

MYSAFE:LA'S COMMUNITY

WILDFIRE REPORT 2025 2026

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Executive Summary	6
The January 2025 Firestorm and First After-Action Lessons	10
Reviewing the Risk Factors in Los Angeles	14
The 2025 Wildfire Situation In and Beyond Los Angeles	16
Updated Strategies to Reduce Wildfire Hazards in Los Angeles	18
The Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance.....	20
Defensible Space and Before/After Priorities	24
Home Hardening and Ignition Reduction	28
Other Deliverables and Community Engagement	30
Case Study in Emotional Wellness	34
REBUILD:LA - From Immediate Recovery to Rebuilding the Future	38
Becoming a Fire Safe Council	42
Becoming an NFPA Firewise Site	46
2025 Challenges and Accomplishments	50
SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group	52
Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update	55
Looking Ahead: 2026 Wildfire Outlook and MySafe:LA Priorities	56
Conclusion	62
Annexes	66



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INTRODUCTION

Colleagues and partners,

The last 16 months have changed Los Angeles.

The January 2025 firestorm was one of the most painful and disruptive events our region has ever experienced. It destroyed homes, uprooted families, strained public systems, and reminded all of us that wildfire in Los Angeles is no longer a seasonal concern on the margins. It is now one of the defining public safety and resilience challenges of our time. As we move through 2026, the burden has not eased for those who lost everything. In many ways, the second year is even harder. Families in Altadena and the Palisades continue to face rebuilding delays, emotional strain, infrastructure uncertainty, and the daily reality of trying to put life back together.

That is why MySafe:LA's work has had to expand. We remain committed to prevention, education, and preparedness, but we are also deeply engaged in recovery. We are working with residents, neighborhood leaders, and partner organizations in both Altadena and the Palisades, supporting recovery efforts that include public information, rebuilding guidance, emotional wellness, and our REBUILD:LA podcast, which was created to help people make sense of a difficult and often overwhelming process. As the report notes, MySafe:LA also expanded recovery communications through wildfirela.org and public outreach focused on rebuilding and long-term resilience.

At the same time, we cannot focus solely on what happened. We must also prepare for what may come next. California's snowpack deteriorated sharply this spring, and the outlook for the second half of 2026 is troubling. Los Angeles could face another very dangerous wildfire season, making our work even more urgent.

MySafe:LA is committed to making a difference. We will continue helping residents reduce ignition risk, strengthen neighborhoods, expand wildfire education, support recovery, and work with the Los Angeles Fire Department and many other partners to build a more wildfire-resilient Los Angeles.

Warm regards,



David Barrett
Executive Director
MySafe:LA



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“The 2025 firestorm changed Los Angeles. The work ahead is not only to reduce future wildfire loss, but to help communities recover, rebuild smarter, and become more resilient before the next disaster begins.”

David Barrett
Executive Director, MySafe:LA

The 2025 wildfire year forced Los Angeles to confront wildfire as a whole-system challenge: a threat not only to homes and hillsides, but also to neighborhoods, public health, infrastructure, schools, communications, and long-term public confidence. What began as a January firestorm became a broader lesson about how quickly wildfire in Southern California can become an urban disaster when extreme winds, ember-casting, and vulnerable structures align.

For MySafe:LA, that reality expanded the mission. The organization kept its core purpose intact — educate, prepare, protect, and now recover — while broadening its work to meet the lived reality of families, neighborhoods, and institutions affected by wildfire. Recovery and rebuilding are now inseparable from prevention and preparedness.

This 2025/26 report, therefore, looks in two directions at once. It reflects on the lessons, losses, and organizing momentum of 2025, while also defining the priorities for 2026: reducing ignition risk, assisting with rebuilding Los Angeles, and expanding the number and capacity of wildfire-prepared communities throughout the region.

2025/26 AT A GLANCE

2025 REALITY	WHAT MYSAFE:LA DID	2026 DIRECTION
January’s firestorm showed that wildfire in Los Angeles can become a dense urban disaster, not just a hillside fire.	Expanded public education, repopulation support, recovery communications, and rebuilding guidance.	Help Los Angeles reduce future losses by strengthening ignition resistance, evacuation readiness, and community planning.
Recovery became part of the wildfire mission.	Updated wildfirela.org, launched REBUILD:LA, and supported families and neighborhoods navigating recovery.	Continue second-year recovery support, including rebuilding literacy, public information, and emotional wellness.
Neighborhood organization became more important.	Continued supporting Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise sites, HOA/POA engagement, and wildfire safety fairs.	Expand the number and capacity of wildfire-prepared communities across Los Angeles County.
Structure ignition and near-home fuels proved central to loss reduction.	Promoted defensible space, home hardening, community assessments, and practical resident education.	Increase home wildfire assessments, improve education on the first five feet, and scale home hardening support.
Regional coordination became more necessary.	Built on the multi-county wildfire working group to share lessons and improve Southern California collaboration.	Strengthen the SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group to influence policy, messaging, and resilience practice.
Long-term planning became more urgent.	Continued leading the Los Angeles CWPP process with partner input and public engagement.	Complete the CWPP in 2026 and use it to guide mitigation, preparedness, and recovery-oriented resilience planning.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026

1. REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

Expand home wildfire assessments, strengthen education on defensible space and home hardening, and improve neighborhood understanding of evacuation, communications, and ignition risk.

2. SUPPORT SAFER REBUILDING

Continue recovery support in impacted communities, including rebuilding literacy, survivor-centered public information, emotional wellness efforts, and REBUILD:LA outreach.

3. GROW PREPARED COMMUNITIES

Increase the number and strength of Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise sites, and other community-based resilience structures throughout Los Angeles County.



WHAT THIS REPORT SHOWS

This report is both a record and a roadmap. It documents how the January 2025 firestorm changed the scale of the wildfire challenge in Los Angeles, and it shows how MySafe:LA adapted by broadening its work beyond prevention into recovery, rebuilding support, and stronger community organization.

Just as important, it makes clear that 2026 is not simply a year of looking back. It is a year of building forward. Los Angeles must do two difficult things at once: help communities recover from what happened, and reduce the likelihood that the next major wildfire will be as destructive.

MySafe:LA is committed to helping lead that work — by strengthening neighborhoods, supporting wildfire-prepared communities, expanding practical mitigation tools, and helping build a more wildfire-resilient Los Angeles.



THE JANUARY 2025 FIRESTORM

AND FIRST AFTER-ACTION LESSONS

The January 2025 wind and resulting urban wildfire event was not simply another Southern California wildfire episode. It was a regional firestorm that revealed how quickly a Los Angeles wildfire can become an urban conflagration when extreme winds, drought-stressed vegetation, ember cast, and vulnerable structures align. CAL FIRE reports the Palisades Fire at **23,448 acres, with 6,845 structures destroyed and 12 confirmed civilian fatalities**, and the Eaton Fire at **14,021 acres, with 9,414 structures destroyed and 19 confirmed civilian fatalities**. Together, the two fires destroyed more than **16,000 structures and killed 31 civilians directly**.

