responsibilities (residents and first responders)
- Looking beyond Ready, Set, Go
- How do fire conditions impact sheltering in place vs evacuations?

Various components supported these tactics, including print, presentation, web, social, and video elements.



# DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Defensible space is a buffer zone around a structure that slows or stops the spread of wildfire, providing firefighters a safer area to defend the home and reducing the chance of ignition. MySafe:LA teaches homeowner and community groups about the importance of creating clearly defined areas around structures to reduce the damage both flames and embers can cause. We explain that as wildfires approach a property, embers, direct flame contact, and radiant heat create multiple opportunities for structural ignition.

## ZONE 0 (0–5 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE)

The “ember-resistant zone,” also known as the most critical area for preventing home ignition, necessitates the complete removal of all flammable materials, such as dead vegetation, wood mulch, and combustible outdoor furniture. To minimize the risk of ember ignition, only fire-resistant plants and non-flammable materials like gravel or stone should be used in this area.

***NOTE:** We encounter significant pushback from residents who don't wish to make this change - and it is the most vital modification (and often the least expensive) reducing the risk of ignition.*

## ZONE 1 (5–30 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE)

Known as the “lean, clean, and green zone,” this area should have well-spaced, low-growing vegetation and minimal fuel for fire. Trees should be pruned to remove lower branches, and flammable debris like dead leaves or pine needles should be regularly cleared. The goal is to prevent direct flame contact with buildings and reduce the chance of fire spreading rapidly.

## ZONE 2 (30–100 FEET FROM THE STRUCTURE)

This is the “reduced fuel zone,” where vegetation should be thinned to prevent fire from climbing into tree canopies. Grass should be cut low, and trees should be spaced apart to break up fuel continuity. While some natural vegetation may remain, it should be maintained to slow fire spread and reduce heat intensity before it reaches structures.

Together, these zones create a layered approach to fire prevention, reducing the risk of home ignition and increasing the chances of survival in a wildfire.

# THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE

MySafe:LA teaches people to create an effective defensible space, homeowners should focus on eliminating or reducing flammable materials near structures:

- 1. DEAD OR DRY VEGETATION:** Remove dry grass, leaves, pine needles, and dead plants that can ignite easily.
- 2. FLAMMABLE PLANTS:** Some species, like juniper, eucalyptus, and some pines, are highly flammable. Replace with fire-resistant species.
- 3. DEBRIS AND CLUTTER:** Clear all fallen branches, twigs, and other organic material that could serve as fuel.
- 4. OVERHANGING BRANCHES:** Trim branches that hang over the roof or are within 10 feet of the chimney.
- 5. DENSE FOLIAGE:** Thin out plants and shrubs that are too close together to prevent fire from jumping between them.
- 6. FLAMMABLE OUTDOOR ITEMS:** Move wood piles, patio furniture, and propane tanks away from structures.
- 7. GUTTERS AND ROOF:** Regularly clean out leaves and debris that could ignite from embers.

# REDUCING THE THREAT OF LADDER FUELS

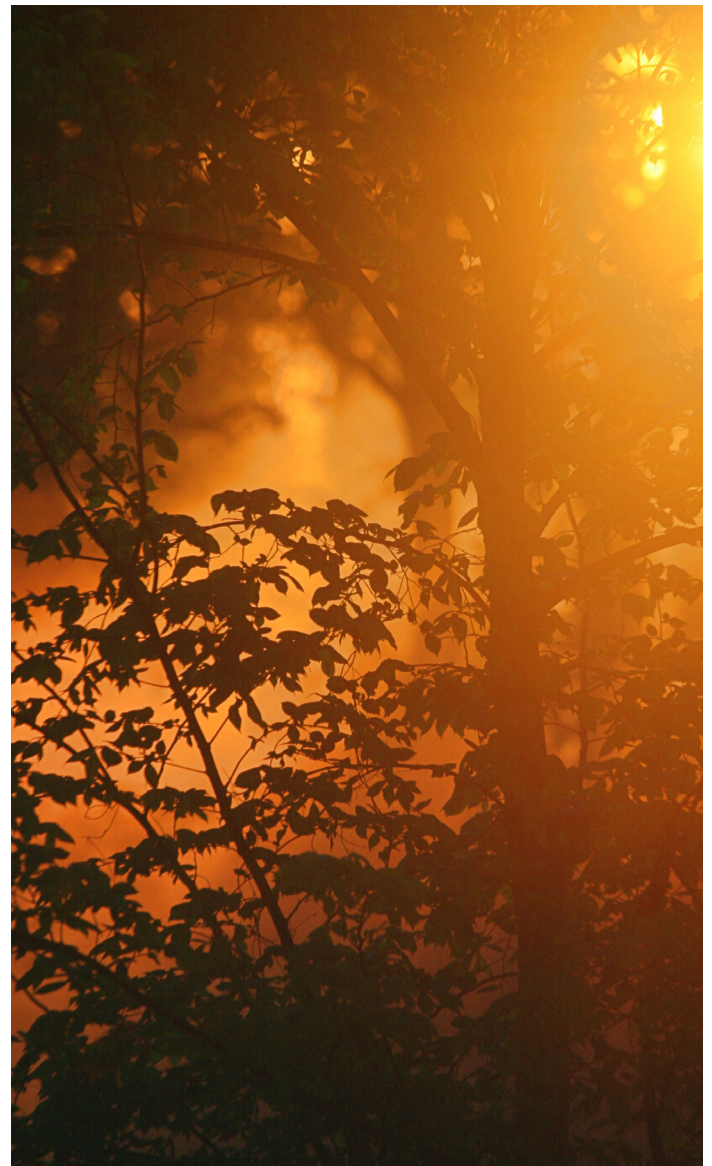
Ladder fuels are materials that allow fire to climb from the ground into trees and structures, creating a more intense and rapidly spreading fire. Defensible space interrupts this process by:

- **SEPARATING VEGETATION LAYERS:** Keeping grasses, shrubs, and trees spaced apart so fire can't climb.
- **TRIMMING LOWER TREE BRANCHES:** Removing branches up to at least six feet from the ground reduces fire's ability to spread upwards.
- **MAINTAINING VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SPACING:** Ensuring that vegetation isn't packed too closely together prevents fire from spreading across the landscape.

# THE POWER OF PROACTIVE ACTION

Being proactive in wildfire preparation can make the difference between a home surviving or being destroyed. MySafe:LA highlights the importance of well maintained properties as they:

- Are far less likely to ignite from embers, which can travel miles ahead of the main fire.
- Provide firefighters with a safer working area, increasing their ability to protect the home.
- Reduce radiant heat exposure, preventing windows and siding from failing.
- Can survive without firefighter intervention, especially if resources are stretched thin during a major wildfire.





A key MySafe:LA deliverable for 2024 was an animated educational video with key graphics explaining the before-and-after stages of creating a safe environment around a structure.

# BEFORE DEFENSIBLE SPACE



- Shrubs in Zone 0
- Wood deck in Zone 1
- Trees in Zone 2
- BBQ grill by house
- Wood fence
- Overhanging branches
- Woodpile
- Plastic shed
- Leaves in gutters

# AFTER DEFENSIBLE SPACE IMPLEMENTED

- ✓ No shrubs in Zone 0
- ✓ Composite deck in Zone 1
- ✓ Thinned trees in Zone 2
- ✓ No BBQ grill by the house
- ✓ Metal fence
- ✓ No overhanging branches
- ✓ No woodpile
- ✓ No shed
- ✓ No leaves in gutters



# HOME HARDENING

Hardening a home against wildfire involves making structural and material changes that reduce its vulnerability to ignition from flames, embers, and radiant heat. Key benefits of home hardening include significantly increasing a home's survivability during a wildfire by using fire-resistant materials for roofs, walls, and windows and installing ember-resistant vents to prevent wind-driven embers from entering. These upgrades, such as double-paned or tempered glass windows, noncombustible decking, and fire-resistant landscaping, minimize the chances of ignition even when direct firefighting intervention is unavailable. Hardening a home complements defensible space efforts by assuring the structure can withstand wildfire, protecting both the property and the lives of its occupants. Additionally, resilient homes reduce the spread of fires in neighborhoods, creating a broader community-wide defense against wildfire threats.



## THE REGIONAL FIRE SAFE COUNCIL FOR LOS ANGELES

MySafe:LA serves as the regional Fire Safe Council for Los Angeles. This role involves assisting in forming other councils; executing projects focused on home hardening and creating defensible spaces, as detailed below; and overseeing wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across the Los Angeles region.

Monthly virtual (via Zoom) town halls are hosted, attracting hundreds of active participants from across Los Angeles. Each session addresses important topics, such as following Ready, Set, Go, evacuation planning, creating fire safe councils, and maintaining insurance. These virtual meetings often feature special guests from fire departments, the State's Department of Insurance, Foresters, as well as wildfire survivors. Often, the history of a past wildfire in Southern California is shared, including the lessons learned.

# OTHER DELIVERABLES

In addition to the defensible space educational video and the home hardening efforts, several other deliverables were created and shared with the public. Some of these included the following:

- Flyers
- Brochures
- Check lists
- Escape plans
- Evacuation cards
- Website
- Video
- Live events
- Wildfire committee support
- Government recognition



# ENGAGING THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY



As wildfire coordinators in Los Angeles, MySafe:LA actively collaborates with HOAs and POAs to strengthen community wildfire resilience. Understanding these organizations' pivotal roles in fostering collective action within WUI areas, MySafe:LA works alongside them to formulate customized strategies that address each community's unique risks and needs. These MySafe:LA developed initiatives encompass educational workshops, planning sessions, and guidance on implementing fire mitigation techniques like creating defensible spaces and hardening homes.

A central element of MySafe:LA's strategy is promoting the establishment of Fire Safe Councils and NFPA Firewise USA sites in at-risk neighborhoods. By partnering with HOAs and POAs, MySafe:LA assists residents in organizing and maintaining these councils, empowering communities to proactively engage in wildfire prevention and preparedness efforts. MySafe:LA supports these groups in the grant application process for funds, such as those from the California Fire Safe Council, and helps connect these groups with local fire departments and agencies for additional resources. At the same time, MySafe:LA encourages communities to seek NFPA Firewise USA Site recognition, which entails assessing wildfire hazards, creating action plans, and implementing significant safety enhancements. These initiatives bolster a neighborhood's resilience and encourage a sense of collective responsibility among residents.

To further enhance these initiatives, MySafe:LA hosts Wildfire Safety Fairs – expansive events that unite residents of all ages, first responders, fire prevention specialists, and vendors of fire-resistant products and services. These fairs serve as dynamic educational platforms, featuring live demonstrations of home hardening methods, evacuation drills, and workshops on fire-resistant landscaping. By providing practical learning opportunities and access to expert insights, the fairs motivate residents to take proactive measures to mitigate wildfire risks.

Through these integrated efforts, MySafe:LA is building stronger, more resilient communities that are prepared to confront the escalating wildfire threat in Los Angeles. By collaborating with HOAs and POAs, MySafe:LA embeds wildfire preparedness into the very fabric of neighborhoods throughout the city.

# BECOMING A FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

For an HOA to become a Fire Safe Council through MySafe:LA, it must undertake a series of organized steps to enhance community preparedness for wildfire risks and improve safety. Below is a breakdown of how the process was implemented in 2024:

## 1. INITIAL ENGAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

- **CONTACT MYSAFE:LA:** The HOA leadership contacts MySafe:LA to express interest in forming a Fire Safe Council (or vice versa)
- **COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT:** MySafe:LA works with the HOA to evaluate wildfire risks specific to the community, identifying vulnerabilities such as vegetation hazards, home ignitability, and evacuation challenges.
- **STAKEHOLDER RECRUITMENT:** The HOA recruits key stakeholders, including homeowners, board members, and community leaders, to form a core group committed to wildfire mitigation.

## 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **WILDFIRE AWARENESS WORKSHOP:** MySafe:LA conducts educational sessions for the HOA to raise awareness about wildfire risks and introduce Fire Safe Council principles.
- **TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP:** Core group members receive training on defensible space, home hardening, and community wildfire response planning, equipping them to lead local efforts effectively.

## 3. ESTABLISHING THE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

- **FORMAL ORGANIZATION:** The HOA formally establishes a Fire Safe Council as a recognized group within the community. This includes defining its mission, appointing leadership roles, and setting objectives. The council is established as a 501c3 nonprofit organization.
- **PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION:** The HOA establishes relationships with local agencies, including the LAFD and other wildfire resilience organizations to gain ongoing support.