The weather and infrastructure context mattered. Southern California had gone months without meaningful rain, the National Weather Service had issued red-flag warnings for life-threatening Santa Ana conditions, and some mountain gusts reached 80 to 100 miles per hour. During the emergency, **more than 400,000 customers lost power across Southern California**. The danger was so severe that the **Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument were closed from January 14 through January 19, 2025**, underscoring the breadth of the regional threat.

The long-term health toll also appears to be much larger than the official fatality count alone suggests. A **JAMA** analysis estimated **440 excess deaths in Los Angeles County from January 5 to February 1, 2025**, likely reflecting the combined effects of smoke exposure, stress, disrupted care, and other indirect impacts. That finding is important because it underscores that the consequences of a firestorm persist long after the flame front has passed. The disaster was not only about acres burned or structures lost. It was also about respiratory exposure, delayed medical care, displacement, trauma, and the cumulative public health burden of fire in a dense urban region.

The first major after-action products released after the disaster help clarify what happened during the opening operational period. **The Fire Safety Research Institute's Southern California Fires Timeline Report**, commissioned by the Governor's Office, documents the progression of the Palisades and Eaton Fires during a period when **12 fires ignited across Southern California**. It emphasizes extreme winds, low humidity, drought-stricken vegetation, and rapidly evolving conditions across a heavily populated built environment. The report is intentionally evidence-based and timeline-focused, establishing the operational fact base for a second-phase analysis with recommendations. In parallel, the **Los Angeles Fire Department's Palisades Fire After-Action Review Report** evaluates the first **36 hours** of response and identifies lessons related to preparedness, command and control, resource deployment, tactical action, support functions, and crisis decision-making. Together, these reports point away from simplistic narratives and toward a harder truth: once a fast-moving fire enters dense neighborhoods, outcomes are shaped by both emergency operations and the built environment's ignition resistance.

The fires also made clear that recovery is not a short-term cleanup problem. It is a multi-year systems challenge. **The EPA has described its hazardous materials operation after the fires as the largest wildfire hazardous materials cleanup in agency history**. In 2026, the agency began additional soil sampling in the Eaton footprint after Los Angeles County testing found **lead as the only fire-related pollutant detected across the Eaton area** following debris removal. County Public Health's final findings also confirmed **localized chemical impacts in the Palisades area**, even though it did not find evidence of widespread contamination there. In other words, rebuilding is not just about permits and construction schedules. It also involves soil, ash, lead, cleanup validation, and public confidence that returning and rebuilding can be done safely.



One of the biggest challenges for the City of Los Angeles is not only rebuilding homes but also **rebuilding infrastructure**. That is where the long-term planning work now underway becomes especially important. In June 2025, Mayor Karen Bass announced that AECOM had been selected to support a community-driven rebuilding master plan, an infrastructure reconstruction plan, a materials logistics plan, and a master traffic plan for Pacific Palisades. The City's recovery site now describes the resulting Infrastructure Restoration Plan as a shared framework for documenting wildfire impacts, evaluating phased rebuilding strategies, identifying hazard mitigation opportunities, and planning a more resilient future. Reporting on those AECOM products indicates that they outline nearly \$1 billion in infrastructure projects through 2033, including more than \$650 million for undergrounding electrical systems and approximately \$150 million for water system repairs. Those numbers help explain why MySafe:LA has treated infrastructure rebuilding as a citywide resilience issue rather than a narrow local construction matter.

That same long-range framing is beginning to appear in broader city policy. Mayor Bass' 2026 climate roadmap describes Los Angeles as **already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, floods, rising heat, and longer heat waves**, and presents a resilience-oriented agenda centered on stronger infrastructure, public health protection, and community safety. For the annual report, this matters because the January firestorm should not be treated as an isolated anomaly. It now sits within a larger conversation about climate adaptation, water reliability, energy systems, land use, and how Los Angeles prepares for compound disasters in the future.

The firestorm also underscored the importance of resident-led recovery organizations. **The Eaton Fire Survivors Network** describes itself as a survivor-led recovery hub that now connects more than 10,000 survivors and allies, with support from organizations including the **California Community Foundation** and the **Department of Angels**. In Pacific Palisades, the **Palisades Recovery Coalition** has emerged as a community-built organization focused on rebuilding logistics, survivor support, and long-term resilience. These organizations matter because they help fill the gap between formal government recovery systems and the daily realities survivors face, including navigating insurance disputes, contamination concerns, permitting complexity, emotional strain, and the risk of permanent displacement.

For MySafe:LA, the January 2025 firestorm made the work ahead much clearer. The 2024 report already pointed out that fires could require years to recover from, emphasizing that MySafe:LA's mission involves not just immediate response but also rebuilding, helping people return home, and keeping the public informed. Now, the current report can say even more clearly: **Los Angeles needs more homes that resist ignition, better management of fuels near homes, increased evacuation awareness, improved public alert systems and technology use, stronger communication between agencies and communities, and a recovery framework that supports families long after the news disappears.** That's part of why MySafe:LA expanded wildfirela.org, created the REBUILD:LA podcast, and keeps working with partners and survivor-led groups to promote practical, well-informed, and resilient rebuilding efforts.

WHAT THE FIRST AFTER-ACTION LESSONS NOW SIGNAL FOR LOS ANGELES

- ⊙ Urban conflagration risk is real. In Los Angeles, wildfires can move from brush to dense neighborhoods within hours, and once that transition occurs, structure ignition becomes a dominant driver of loss.
- ⊙ Simultaneous incidents strain every system. Pre-deployment, communications, evacuation planning, resource ordering, and interagency coordination become more critical when multiple fires ignite under extreme wind conditions.
- ⊙ Infrastructure resilience is central, not secondary. Water delivery, power systems, roadway access, traffic management, and communications networks influence outcomes in built environments as much as suppression tactics do.
- ⊙ Recovery must include environmental health. Soil contamination, ash, hazardous materials cleanup, debris handling, and verification of cleanup affect whether residents can safely return and rebuild with confidence.
- ⊙ Rebuilding is now one of the City’s defining challenges. The scale and cost of infrastructure restoration, utility coordination, traffic planning, and phased reconstruction make recovery a long-term governance challenge, not just a property-by-property one.
- ⊙ Survivor networks are an essential recovery infrastructure. Groups such as the Eaton Fire Survivors Network and the Palisades Recovery Coalition show that community-led recovery capacity is indispensable in a disaster of this scale.
- ⊙ MySafe:LA’s role must remain broad. Prevention, education, home hardening, defensible space, repopulation support, recovery communications, rebuilding literacy, and cross-sector collaboration all belong in the same wildfire resilience strategy.





REVIEWING THE RISK FACTORS IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles faces wildfire risk because environmental, structural, and human systems overlap across a large, complicated urban region. The risk factors described in the 2024 report remained valid in 2025 and continue to do so, looking forward, but the January 2025 fires underscored how urgently they now interact.

1. IMPROPERLY DEFENDED STRUCTURES

Many homes in the wildland-urban interface still present multiple ignition pathways. Zone 0 is often incomplete; combustible fences and decks connect fire directly to structures, roofs and gutters trap embers, and attached outbuildings or ornamental landscaping can create receptive fuels. A house does not need to be reached by the main flame front to ignite.

2. WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

Los Angeles includes extensive hillside, canyon, and edge communities where homes sit directly beside chaparral, grass, and timber fuels. Pacific Palisades, the Santa Monica Mountains, the Hollywood Hills, Mount Washington, Shadow Hills, and foothill communities remain especially exposed. Steep terrain, narrow roads, and limited ingress and egress complicate both suppression and evacuation.

3. FUEL LOAD AND POST-FIRE REGROWTH

Wet periods can produce rapid grass and shrub growth, especially at lower elevations. Those fuels then cure quickly under heat, wind, and low humidity. Burn scars do not eliminate future danger; they change it. Adjacent vegetation, recovering shrublands, ornamental landscaping, and accumulated dead material can all contribute to later-season spread.

4. CLIMATIC DRIVERS

Flash drought, low humidity, prolonged heat, weakened marine-layer influence in some coastal periods, and autumn and winter Santa Ana winds continue to lengthen the window of wildfire danger. Los Angeles is no longer confronting a narrow fire season. **It is a fire year.**

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

Power systems, water delivery, communications, and transportation corridors remain critical vulnerabilities. During a major incident, the resilience of hydrants, tanks, backup power, cell and data networks, public information systems, and evacuation routes can influence outcomes as much as suppression tactics. The first after-action reviews reinforced that infrastructure performance must be treated as a wildfire issue, not a separate topic.





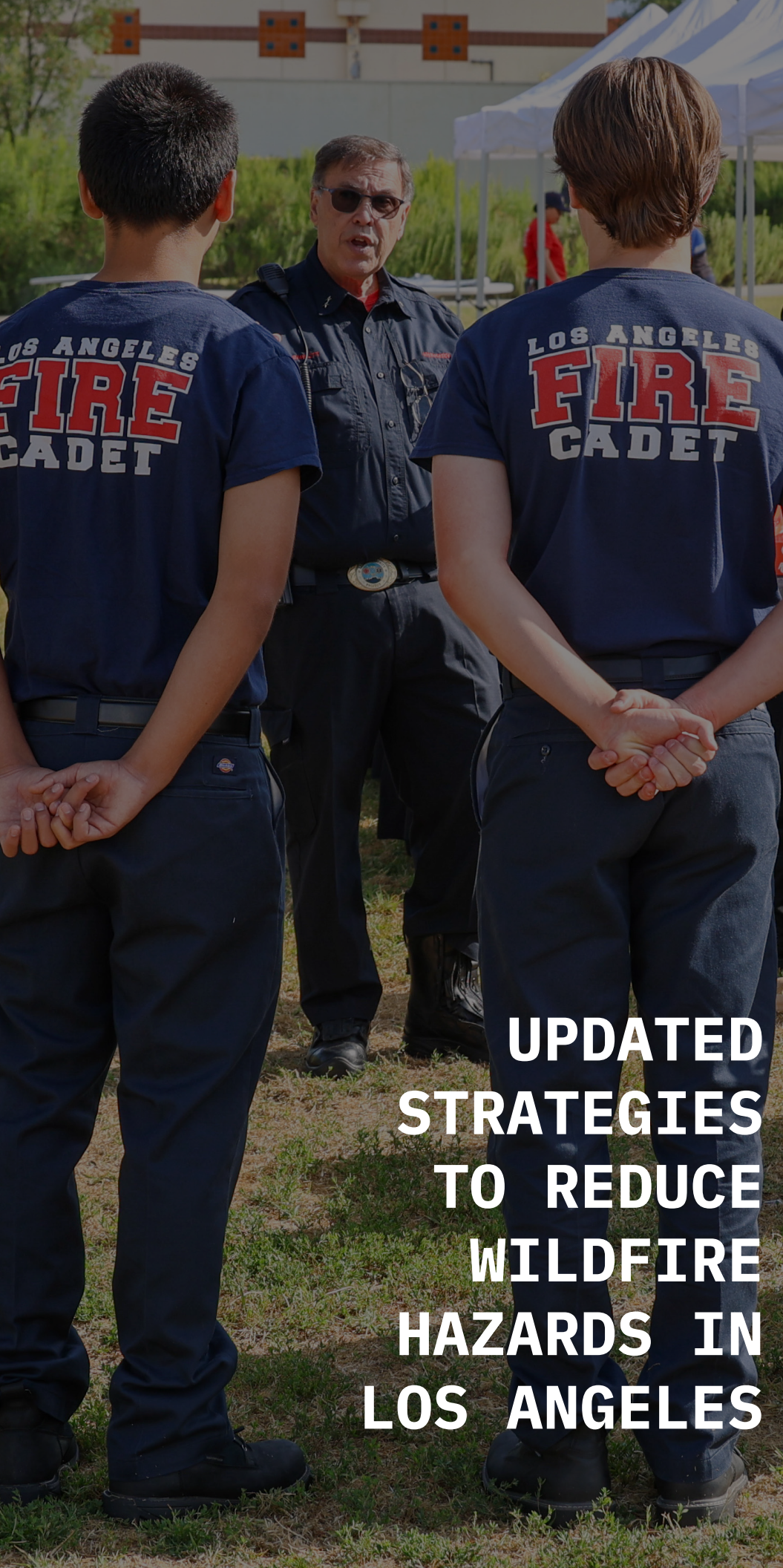
THE 2025 WILDFIRE SITUATION IN AND BEYOND LOS ANGELES

The January 2025 firestorm created a cluster of dangerous incidents across Los Angeles County and nearby Southern California. These fires are listed here because resource competition, smoke, evacuations, public information needs, and community anxiety do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries.

MAJOR INCIDENTS AFFECTING LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING REGION

FIRE	START	SIZE	KEY IMPACTS	MYSAFE:LA RELEVANCE
Palisades	Jan. 7, 2025	23,448 acres	6,837 destroyed; 973 damaged; 12 direct fatalities	Defining incident of the year; drove rebuilding, mitigation, and CWPP messaging.
Eaton	Jan. 7, 2025	14,021 acres	9,414 destroyed; 1,074 damaged; 19 direct fatalities	Expanded MySafe:LA recovery lens to Altadena and reinforced regional coordination.
Hurst	Jan. 7, 2025	799 acres	Thousands evacuated; 2 structures damaged	MySafe:LA provided repopulation support for LAFD as residents returned home.
Sunset	Jan. 8, 2025	43 acres	Rapid evacuation pressure in the Hollywood Hills	Showed how quickly a small fire can threaten dense hillside neighborhoods.
Lidia	Jan. 8, 2025	348 acres	Forward progress stopped quickly in the Acton area	Part of the same period of countywide strain and public concern.
Kenneth	Jan. 9, 2025	1,052 acres	Threatened the West Hills area and county-line communities	Reinforced the regional nature of the January emergency.
Sunswept	Jan. 8, 2025	Structure fire with brush extension	Four-story residence fire in Studio City; vegetation extension and spot fires; no injuries reported	Illustrated how embers, structures, and vegetation can combine in canyon-edge neighborhoods.
Hughes	Jan. 22, 2025	10,425 acres	Large follow-on January incident north of the city; 1 structure damaged	A reminder that January remained active well after the first firestorm.
Border 2	Jan. 23, 2025	6,625 acres	Major San Diego County incident during the same Southern California fire month	Included here as a regional reminder that risk and resource demand extend beyond county lines.