## 4. APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION

- **SUBMIT APPLICATION:** The HOA submits its completed Fire Safe Council workbook or acceptable companion materials to MySafe:LA for formal recognition. MySafe:LA adds the HOA to the CFSC Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) map, notifying them about the HOA's new Fire Safe Council.
- **COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS:** The Fire Safe Council application must demonstrate compliance with the state's requirements, including a three-year action plan, community engagement efforts, and a commitment to wildfire mitigation.

## 5. ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND MAINTENANCE

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The Fire Safe Council organizes regular activities such as vegetation management projects, wildfire safety fairs, and resident training sessions.
- **GRANT APPLICATIONS:** MySafe:LA guides the HOA in applying for grants to fund fire mitigation projects, such as fuel reduction and infrastructure improvements.
- **EVALUATION AND UPDATES:** The HOA regularly evaluates the effectiveness of its three-year action plan and updates it as needed to address new risks or changing conditions.

## 6. CERTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION

Once approved, the HOA becomes a certified Fire Safe Council, gaining access to resources, funding opportunities, and ongoing support from MySafe:LA, CFSC, and local agencies.

By following these steps, the HOA not only secures Fire Safe Council status but also builds a culture of wildfire preparedness, assuring the safety and resilience of its community. **See Annex A** for a listing of 2024 approved and in-process Fire Safe Council entities in Los Angeles.



## BECOMING A NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) FIREWISE SITE

To prepare and apply for certification from the NFPA as a **NFPA Firewise USA Site**, a group of homeowners (does not need to be a non-profit), or a sub-group of a Fire Safe Council will work closely with MySafe:LA to follow a detailed process that reduces risk for their properties.

An NFPA Firewise USA Site may seem similar to a Fire Safe Council but there are notable differences. A Fire Safe Council operates as a management-level umbrella organization for an entire community while an NFPA Firewise USA Site is made up directly of homeowners and their property. Members of an NFPA Firewise USA Site can receive insurance discounts based on the actions taken to harden their homes and defend their properties. To become an NFPA Firewise USA Site requires a minimum of eight homes to a maximum of 2,500 homes. MySafe:LA is accustomed to working with groups of 10 to 20 homes. Below is a detailed outline of the steps involved:

## 1. INITIAL ENGAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- **CONTACT MYSAFE:LA:** The HOA or POA contacts MySafe:LA for guidance on becoming an NFPA Firewise USA Site.
- **WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT:** MySafe:LA conducts a thorough risk assessment of the community, identifying vulnerabilities such as vegetation hazards, structure ignitability, and emergency access issues.
- **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** MySafe:LA educates community members about the NFPA Firewise USA Site program, highlighting the benefits of participation and engaging HOA members in the process.

## 2. FORMING A FIREWISE BOARD OR COMMITTEE

- **ESTABLISH LEADERSHIP:** The HOA or POA forms an NFPA Firewise USA Site board or committee comprising community members, HOA/POA leadership, and other stakeholders.
- **DEFINE ROLES:** The committee sets goals, designates responsibilities, and establishes a timeline for achieving NFPA Firewise USA Site certification.

## 3. DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION PLAN

- **COLLABORATIVE PLANNING:** The HOA or POA works with MySafe:LA and local fire agencies to create a five-year wildfire threat analysis plan tailored to the community's risks.
- **KEY PLAN COMPONENTS:**
  - ⊙ Identifying priority areas for vegetation management (e.g., defensible space projects).
  - ⊙ Implementing home hardening strategies, such as ember-resistant vents and fire-resistant landscaping.
  - ⊙ Creating evacuation plans and improving emergency access routes.
- **BUDGETING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION:** The committee identifies funding needs and potential sources, such as wildfire mitigation, home hardening, and resilience grants or HOA/POA budgets.

## 4. PREPARATION OF THE NFPA FIREWISE USA SITE APPLICATION

- **DATA COLLECTION:** The committee gathers required data, including the following:
  - ⊙ A map of the community showing homes, roads, and vegetation zones.
  - ⊙ A summary of the risk assessment and proposed mitigation actions.
- **DOCUMENTATION OF EFFORTS:** The HOA/POA documents community wildfire education efforts, resident participation, and completed mitigation activities.
- **APPLICATION SUBMISSION:** With assistance from MySafe:LA, the committee submits the NFPA Firewise USA Site application to NFPA Firewise USA for review and approval.

## 5. ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION

- **CERTIFICATION APPROVAL:** Once the application is approved, the HOA or POA receives NFPA Firewise USA recognition, signifying its commitment to wildfire safety.
- **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:** The HOA or POA, with support from MySafe:LA, announces the certification to residents and celebrates the achievement with a community event, such as a wildfire safety fair.

## 6. ACTING ON CERTIFICATION

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RISK REDUCTION PLAN:**
  - ⊙ The HOA/POA organizes regular vegetation management projects, including fuel reduction and clearing defensible spaces.
  - ⊙ Residents are encouraged to adopt home hardening practices, supported by workshops and resources from MySafe:LA.
- **ANNUAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:** To maintain certification, the HOA/POA tracks and reports the time and money residents invest in wildfire risk reduction (e.g., landscaping and structural improvements).
- **ONGOING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:** MySafe:LA continues to support the community by hosting educational events, updating wildfire plans, and facilitating drills.

## 7. MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION

- **ANNUAL RENEWAL:** The HOA/POA submits a yearly renewal report to NFPA Firewise USA detailing the community's continued progress and investments in wildfire mitigation.
- **ADAPTING TO CHANGE:** The NFPA Firewise USA Site committee, with MySafe:LA's assistance, evaluates and updates the wildfire plan as new risks emerge or conditions change.

By taking these steps, an HOA or POA secures NFPA Firewise USA recognition and fosters a culture of proactive wildfire safety. This empowers residents to work together to reduce risks and improve resilience.

Transforming a community, HOA, or POA into a Fire Safe Council or an NFPA Firewise USA Site is a gradual process that often takes several years. It involves establishing connections, fostering trust, exchanging valuable information, and collaborating to achieve community success.