The Palisades and Eaton Fires were among the most destructive in California history. The FSRI timeline report later documented how 12 simultaneous Southern California fires stretched systems, information flow, and public attention during the January emergency.



UPDATED STRATEGIES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE HAZARDS IN LOS ANGELES

The central lesson of 2025 is that Los Angeles needs a wider, more integrated approach to wildfire resilience. MySafe:LA and its partners continued to focus on three strategic goals, but the content of each goal evolved as the city entered a new phase: preparing for future wildfires while still recovering from one of the worst fire disasters in its history.



GOAL 1 : FIRE-ADAPTED COMMUNITIES AND IGNITION-RESISTANT HOMES

- ⦿ Support Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise sites, and neighborhood organizing structures that can sustain mitigation work over time.
- ⦿ Expand home wildfire assessments to ensure residents understand ember pathways, defensible space needs, evacuation constraints, and retrofit priorities.
- ⦿ Increase public understanding of Zone 0, defensible space, and home hardening as the most practical line of defense against structure ignition.
- ⦿ Reach older adults, low-income households, renters, and other vulnerable groups with information that matches the way they actually receive and use technology.



GOAL 2: SAFER LANDSCAPES, HEALTHIER RECOVERY, AND LOWER NEAR-HOME FUEL EXPOSURE

- ⦿ Promote fuel reduction, ladder-fuel removal, and safer landscaping in the first 100 feet around homes, with special emphasis on the first 5 feet.
- ⦿ Connect post-fire recovery to future risk reduction by encouraging better rebuild choices, burn-scar awareness, and practical vegetation management.
- ⦿ Coordinate with open-space managers, park agencies, and community groups so public and private mitigation efforts reinforce one another.



GOAL 3 : BETTER EVACUATION READINESS, RESPONSE SUPPORT, AND REPOPULATION LITERACY

- ⦿ Turn evacuation planning into a public-facing education program rather than a one-time message during red flag events.
- ⦿ Support technology awareness for residents who need help using alerts, maps, mobile phones, contact trees, and trusted information sources.
- ⦿ Document and share lessons about repopulation, neighborhood access, communications, and cross-agency coordination so communities can return home more safely after an incident.



THE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRE RESILIENCE ALLIANCE

The Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance turns partnership into action: one organization centered on response and policy, the other on prevention, education, and recovery – both working with many others to build a more wildfire-resilient city.



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
THE ALLIANCE



The Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance is more than a program created in 2021. It is the formal expression of a **long-standing public/private relationship between MySafe:LA and the Los Angeles City Fire Department**, built on nearly two decades of shared work in public safety, education, preparedness, and support for Los Angeles communities. That history matters because it reflects years of operational trust, community engagement, and practical collaboration — not a short-term initiative built around a single grant or fire season.

The significance of the Alliance derives from the fact that **the two organizations fulfill distinct, yet highly complementary, functions.** The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is at the forefront of emergency response, operational readiness, and wildfire policy within the City of Los Angeles. Conversely, MySafe:LA specializes in prevention, public education, outreach, mitigation support, and long-term recovery. Collectively, these roles establish a more comprehensive resilience framework—one that enables Los Angeles to prepare proactively for wildfires, respond more effectively during emergencies, and recover in a manner that minimizes future losses.

Over time, the Alliance has produced a wide range of practical activities and public-facing programs, including wildfire safety fairs, community presentations, homeowner and neighborhood meetings, Fire Safe Council development, NFPA Firewise support, defensible space and home hardening education, evacuation readiness messaging, repopulation support, and recovery communications. The partnership has also supported residents and families who have suffered wildfire-related loss, reinforcing that resilience in Los Angeles now includes not only prevention and mitigation, but also re-entry, rebuilding literacy, and long-term recovery support.

Just as important, the Alliance should not be seen as a closed, two-organization effort. **It serves as a hub within a broader network of wildfire and disaster resilience collaborators.** That network includes agencies and organizations whose work intersects with evacuation, sheltering, land management, communications, vulnerable populations, public information, and recovery — from the Los Angeles Police Department and Recreation and Parks to the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Sustainability, the American Red Cross, and many others. In Los Angeles, a major wildfire is never only a fire department issue. It is a citywide systems challenge.

Looking ahead, the Alliance is well-positioned to scale what works: deeper neighborhood engagement, broader wildfire education, more organized local leadership, more evacuation training and preparedness, and a stronger pipeline of communities moving toward Fire Safe Council or NFPA Firewise recognition. The objective is not simply to inform residents. It is to help communities move from awareness to action — from attending a workshop to improving defensible space to organizing a neighborhood group to joining a larger wildfire-prepared network.

2026–2027 ALLIANCE OBJECTIVES AND REPRESENTATIVE TACTICS

OBJECTIVE	REPRESENTATIVE TACTICS
Expand Wildfire-Prepared Communities	Support additional HOA and POA groups in becoming Fire Safe Councils; expand NFPA Firewise organizing; provide committee formation support; guide multi-year action planning; strengthen pathways from resident interest to formal recognition.
Increase Community Engagement	Deliver more community workshops, wildfire safety fairs, neighborhood meetings, virtual town halls, and targeted presentations for at-risk communities; continue outreach through print, web, video, and live events.
Strengthen Evacuation Readiness	Expand evacuation education, route-awareness workshops, neighborhood planning sessions, and public messaging on warnings, alerts, communications, and re-entry; integrate lessons learned from the January 2025 fires.
Improve Home Ignition Reduction	Scale home wildfire assessments; deepen education on defensible space, Zone 0, and home hardening; promote parcel-level actions that reduce ember ignition and structure-to-structure fire spread.
Support Recovery and Safer Rebuilding	Continue sharing recovery information through wildfirela.org and REBUILD:LA; support residents and neighborhood groups navigating re-entry, rebuilding literacy, and long-term resilience decisions.
Broaden Disaster Awareness	Use wildfire programming as an entry point for wider household and neighborhood preparedness, including communications, insurance literacy, vulnerable-population outreach, and practical disaster readiness education.
Strengthen Regional and Agency Coordination	Continue collaboration with the LAFD, CFSC, Cal OES, elected offices, and other partners; align community education with citywide and regional resilience efforts; connect neighborhood work to larger planning frameworks such as the CWPP.



WHY THE ALLIANCE MATTERS

The Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance matters because it provides Los Angeles with a practical framework for tackling a difficult yet essential task: building a more wildfire-resilient city before the next major fire.

It combines the LAFD's operational authority and experience with MySafe:LA's prevention, education, and recovery work. It links community-facing efforts, such as fairs, workshops, assessments, and organizing, with broader goals, including wildfire mitigation, evacuation readiness, and long-term resilience planning. And it creates a durable platform for moving from short-term awareness to long-term community action.

An aerial photograph of a hillside in Los Angeles. The hillside is covered with dense green vegetation in the foreground and middle ground. Several modern, multi-story houses with large windows and balconies are built on the slope. The sky is clear and blue. The text 'DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND BEFORE/AFTER PRIORITIES' is overlaid in large white letters on the lower half of the image.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND BEFORE/AFTER PRIORITIES

Defensible space remains one of the most direct ways for residents to reduce the likelihood that embers, radiant heat, or direct flame contact will ignite a home. MySafe:LA continues to teach a layered approach centered on the first 5 feet, the first 30 feet, and the broader 30 to 100-foot zone around structures.



**SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
DEFENSIBLE
SPACE**

ZONE 0 (0–5 FEET)

The ember-resistant zone is the most critical area. Remove receptive fuels such as dead vegetation, bark mulch, combustible patio items, doormats, firewood, and debris. Use hardscape and carefully selected low-combustibility features where possible.

ZONE 1 (5–30 FEET)

Keep vegetation lean, clean, and separated. Prune lower branches, reduce continuous fuel beds, and prevent direct flame contact with the structure.

ZONE 2 (30–100 FEET)

Thin vegetation, increase horizontal and vertical spacing, keep grasses cut low, and reduce ladder fuels that can carry fire from the ground into the tree canopy and toward homes.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
STAYING PREPARED FOR A
WILDFIRE EMERGENCY



BEFORE IMPROVEMENT

- Shrubs or mulch touching the house in Zone 0
- Wood fence or gate attached directly to the structure
- Combustible deck or debris stored beneath the deck
- Overhanging branches above the roofline
- Leaves in gutters and roof valleys
- Woodpile or propane stored close to the home
- Dense vegetation with little spacing
- No clear plan for maintenance before red flag events

BEFORE & AFTER

A SIMPLE HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST



Defensible space is not only about slowing wildfire. It is about interrupting ember ignition, reducing heat exposure, giving firefighters a safer working area, and improving the chance that a home survives even when fire resources are stretched thin.

AFTER IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Noncombustible or low-combustibility treatment in the first 5 feet
- ✓ Break in combustible fencing where it meets the house
- ✓ Cleaner deck edges and reduced under-deck fuel load
- ✓ Branches pruned away from roofs and chimneys
- ✓ Roofs and gutters kept free of ember-receptive debris
- ✓ Combustible storage moved away from structures
- ✓ Thinned vegetation with better horizontal and vertical spacing
- ✓ Routine maintenance tied to weather and red flag awareness



HOME HARDENING AND IGNITION REDUCTION

Home hardening means changing a structure so it is less likely to ignite when exposed to embers, radiant heat, or direct flame contact. It does not make a building fireproof. What it does is reduce the number of ways fire can enter, attach, or spread. In a wind-driven fire, that difference matters.

The 2025 firestorm reinforced a simple point: embers often do the work before the flame front arrives. They enter attic and crawlspace vents, collect in roof valleys and gutters, ignite combustible fencing, and find receptive fuels under decks, next to doors, or in decorative landscaping. Hardening a home removes these ignition pathways one by one. Every upgrade makes it harder for a structure to catch, easier for firefighters to defend, and less likely to ignite neighboring homes.



WHY HARDENING REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF IGNITION

- ⦿ A Class A roof reduces the likelihood that embers will cause roof ignition.
- ⦿ Ember-resistant vents and enclosed eaves reduce entry points into attics and concealed spaces.
- ⦿ Dual-pane tempered windows are less likely to fail under radiant heat or direct exposure.
- ⦿ Noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding, decking, and fences reduce surface ignition and house-to-house spread.
- ⦿ Cleaner gutters, boxed-in deck undersides, and removal of combustible attachments reduce small but critical ignition points.
- ⦿ The neighborhood benefit is cumulative: each hardened home reduces the likelihood that a single structure becomes the ignition source for the next.

KEY RETROFIT MESSAGES FOR RESIDENTS

- ⦿ Start with the most exposed and least expensive ignition pathways first: the first 5 feet, gutters, vents, attached combustibles, and easy-to-trap embers.
- ⦿ Pair structural upgrades with defensible space. Neither strategy is enough by itself.
- ⦿ Use assessments to prioritize work. The right sequence matters more than trying to do everything at once.
- ⦿ Treat rebuilding as a resilience opportunity. The goal is not to recreate yesterday's ignition pathways in tomorrow's house.



**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT HOME
HARDENING**



OTHER DELIVERABLES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, MySafe:LA's deliverables were not simply products. They became part of a broader public engagement strategy designed to help Los Angeles residents understand risk, take action, recover from loss, and prepare for what comes next.

MySafe:LA's 2025 deliverables were intentionally broad because **wildfire resilience in Los Angeles depends on repeated communication, practical tools, and sustained engagement across many formats.** The 2024 report already showed that the organization's public-facing work included flyers, brochures, checklists, escape plans, evacuation cards, videos, live events, wildfire committee support, and government recognition, as part of a broader strategy to work with HOAs and POAs to embed wildfire preparedness in neighborhood life. In 2025, that communications and engagement model expanded significantly. It was no longer enough to focus only on preparedness before the next fire. Families and communities also needed recovery information, rebuilding guidance, emotional support, and trusted communications after the January firestorm.

In 2025, MySafe:LA continued to produce and distribute practical wildfire resilience materials while expanding into recovery-focused content. **Deliverables included flyers, brochures, and checklists covering defensible space, home hardening, evacuation, rebuilding considerations, and general disaster readiness; escape plans, evacuation cards, workshop handouts, and neighborhood presentation materials; home wildfire assessment summaries and follow-up recommendations; web content and digital updates on wildfirela.org, including recovery information and rebuilding guidance; video content, live events, wildfire safety fairs, and town hall-style presentations; support materials for wildfire committees, Fire Safe Councils, and NFPA Firewise applicants; and public-facing REBUILD:LA content that translated technical rebuilding and infrastructure issues into accessible language.**

Community engagement also shifted in character during 2025. Before the January fires, MySafe:LA's model centered on workshops, neighborhood meetings, wildfire safety fairs, assessments, and organizational support for HOAs, POAs, Fire Safe Councils, and Firewise sites. **After the firestorm, engagement had to become more human-centered and recovery-oriented.** That meant not only distributing information but also helping residents process uncertainty, navigate rebuilding choices, understand alerts and evacuation systems, and stay connected to trusted sources over time. wildfirela.org evolved into a broader recovery platform, and REBUILD:LA emerged as a tool to help residents understand reconstruction and infrastructure issues.

MySafe:LA also deepened engagement with residents and community leaders in Pacific Palisades and Altadena, recognizing that long-term resilience extends beyond home hardening and defensible space. It also encompasses emotional fatigue, technology challenges, insurance confusion, environmental health concerns, and the need for repeated, trusted communication. This is why the organization's engagement model increasingly includes conversations and workshops on emotional wellness, evacuation literacy, technology use for alerts and situational awareness, and broader disaster preparedness.

Looking ahead, MySafe:LA's deliverables should be framed not only by what was completed in 2025 but also by what the organization is building in 2026 and beyond. One of the most important strategic deliverables remains the **City of Los Angeles Community Wildfire Protection Plan**, described in the 2024 report as a citywide framework for hazard mitigation, preparedness, and resilience, developed with broad agency and community input. Closely related is the development of **ancillary short-form CWPPs aligned with specific at-risk Los Angeles City Council Districts.** These district-level plans can translate citywide strategy into place-based, community-facing tools that reflect local topography, evacuation conditions, vegetation, vulnerable populations, and neighborhood priorities.

The next phase of this work also includes continued support for Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise sites, and wildfire committees; additional neighborhood workshops and wildfire safety fairs; stronger evacuation education; and broader disaster-readiness outreach that uses wildfire as a gateway to broader household and community preparedness. The objective is not simply to inform the public but to help build communities that are better organized, better connected, and better prepared to face wildfire risk over the long term.



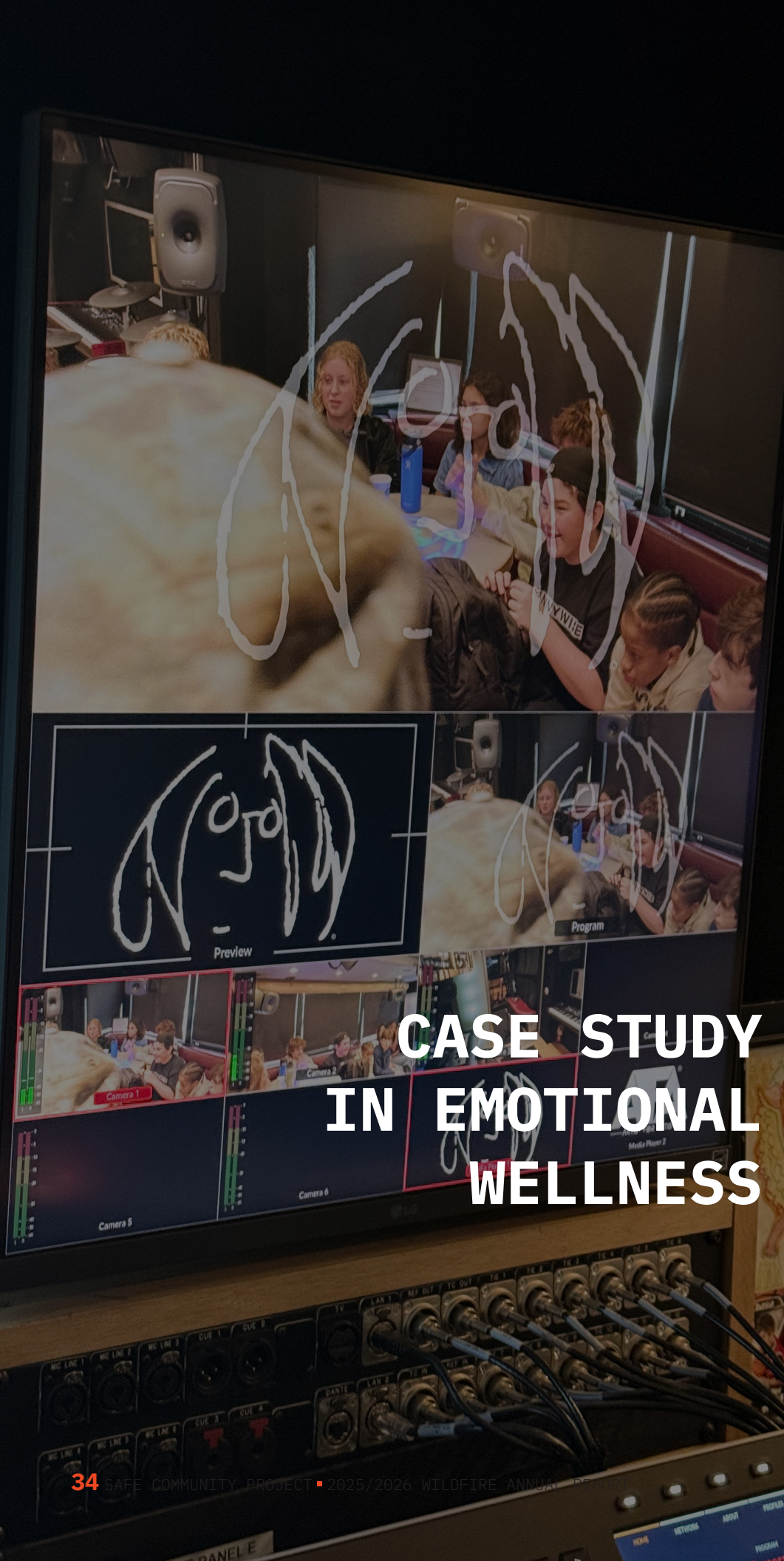
DELIVERABLES AND ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES

PRIORITY AREA	REPRESENTATIVE DELIVERABLES AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
Citywide Wildfire Planning	Complete and support release of the Los Angeles CWPP; continue public engagement; translate findings into actionable community guidance.
District-Level Resilience Planning	Develop ancillary short-form CWPPs aligned with at-risk Los Angeles City Council Districts; localize risk, evacuation, and mitigation strategies for specific neighborhoods.
Community Wildfire Organization	Expand support for Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise sites, wildfire committees, and HOA/POA engagement; provide planning support and educational materials.
Recovery and Rebuilding Support	Continue wildfirela.org and REBUILD:LA content; offer rebuilding literacy, recovery communications, and public-facing guidance tied to long-term resilience.
Emotional Wellness and Human Recovery	Support recovery-oriented programming that recognizes trauma, fatigue, uncertainty, and the long-term stress faced by affected residents and families.
Evacuation Readiness	Expand workshops on alerts, route planning, communications, repopulation lessons, and situational awareness, especially in high-risk communities.
General Disaster Preparedness	Use wildfire engagement as a gateway to broader resilience education, including household planning, communications readiness, and preparedness for cascading disasters.

This section marks an important shift in how MySafe:LA defines deliverables. In a wildfire-prone city as large and complex as Los Angeles, **the most useful outputs extend beyond handouts, websites, and events.** They also include planning frameworks, neighborhood organizing structures, recovery communications, and community-facing tools that help residents act with greater clarity and confidence.

In 2026 and beyond, MySafe:LA's deliverables will continue **to connect practical public education with long-term resilience strategy** — helping Los Angeles recover from what happened while building a stronger foundation for what may come next.





CASE STUDY IN EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Recovery is not measured only by debris removal, permits, and rebuilding timelines. It is also measured by whether people can reconnect with hope, community, and a sense of forward movement.



The wildfire story of 2025 was not only about destroyed structures, evacuation zones, and response operations. It was also about **grief, disruption, identity, and the emotional toll carried by students, families, and entire communities after the January firestorm**. MySafe:LA therefore broadened its definition of resilience to include emotional wellness, recognizing that recovery is not measured only by debris removal, permits, and rebuilding timelines. **It is also measured by whether people can reconnect with hope, community, and a sense of forward movement.**

For Executive Director David Barrett, that realization was deeply personal. As a lifelong musician, he began thinking about the role music can play in recovery — not as entertainment, but as a way to process trauma, tell difficult stories, and create moments of healing when communities are struggling to find their footing. Through his education relationships at Apple, David connected with Brian Rothschild, co-founder of the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, and together they developed an emotional wellness initiative designed to reach young people in communities directly affected by the January 2025 fires.