## 2024 CHALLENGES

In 2024, the LAFD and MySafe:LA confronted significant challenges in addressing wildfire dangers. Unprecedented drought conditions created a highly fire-prone environment. The LAFD experienced resource constraints, requiring personnel to respond to multiple simultaneous fires while assuring they had the equipment for quick responses. At the same time, MySafe:LA was committed to community education and preparedness but struggled to engage certain vulnerable groups, particularly seniors, non-English speakers, and residents in high-risk areas who lacked access to reliable communication methods. In some cases, residents demonstrated a lack of concern related to the risks described, and reluctance to implement

modifications to their homes (e.g. Zone 0) limited the response from some homeowner groups. Additional challenges included the following:

- Continued funding for 2025 - 2026
- Grant support for Fire Safe Councils
- NFPA Firewise USA staffing
- Funding for at-risk structure retrofitting
- Funding for defensible space projects
- Additional staffing for wildfire assessments
- Insurance crisis and related discounts
- Extreme wildfire potential for 2025 - 2026



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Building community resilience to wildfires demands significant time and patience. We measure progress through deliverables, reporting to the CFSC quarterly. Key accomplishments for 2024 included the following:

- ☑ Wildfire Resilience Alliance with the LAFD
- ☑ Halo “L.A. County Fire Safe Council”
- ☑ Support for low-income residents
- ☑ Popular and effective wildfire safety fairs
- ☑ Defining Defensible Space, removing projects
- ☑ Support from the L.A. City Council
- ☑ Support from the L.A. County Supervisors
- ☑ Completed home wildfire assessments throughout Los Angeles
- ☑ Completed assisting homeowners with multiple NFPA Firewise USA applications
- ☑ Completed Fire Safe Council designations

- ☑ Developed an ad-hoc wildfire working group with neighboring counties

The strength of our Los Angeles communities truly shines during challenging times, showcasing its incredible resilience and readiness. MySafe:LA and the LAFD are thrilled to support our neighborhoods as they embrace important safety initiatives and life-saving strategies. Each step we take together is a wonderful opportunity for growth, and MySafe:LA is dedicated to empowering our communities with the tools and knowledge needed to create a safer, more resilient future for everyone.

MySafe:LA continues to advocate for an increase in the number of Fire Safe Councils and NFPA Firewise USA Sites. **Annex B** lists meetings conducted in CY2024.

# AD HOC WILDFIRE WORKING GROUP

The Safe Community Project has initiated a **Wildfire Resilience Working Group** designed to enhance collaboration and facilitate resource-sharing among leaders in wildfire resilience across several counties in Southern California. This initiative unites wildfire coordinators and regional Fire Safe Councils from **Ventura, Orange, and Kern** counties, in conjunction with established (Safe Community Project) wildfire coordinators in **Los Angeles and Riverside** counties. Acknowledging the increasing necessity for a cohesive approach to wildfire mitigation, multiple additional counties have indicated their interest in joining the working group, broadening its scope and influence.

The primary objective of this ad hoc coalition is to facilitate the exchange of ideas, resources, and best practices aimed at enhancing wildfire prevention and resilience initiatives throughout the region. Each participating county encounters distinct challenges associated with fire risk, topography, and community preparedness. By collaborating, these wildfire resilience entities can formulate comprehensive strategies that address shared threats, elevate public education, and make sure communities are adequately equipped to manage wildfire risks. The sharing of resources—whether in the form of fire prevention programs, grant opportunities, or technical expertise—empowers each county to optimize its impact and operational efficiency.

Just as fire departments collaborate with their counterparts in neighboring jurisdictions to combat large-scale wildfires effectively, organizations focused on wildfire resilience must adopt a comparable approach. Cross-country partnerships are instrumental in eliminating redundancy, reinforcing regional preparedness, and fostering a proactive instead of reactive approach to wildfire threats. The Wildfire Resilience Working Group is committed to establishing a new standard for regional collaboration, assuring that communities throughout Southern California not only prepare for wildfires but also actively engage in efforts to diminish their frequency and severity.

As interest in the working group grows, the Safe Community Project foresees the development of a broader and more interconnected network of wildfire resilience experts, each dedicated to enhancing safety and promoting a fire-adapted California. By cultivating robust relationships among counties, this initiative signifies a substantial advancement toward establishing a more resilient, collaborative, and well-prepared framework for wildfire mitigation.



# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

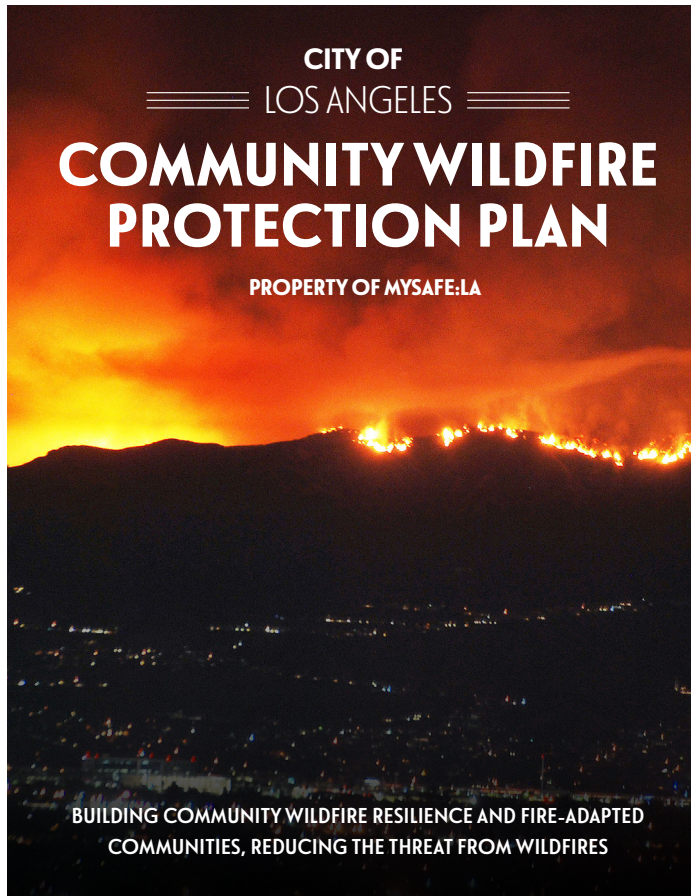
MySafe:LA is leading the initiative to develop the city's first **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**. In 2021, Executive Director David Barrett began discussing the plan's creation, working with the LAFD's Operations Valley Bureau command staff to establish priorities and objectives.