With support from a community recovery grant from Edison International via the California Fire Safe Council, that effort extended into Altadena, Pasadena, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu. Working with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, MySafe:LA helped **create safe, creative spaces where students could express loss, uncertainty, recovery, and hope while reconnecting with one another and with their broader communities.**

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

FOCUS AREA	CASE STUDY DETAILS
Creative Recovery Model	Students were given a structured opportunity to process loss, uncertainty, recovery, and hope through collaborative songwriting, recording, and video production.
Communities Reached	Odyssey Charter School in Altadena, Blair High School in Pasadena, Palisades Charter High School in Pacific Palisades, Malibu High School in Malibu, Flintridge Sacred Heart in Altadena, Aveson Global Leadership Academy in Altadena, and Paul Revere Middle School in Palisades.
What Students Created	In each community, students came together and, in a single day, wrote, performed, and recorded an original song while also creating a companion music video.
Why It Mattered	The initiative created a safe, creative environment where young people could translate fear, sadness, memory, and resilience into something shared and hopeful.
Funding Support	The work was supported through a community recovery grant from Edison International via the California Fire Safe Council.



What made the initiative so powerful was that it did not ask students to discuss wildfire only in technical or adult terms. Instead, it allowed them to translate fear, disruption, sadness, memory, and resilience into music and shared creative work. That matters because **children and teens often process disasters differently than adults**. They do not always need another presentation about risk. Sometimes they need a meaningful way to express what has happened to them and what they hope comes next.

This case study reinforces a larger lesson for the report: resilient communities are not built only through fuel reduction, code requirements, evacuation diagrams, and home hardening checklists. They are also built through belonging, communication, trust, and the emotional capacity to recover together.



WHAT THIS CASE STUDY SHOWS

- ⦿ Recovery must be understood as both physical and emotional.
- ⦿ Youth-centered programming can help communities process loss in ways that standard public information efforts cannot.
- ⦿ Creative expression can strengthen belonging, optimism, and community identity after a disaster.
- ⦿ Wildfire resilience work is stronger when emotional wellness is treated as part of the recovery framework, not an afterthought.

For MySafe:LA, the lesson is clear. Communities need safer homes and better evacuation preparedness, but **they also need ways to heal, reconnect, and imagine a future beyond the disaster.** The collaboration with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus made that message visible in a powerful way. It showed that music can be part of resilience, that creativity can support recovery, and that helping communities move forward sometimes begins by helping them find their voice again.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JOHN LENNON
EDUCATIONAL TOUR BUS



REBUILD:LA: FROM IMMEDIATE RECOVERY TO REBUILDING THE FUTURE



“REBUILD:LA began as a wildfire recovery podcast. It is becoming something larger: a public conversation about how Los Angeles can rebuild itself – physically, emotionally, and strategically – after one of the most destructive fire disasters in its history.”

**Cameron Barrett,
Producer & Host,
Rebuild:LA**



REBUILD:LA quickly became a **well-loved and trusted resource for many in 2025**. Born out of the aftermath of the January firestorms, this podcast offered a warm, open space for survivors, homeowners, community leaders, and everyone interested in understanding what had happened, how recovery could move forward, and how Los Angeles could build back safer. It wasn't just about explaining the fires—it was about **helping everyone prepare for future wildfires** and exploring a brighter, stronger future for the city. In its early days, REBUILD:LA focused on real, immediate recovery challenges—sharing survivor stories, talking about FEMA and recovery deadlines, tackling rebuilding hurdles, insurance matters, wildfire science, home hardening, defensible space, and practical steps residents could take to prevent future damage.

During a critical time when trusted, expert-led, conversational information was needed most, the podcast grew into a rich collection of insights, advice, and education. As it expanded into 2025 and beyond, REBUILD:LA started fostering a **bigger conversation about resilience**—connecting immediate recovery efforts to broader questions about how Los Angeles should rebuild, from infrastructure and community wellness to science, neighborhood organizing, mitigation policies, and public safety. This change is vital because recovery in Los Angeles isn't just about going back to normal; it's about building a safer, smarter, and more resilient city through better planning, science, building practices, and informed community involvement.

REPRESENTATIVE GUESTS AND FEATURED VOICES THROUGH SPRING 2026

THEME	REPRESENTATIVE GUESTS AND FEATURED VOICES
Immediate Recovery and Survivor Experience	David Barrett; Jon Brown; Joel Wish; Joy Chen and the Eaton Fire Survivors' Network; voices connected to the Palisades Recovery Coalition.
Emotional Wellness and Community Healing	Shari Sinwelski of Didi Hirsch; collaborators connected to the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus; Sierra Kos; Dr. Veronica Viesca.
Wildfire Science and Mitigation	Dr. Chris Potter of NASA; Silvio Lanzas of M-Fire; Jason Brooks of Fire Aside; Dr. Travis Longcore.
Policy, Fire Service, and Public Safety	State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant; Chief Frank Bigelow; CAL FIRE Aviation's Linnea Edmeier; Captain Jerry Puga; Captain Chris Stine; Justice Tricia Bigelow (Ret.); Senator Ben Allen.
Neighborhood Leadership and Community Organizing	Kelly Lynch; Marianne Riggins, Mayor of Malibu; Aimery Thomas of The Future Organization; Andrew King and Angela Giacchetti of Department of Angels.

Looking ahead, REBUILD:LA is evolving again. Its early seasons were shaped by the immediate needs of wildfire survivors and communities struggling to stabilize after catastrophic loss. As Los Angeles moves deeper into the second year of recovery, however, the podcast is increasingly focused on the larger question implied by its name: how do you actually rebuild Los Angeles?

That means more than replacing structures. It means exploring the rebuilding of infrastructure, community wellness, neighborhood identity, environmental health, public safety systems, and the science and policy needed to create a more wildfire-resilient region. Recent conversations reflect that shift by examining survivor-led recovery groups, neighborhood organizing, emotional wellness, rebuilding technology, Firewise leadership, and the systems challenges that shape whether communities can recover with greater strength.



RECOGNITION AND VALUE

REBUILD:LA has earned major recognition, including a 2025 Award of Excellence from the Communicator Awards, a 2025 Silver W3 Award, and a 2026 Silver NYX Award. More importantly, it has become a public education platform, a recovery archive, and a way to make complex issues understandable and human.

For MySafe:LA, REBUILD:LA has grown into so much more than just a podcast. It's now a **vibrant public education platform, a recovery archive, and a welcoming space** where complicated issues are broken down into simple, understandable words. It beautifully connects technical information to real-life experiences and offers a safe space for voices that might otherwise get lost in the hectic noise of disaster response and rebuilding efforts.

This podcast embodies one of MySafe:LA's most important beliefs: **communities bounce back strongest when they have access not just to facts, but also to meaningful context, open conversations, and a shared sense of how to move forward together.**





BECOMING A FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

For many communities in Los Angeles County, a Fire Safe Council model is the most effective way to build wildfire resilience at the neighborhood scale. A Fire Safe Council is especially well-suited for a homeowners association (HOA) or property owners association (POA) because those groups already have defined geography, established leadership, regular communications, and the ability to coordinate decisions across a larger residential area. That existing structure makes it easier to organize residents, set priorities, develop action plans, and sustain mitigation work over time.