Traditionally, CWPPs are designed for rural or smaller communities with distinct boundaries separating urban and wildland areas. However, the City of Los Angeles presents a more complex landscape, encompassing approximately 502 square miles and accommodating nearly 3.82 million residents. This extensive area includes numerous neighborhoods positioned within the WUI, rendering the neighborhoods particularly vulnerable to wildfire threats.

The principal objective of this CWPP is to construct a comprehensive framework for hazard mitigation, community preparedness, and resilience against wildfires. By identifying specific risks and delineating actionable strategies, the plan endeavors to enhance residents' safety and safeguard properties, particularly in high-risk areas. Because over 250,000 homes in Los Angeles are susceptible to wildfire threats, it is imperative to maintain a continuous flow of comprehensive information concerning risks, preventative strategies, and emergency response plans.

The formulation of the CWPP is a collaborative endeavor. MySafe:LA, serving as the Regional Fire Safe Council, is the plan's principal author. The organization has received contributions and insights from various experts, including the LAFD, CAL FIRE, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), other state and federal agencies, and various community stakeholders. This collective methodology guarantees that the plan is comprehensive and responsive to the distinct challenges encountered by communities in Los Angeles. Crucially, the CWPP's development receives funding from FEMA, resulting in zero cost for the LAFD. This reliance on grants highlights a dedication to improving public safety while avoiding extra financial strain on the LAFD's resources.

To make sure the CWPP addresses the needs and concerns of its residents, MySafe:LA is actively seeking community input. Residents are encouraged to share their perspectives on wildfire-related issues, contributing to an effective plan that reflects the community's priorities. A working draft of the plan is also being shared with individuals who lost their homes in the 2025 Los Angeles firestorm, as getting input from as many perspectives as possible is an essential objective. The plan will be completed in 2025.



COVER OF THE UPCOMING LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN 2025 (ART SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

# LOOKING FORWARD

As we look toward 2025 and 2026, several potentially escalating challenges are expected to persist. The severity and unpredictability of weather patterns will continue to heighten fire risks. This will increase demand for advanced firefighting equipment, better training programs, and increased community outreach. MySafe:LA may struggle to effectively adapt its outreach to counter the gaps in city-services technology and misinformation regarding wildfire preparedness. Additionally, the continuous need to collaborate with other agencies and organizations will necessitate enhanced communication systems and strategic planning to guarantee the safety and resilience of Los Angeles communities.

## INITIATIVES IN PROCESS

MySafe:LA, in collaboration with the LAFD, is actively working on initiatives to engage community members and empower homeowners groups, enhancing preparedness for wildfires. Some of the ongoing projects include the following:

- A growing number of Los Angeles area HOAs engaged
- Developing and delivering wildfire educational content (web/video, etc.)
- Completion of a CWPP
- Monthly Fire Safe Council virtual meetings
- Expanded communications with the Los Angeles emergency management team and elected officials
- Continued home wildfire assessments
- Scheduling Chipper Days and other defensible space activities in support of HOA/POA groups
- Additional applications by HOAs/POAs for both NFPA Firewise USA Site and California Fire Safe Council status



## OBJECTIVES FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

MySafe:LA is focused on developing wildfire resilience initiatives tailored to support low-income families in enhancing their often older homes. According to the L.A. Times, VOX, and other publications, these households often face the most significant challenges in preparing for wildfires. Key hardening strategies, such as adding fire-resistant roofs, ember-resistant vents, and tempered glass windows, are crucial for lowering the chances of home ignition during a wildfire. However, the costs associated with these upgrades can be burdensome for low-income families, increasing the vulnerability of their homes and lives.

It is equally important to carry out defensible space projects, such as clearing flammable vegetation, creating fuel breaks, and maintaining adequate spacing around homes to impede or stop fire spread. These actions protect individual homes while also improving the overall safety of neighborhoods. Successfully executing these projects requires adequate funding for materials, labor, and educational resources targeted at underserved communities.

Adequate funding is crucial for meeting this goal, allowing MySafe:LA to provide financial support, collaborate with community organizations, and expand its outreach initiatives. By focusing on low-income families, MySafe:LA aims to enhance equity in wildfire resilience and cultivate safer, better-prepared neighborhoods across Los Angeles.

Key opportunities include the following:

- Measurable wildfire risk reduction
- Increased focus on lower-income populations
- Developing appropriate funding for wildfire mitigation projects
- Aggressive defensible space efforts in canyons and high-risk neighborhoods
- Community Wildfire Protection Mini-plans for various high-risk areas
- Home hardening workshops and incentives
- Additional wildfire safety fairs in at-risk areas
- Adding NFPA Firewise USA Sites throughout Los Angeles County
- Adding California Fire Safe Council sites

## THE IMPACT OF THE JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES ON THE WILDFIRE ALLIANCE

The January 2025 Los Angeles firestorm has significantly affected MySafe:LA's wildfire resilience goals, presenting challenges and opportunities. The fire's severity and destruction have increased public awareness about wildfire dangers, offering MySafe:LA a chance to engage with communities more effectively. Residents and local leaders will likely be more open to establishing Fire Safe Councils, adopting defensible space practices, and joining educational programs focused on wildfire preparedness. This increased awareness could result in enhanced funding and support for MySafe:LA's initiatives, allowing the organization to broaden its reach, influence, and effectiveness.

However, the firestorm also caused substantial challenges. The extensive damage to infrastructure and homes has stretched community resources thin, complicating the prioritization of long-term resilience over immediate recovery efforts. Residents are desperate to return to their homes and begin rebuilding. Multiple agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have warned that returning too soon without proper protection will result in various health risks.

MySafe:LA was a support entity during the January wildfires. In addition to engaging with the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department's EOC, or Emergency Operations Center, our repopulation team supported the LAFD in getting people home following the evacuations resulting from the Hurst Fire. Our members worked closely with multiple HOA groups to keep them advised of the latest news, and our communications team issued email blasts to offer tips, suggestions, and health advisories.

Wildfirela.org has been comprehensively updated to include enhanced recovery information and a newly established section titled Rebuild:LA, which focuses on rebuilding. A new podcast has also been created, bringing together experts from diverse backgrounds to disseminate crucial information regarding reconstruction efforts and the opportunity to reimagine Los Angeles's infrastructure. MySafe:LA believes that rebuilding impacts the entire city and will promote ideas and initiatives that push these opportunities forward.

As the urgency for rebuilding diminishes and residents resume their daily lives, MySafe:LA may struggle to maintain momentum in some areas. Furthermore, battling misinformation, assuring equitable resource allocation, and overcoming logistical challenges in severely affected areas will require greater coordination and effort. Nonetheless, the firestorm has highlighted the crucial nature of MySafe:LA's mission: creating safer, more resilient neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.





# CONCLUSION

As MySafe:LA seeks wildfire resilience opportunities for 2025 and beyond, it can draw upon several key developments to strengthen its mission. The recent devastating wildfires in Los Angeles have raised awareness and urgency, creating prospects for enhanced community engagement and support. Governor Gavin Newsom's dedication to a comprehensive rebuilding strategy known as "L.A. Rises" highlights the importance of collaboration with various partners, including nonprofits like MySafe:LA, to cultivate resilient communities.

In addition, the Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance, led by MySafe:LA, is creating the city's first CWPP. This plan offers a structured approach to hazard mitigation, community readiness, and resilience and provides MySafe:LA with a strategic platform to launch focused wildfire resilience initiatives. This CWPP could become a valuable component to the city's overall hazard mitigation plan.

Moreover, the growing interest in fire-resistant building materials like adobe and cob allows MySafe:LA to promote and educate communities on sustainable, fire-resilient construction methods.

By synchronizing its efforts with these emerging opportunities, MySafe:LA can effectively enhance its wildfire resilience initiatives, making sure neighborhoods are safer and communities are better prepared for future wildfire challenges.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to our supporters from the California Community Foundation, CAL FIRE (through the California Fire Safe Council), Cal OES, FEMA, The Motorola Solutions Foundation, and all of those individuals who have provided gifts in support of our mission.

# ANNEX A

## COMPLETED AND IN-PROGRESS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE ENTITIES

### COMMUNITIES WITH CURRENT CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (CFSC) OR NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION FW (NFPA FW)

- Bel Air Home Owners Association (HOA) – Current CFSC, in progress NFPA FW
- Bel Air Ridge HOA – Current CFSC, in progress NFPA FW
- Brentwood HOA – Current CFSC, in progress NFPA FW
- Fryman Canyon Association – Current NFPA FW

### COMMUNITIES IN PROGRESS WITH CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (CFSC) AND NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION FW (NFPA FW)

- Hollywood Knolls
- Hollywood Manor
- Hollywoodland HOA
- Lake Hollywood Estates
- Marquez Knolls HOA
- Mountaingate
- Oakridge Residents Association
- Pacific Palisades Community Council
- Shadow Hills

### COMMUNITIES STILL IN DEVELOPMENT

- Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association
- Highland Park Neighborhood Council
- Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
- Beachwood Canyon
- Lake Ridge Estates
- Laurel Canyon
- Mandeville Canyon
- Sylmar Neighborhood Council
- Tahitian Terrace
- Woodland Hills Warner Center, Neighborhood Council

### ZIP CODES ENGAGED

- 90042
- 90046
- 90049
- 90068
- 90077
- 90078
- 90272
- 91040
- 91342
- 91364
- 91604

# ANNEX B

## MEETING CALENDAR FOR CY2024

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>January</b>  | <b>3 Meetings/Events</b>           |
| 1/08            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 1/11            | Wildfire Prepared Home Workshop    |
| 1/16            | CFSC County Coordinator Meeting    |
| <b>February</b> | <b>11 Meetings/Events</b>          |
| 2/01            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 2/07            | MSLA Meeting with CAL FIRE         |
| 2/13            | Bel Air Ridge Home Assessment      |
| 2/13            | Bel Air Ridge Home Assessment      |
| 2/13            | Bel Air Ridge Home Assessment      |
| 2/15            | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting     |
| 2/20            | Team Wildfire Meeting              |
| 2/26            | Brentwood HOA Meeting              |
| 2/27            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 2/27            | MSLA and Beth Berham Meeting       |
| 2/28            | CTEX Conference                    |
| <b>March</b>    | <b>11 Meetings/Events</b>          |
| 3/02            | Oak Ridge Mobile Home Park Meeting |
| 3/06            | LAFD OWB Meeting                   |
| 3/06            | Allied Defense Meeting             |
| 3/07            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 3/14            | LAFD OVB Meeting                   |
| 3/14            | MSLA and CD-4 Meeting              |
| 3/15            | LAFD OSB Meeting                   |
| 3/18            | Brentwood HOA Meeting              |
| 3/21            | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting     |
| 3/22            | Brentwood HOA Meeting              |
| 3/29            | Brentwood Home Assessment          |
| <b>April</b>    | <b>14 Meetings/Events</b>          |
| 4/04            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 4/06            | West Valley Disaster Fair Event    |
| 4/10            | LAFD CROs Meeting                  |
| 4/11            | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting         |
| 4/11            | Brentwood Home Assessment          |
| 4/11            | Brentwood Home Assessment          |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 4/11       | Brentwood Home Assessment              |
| 4/12       | MSLA and Cherokee-Lar O'Dea Meeting    |
| 4/18       | Hollywoodland HOA Home Assessment      |
| 4/19       | Ad Hoc CFSC Multi-County Workshop      |
| 4/21       | YMCA Healthy Kids Day Event            |
| 4/29       | Cal OES Meeting                        |
| 4/30       | MSLA Meeting with CAL FIRE             |
| 4/30       | Cal OES Meeting                        |
| <b>May</b> | <b>28 Meetings/Events</b>              |
| 5/01       | MSLA and Assembly Member Rivas Meeting |
| 5/02       | CD-7 Evacuation Drill Planning Meeting |
| 5/03       | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting             |
| 5/04       | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting             |
| 5/09       | MSLA and Jacy Hyde Meeting             |
| 5/09       | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting             |
| 5/10       | CFSC Quarterly Check-In Meeting        |
| 5/11       | LAFD Fire Service Day 69's             |
| 5/11       | LAFD Fire Service Day 112's            |
| 5/11       | LAFD Fire Service Day 88's             |
| 5/13       | Bel Air HOA Meeting                    |
| 5/13       | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting             |
| 5/13       | Bel Air Ridge HOA                      |
| 5/14       | Hollywoodland HOA Home Assessment      |
| 5/14       | Hollywoodland HOA Home Assessment      |
| 5/16       | MSLA Monthly Town Hall                 |
| 5/18       | LAFD/CD-7 Evacuation Drill Event       |
| 5/21       | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting             |
| 5/21       | MSLA and CD-12 Meeting                 |
| 5/22       | CFSC County Coordinator Workshop       |
| 5/23       | Oakridge Mobile Home Park Meeting      |
| 5/24       | LA Fleet Week Event                    |
| 5/25       | LA Fleet Week Event                    |
| 5/26       | LA Fleet Week Event                    |
| 5/27       | LA Fleet Week Event                    |
| 5/29       | Oakridge Mobile Home Park Meeting      |

# ANNEX B

## MEETING CALENDAR FOR CY2024

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 5/30          | Oakridge Mobile Home Park Meeting                  |
| 5/31          | Glendale Fire Department Meeting                   |
| <b>June</b>   | <b>13 Meetings/Events</b>                          |
| 6/01          | Oakridge Mobile Home Park Wildfire Safety Fair     |
| 6/04          | Bel Air HOA Meeting                                |
| 6/04          | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| 6/11          | MSLA and CD-11 Meeting                             |
| 6/11          | MSLA and CD-4 Meeting                              |
| 6/13          | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| 6/18          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/18          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/18          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/21          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/21          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/21          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/21          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 6/21          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| <b>July</b>   | <b>14 Meetings/Events</b>                          |
| 7/2           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| 7/2           | Fryman Canyon Meeting                              |
| 7/3           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| 7/15          | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                        |
| 7/16          | Bel Air Ridge HOA Home Assessment                  |
| 7/16          | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                      |
| 7/16          | MSLA and CD-1 Meeting                              |
| 7/17          | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                      |
| 7/17          | Mandeville Canyon Meeting                          |
| 7/18          | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| 7/20          | Ad Hoc CFSC Multi-County Workshop                  |
| 7/23          | LILA Wildfire Safety Fair Site Visit               |
| 7/30          | CFSC County Coordinator Quarterly Check-in Meeting |
| 7/30          | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                         |
| <b>August</b> | <b>23 Meetings/Events</b>                          |
| 8/01          | Mt. Washington Wildfire Safety Fair Site Visit     |
| 8/01          | LAFD OVB Meeting                                   |
| 8/01          | MSLA and CD-4 Meeting                              |
| 8/03          | Mt. Washington Wildfire Safety Fair                |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8/06             | Bel Air HOA Meeting                                   |
| 8/06             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 8/06             | National Night Out Event                              |
| 8/07             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 8/08             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 8/09             | Mountaingate HOA Meeting                              |
| 8/09             | Encino Wildfire Home Assessment                       |
| 8/10             | LILA Wildfire Safety Fair Site Visit                  |
| 8/13             | California Fire Foundation Symposium                  |
| 8/14             | Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Meeting |
| 8/15             | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment                           |
| 8/21             | CAL Fire QE Training                                  |
| 8/22             | CAL Fire QE Training                                  |
| 8/22             | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting                        |
| 8/23             | LA Country Club Health and Wellness Fair Event        |
| 8/26             | MSLA and Gabe Albarian Meeting                        |
| 8/27             | MSLA and Sen. Mike McGuire Meeting                    |
| 8/28             | MSLA and CAL FIRE Meeting                             |
| 8/29             | LILA Wildfire Safety Fair Site Visit                  |
| <b>September</b> | <b>17 Meetings/Events</b>                             |
| 9/03             | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                         |
| 9/03             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 9/05             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 9/05             | LA Disaster Expo                                      |
| 9/05             | Bel Air HOA Meeting                                   |
| 9/11             | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                         |
| 9/12             | MSLA and CD-11 Meeting                                |
| 9/12             | Hydraulics International "Bee Healthy" Event          |
| 9/12             | Pacific Palisades Community Council Meeting           |
| 9/12             | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                            |
| 9/13             | LILA Wildfire Safety Fair                             |
| 9/16             | Fryman Canyon Home Assessment                         |
| 9/16             | MSLA and Lindsey P. Horvath SD-3 Meeting              |
| 9/17             | Shadow Hills POA Meeting                              |
| 9/19             | U.S. Green Building Council California Meeting        |
| 9/19             | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting                        |

# ANNEX B

## MEETING CALENDAR FOR CY2024

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9/19            | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |
| <b>October</b>  | <b>21 Meetings/Events</b>   |
| 10/07           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting  |
| 10/09           | Lake View Terrace Home Assessment                                     |
| 10/09           | Fryman Canyon Home Assessment   |
| 10/10           | LAFD OVB Meeting  |
| 10/10           | Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association Meeting                  |
| 10/15           | Bel Air HOA Meeting   |
| 10/15           | Bel Air HOA Home Assessment   |
| 10/16           | LMU Quake Fest Event  |
| 10/17           | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting  |
| 10/18           | U.S. Green Building Council California Meeting                        |
| 10/18           | Pacific Palisades Home Assessment                                     |
| 10/19           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting  |
| 10/22           | Lake Hollywood Eastates HOA Meeting                                   |
| 10/22           | Hollywoodland HOA Meeting   |
| 10/22           | Glendale Fire Department Meeting                                      |
| 10/23           | MSLA and CD-12 Meeting  |
| 10/23           | CFSC County Coordinator Check-in Meeting                              |
| 10/24           | Hollywoodland HOA Home Assessment                                     |
| 10/24           | U.S. Green Building Council California Defense Advisory Board Meeting |
| 10/25           | MSLA and CD-11 Meeting  |
| 10/27           | Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo Emergency Preparedness Workshop Event   |
| <b>November</b> | <b>18 Meetings/Events</b>   |
| 11/4            | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |
| 11/8            | MSLA and CD-4 Meeting   |
| 11/12           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |
| 11/12           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |
| 11/12           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |
| 11/12           | MSLA, Sue Kohl, & CD-11 Meeting                                       |
| 11/12           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting  |
| 11/13           | Marquez Knolls POA Meeting  |
| 11/13           | MSLA and USFS Meeting   |
| 11/14           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 11/14           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                                   |
| 11/15           | Bel Air HOA Meeting   |
| 11/15           | Mountain Fire   |
| 11/19           | Bel Air HOA Meeting   |
| 11/19           | Brentwood HOA Meeting   |
| 11/20           | Brentwood HOA Home Assessment                                   |
| 11/21           | Pacific Palisades & CD-11 Wildfire Safety Fair Planning Meeting |
| 11/25           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| <b>December</b> | <b>16 Meetings/Events</b>                                       |
| 12/02           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| 12/04           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| 12/05           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| 12/05           | LAFD OCB Meeting  |
| 12/06           | MSLA and Gabe Albarian Meeting                                  |
| 12/08           | Ad Hoc CFSC Multi-County Workshop                               |
| 12/09           | LAFD OVB Meeting  |
| 12/10           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| 12/10           | Mandeville Canyon Meeting                                       |
| 12/11           | CFSC County Coordinator Virtual Site Visit Meeting              |
| 12/11           | Wildfire Defense Mesh Meeting                                   |
| 12/12           | LAFD OWB Meeting  |
| 12/13           | California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Meeting      |
| 12/18           | MSLA Team Wildfire Meeting                                      |
| 12/19           | MSLA Monthly Town Hall Meeting                                  |
| 12/20           | LAFD OCB Meeting  |

**TOTAL CY2024 MEETINGS = 189**

# ANNEX C

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>ADC</b>      | Advisory Council                                       |
| <b>AIROPS</b>   | Air Operations Section (Fire)                          |
| <b>Alliance</b> | Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance               |
| <b>AOPS</b>     | Administration Operations                              |
| <b>AOR</b>      | Area of Responsibility                                 |
| <b>ARC</b>      | American Red Cross                                     |
| <b>BC</b>       | Battalion Chief  |
| <b>BOD</b>      | Board of Directors                                     |
| <b>Cal EOS</b>  | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services     |
| <b>CAL FIRE</b> | California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  |
| <b>CFSC</b>     | California Fire Safe Council                           |
| <b>CIO</b>      | Chief Information Officer                              |
| <b>CIPTS</b>    | Critical Incident Planning and Training Section (LAFD) |
| <b>CMO</b>      | Commander's Office                                     |
| <b>CO</b>       | Carbon Monoxide Detector                               |
| <b>CRT</b>      | Crisis Response Team (Office of the Mayor)             |
| <b>CWPP</b>     | Community Wildfire Protection Plan                     |
| <b>DC</b>       | Deputy Chief   |
| <b>DEI</b>      | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion                           |
| <b>DHSA</b>     | Department of Homeland Security                        |
| <b>DOC</b>      | Department Operations Center (LAFD)                    |
| <b>EAP</b>      | Event Action Plan (NIMS)                               |
| <b>EOC</b>      | Emergency Operations Center (Los Angeles)              |
| <b>EOPS</b>     | Emergency Operations (Fire)                            |
| <b>EPA</b>      | Environmental Protection Agency                        |
| <b>EV</b>       | Electric Vehicles                                      |
| <b>FC</b>       | Fire Chief   |
| <b>FEMA</b>     | Federal Emergency Management Agency                    |
| <b>FPB</b>      | Fire Prevention Bureau (Fire)                          |
| <b>FO</b>       | Field Operations                                       |
| <b>GEO</b>      | Geographic Bureaus                                     |
| <b>HOA</b>      | Home Owners Association                                |
| <b>HSD</b>      | Homeland Security Division                             |
| <b>IAP</b>      | Incident Action Report (NIMS)                          |
| <b>ICP</b>      | Incident Command Post (NIMS)                           |
| <b>ICS</b>      | Incident Command System (NIMS)                         |

# ANNEX C

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>IT</b>    | Information Technology  |
| <b>LAcFD</b> | Los Angeles County Fire Department                            |
| <b>LAFD</b>  | Los Angeles City Fire Department                              |
| <b>LAHSA</b> | Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority                   |
| <b>LF</b>    | Light Force (LAFD)  |
| <b>LILA</b>  | Lycée de Los Angeles  |
| <b>LMS</b>   | Learning Management System (or Solution, depending on source) |
| <b>LMU</b>   | Loyola Marymount University                                   |
| <b>MOU</b>   | Memorandum of Understanding                                   |
| <b>NFPA</b>  | National Fire Prevention Association                          |
| <b>NIMS</b>  | National Incident Management System                           |
| <b>NRI</b>   | National Risk Index   |
| <b>NTAS</b>  | National Terrorism Advisory System                            |
| <b>NWS</b>   | National Weather Service                                      |
| <b>OCB</b>   | Operations Central Bureau (Fire, Law)                         |
| <b>OSB</b>   | Operations South Bureau (Fire, Law)                           |
| <b>OVB</b>   | Operations Valley Bureau (Fire, Law)                          |
| <b>OWB</b>   | Operations West Bureau (Fire, Law)                            |
| <b>PEH</b>   | People Experiencing Homelessness                              |
| <b>PLN</b>   | Planning  |
| <b>POA</b>   | Property Owners Association                                   |
| <b>SA</b>    | Smoke Alarms  |
| <b>SME</b>   | Subject Matter Expert   |
| <b>TF</b>    | Task Force (LAFD)   |
| <b>TSB</b>   | Training and Support Bureau (Fire)                            |
| <b>UCP</b>   | Unified Command Post (NIMS)                                   |
| <b>UHRC</b>  | Unified Homelessness Response Center                          |
| <b>USFS</b>  | U.S. Forestry Service   |
| <b>VHFSZ</b> | Very High Fire Severity Zone                                  |
| <b>WUI</b>   | Wildland-Urban Interface                                      |

ANNEX D

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**DAVID BARRETT**

Executive Director



**STEVEN OWENS**

Director, Captain I – LAFD (retired)



**HAROUT SEMERDIJAN**

Director, Government Relations for  
the Port of Long Beach



**CAMERON BARRETT**

Director, Education/Training,  
and Film Unit



**WILLIAM WHITNEY**

Search Executive, CERT leader  
(retired)

# ANNEX E

# ADVISORY BOARD



## **SCOTT FERGUSON**

Fire Chief - Murrieta Fire & Rescue (retired)

## **JOE CASTRO**

Chief Deputy- LAFD (retired)

## **DAVID YAMAHATA**

Chief Deputy – LAFD (retired)

## **DON FRAZEUR**

Deputy Chief – LAFD (retired)

## **DAREN PALACIOS**

Deputy Chief – LAFD (retired)

## **ROBIN POLITO**

Principal – LAUSD (retired)

## **GREG DOYLE**

Lieutenant – Los Angeles Police Dept. (retired)

## **JOE FANASELLE**

Riverside Fire Photographer and Sony Executive

ANNEX F

# PHOTO AND CAPTION CREDITS



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