Unlike a smaller Firewise site, which is often closest to a cluster of homes, a Fire Safe Council can serve as the broader organizing umbrella for an entire neighborhood or community. That makes it a practical platform for addressing not only vegetation management and home ignition risk but also evacuation planning, communications, insurance education, defensible space projects, home hardening strategies, and long-term recovery planning. In Los Angeles, where wildfire risk often affects large neighborhoods rather than isolated parcels, that broader structure can be especially valuable. The 2024 report already identified Fire Safe Councils as one of MySafe:LA's core tools for creating safer neighborhoods and advancing fire-adapted communities.

MySafe:LA serves as the Regional Fire Safe Council for Los Angeles County. In that role, the organization helps communities form councils, supports wildfire planning and education, advances home hardening and defensible space initiatives, and coordinates preparedness, response, and recovery support across the region. The 2024 report also notes that MySafe:LA works closely with the California Fire Safe Council, which serves as a grants management entity for CAL FIRE, and collaborates with those statewide partners to promote wildfire coordination and mitigation.

That role is increasingly important because the number of Fire Safe Councils in Los Angeles County has grown dramatically. In 2023, there were only three Fire Safe Councils in the county. Today, there are 34. That growth reflects a significant change in how communities are organizing around wildfire risk. It is also evidence that HOAs, POAs, neighborhood leaders, and residents are increasingly willing to build formal structures that can support not only preparedness, but ongoing mitigation and resilience work over multiple years. The current city status snapshot shows active councils such as Bel Air, Bel Air Ridge, Brentwood, Hollywood Hills, and Hollywoodland HOA, with additional councils in process, including Pacific Palisades Community Council and Mandeville Canyon Association.

One of the biggest advantages of becoming a Fire Safe Council is that, once the entity is organized and operating, it becomes much better positioned to pursue grant funding and other forms of technical support. The 2024 report notes that MySafe:LA guides HOA and POA groups in applying for wildfire mitigation funds, including fuel reduction, infrastructure improvements, and related resilience work. In practical terms, a recognized council can provide the organizational framework needed to identify priorities, document community participation, create action plans, and compete more effectively for outside support. That is one reason the Fire Safe Council model is so valuable: it gives a neighborhood not only a wildfire committee, but a functioning resilience structure with the ability to pursue real projects.



HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

For HOAs and POAs, the process generally follows a clear progression:

INITIAL ENGAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The HOA or POA engages MySafe:LA, and the community's wildfire risks are evaluated, including vegetation hazards, home ignitability, and evacuation challenges.

FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The neighborhood establishes a formal Fire Safe Council, defines its mission and leadership, and creates the organizational structure needed to sustain the work.

LAUNCH OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Once established, the council can begin implementing projects such as education, fuel reduction, defensible space support, wildfire safety fairs, and grant seeking.



LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND WILDFIRE EDUCATION

A core leadership group is assembled and receives training in defensible space, home hardening, and community wildfire planning.

ACTION PLANNING AND RECOGNITION

The council develops a multi-year action plan and submits the required materials for recognition.

EVALUATION AND GROWTH

The council updates its priorities as conditions change and expands its work as more residents engage.

This basic framework was outlined in the earlier report, including the importance of a three-year action plan, community engagement, formal recognition, and ongoing maintenance.

WHAT CHANGED IN 2025

The January 2025 firestorm made Fire Safe Councils even more relevant. Neighborhoods needed trusted local structures not only for preparedness but also for **recovery, rebuilding discussions, communications, evacuation, insurance questions, and long-term mitigation planning**. In many places, councils became a natural forum for residents to look beyond immediate damage and begin discussing how to rebuild with lower ignition risk and stronger neighborhood coordination.

That is why MySafe:LA continues to work closely with **CAL FIRE** and the **California Fire Safe Council** to help HOA and POA groups become more engaged in their wildfire resilience efforts. The goal is not simply to add names to a list. It is to build durable neighborhood organizations that can educate residents, support mitigation projects, compete for funding, and remain active as wildfire risk continues to evolve across Los Angeles County.

This version should pair well with the revised Firewise section because it makes the distinction clearer: **Fire Safe Councils are the ideal umbrella structure for HOAs/POAs, while Firewise sites are often the most direct tool for smaller resident clusters within or alongside that broader framework.**





“Every homeowner plays a role in reducing wildfire risk, but our greatest strength comes from acting together. When neighbors commit to mitigation and preparedness as a community, we build a strong, united front that helps protect lives, homes, and the future of our communities.”

- DANIEL BERLANT
CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL



BECOMING AN NFPA FIREWISE SITE

NFPA Firewise USA remains one of the strongest neighborhood-level tools available for building a more wildfire-resilient Los Angeles.





The NFPA Firewise USA program remains one of the most practical and scalable ways for residents to organize to reduce wildfire risk at the block, subdivision, and immediate neighborhood levels. While a Fire Safe Council often serves as a broader umbrella organization, a Firewise USA site operates closest to the homes themselves, translating wildfire awareness into resident action. Firewise works because it gives neighbors a clear structure for organizing, assessing risk, setting priorities, documenting progress, and sustaining mitigation over time.

NFPA describes Firewise USA as a voluntary recognition program that helps neighbors work together to increase the ignition resistance of homes and communities through local action. That distinction matters. Firewise sites are recognized, not certified, and individual properties within the site boundary do not receive property-level certification. For annual report purposes, this is the most accurate way to describe the program and its value.

The growth of Firewise activity in Los Angeles County is one of the clearest indicators that demand for wildfire preparedness is accelerating. In 2023, Los Angeles County had only a handful of recognized Firewise communities. By 2025, the countywide picture had changed dramatically. **The NFPA countywide Firewise listing shows 78 communities on the primary list and**

identifies additional communities advancing outside that core map snapshot. The Los Angeles city status update separately identifies numerous active Firewise communities within the city, along with others that are in process or in organizational development. Taken together, Los Angeles County now has more than 80 Firewise sites and related Firewise efforts, either recognized or advancing through the pipeline. That growth reflects the combined work of MySafe:LA, NFPA volunteers, HOA and POA leaders, local residents, and partner agencies, all working toward the same goal: reducing wildfire risk where people live.

It's really important to reinforce the key parts of the Firewise model because they're the reason the program succeeds. A Firewise site isn't just a label; **it's a foundation for ongoing neighborhood efforts.** The journey starts with residents getting involved and conducting a wildfire risk assessment at the community level. Then, a Firewise board or committee is formed, boundaries are defined, and a wildfire risk reduction plan is created that considers the unique conditions of the neighborhood. This plan usually focuses on things like creating defensible space, making homes more resistant to fire, managing vegetation, ensuring safe access and evacuation routes, and educating residents.



Communities then document completed mitigation work, annual investment, and outreach efforts, submit their recognition materials, and renew each year to keep the effort active and credible. NFPA's Firewise structure is organized around a site-wide risk assessment and action plan rather than a property-by-property certification model, which is an important distinction for annual reporting and community education.

That local organizing function is especially important in Los Angeles, where many at-risk neighborhoods do not fit neatly into a traditional wildland-urban edge. In canyon communities, hillside neighborhoods, and dense residential areas near brush, **one parcel's risk often becomes the next parcel's problem.** Firewise helps residents understand that wildfire resilience is a shared responsibility. A home can be hardened, but if adjacent properties remain vulnerable to ember ignition, unmanaged vegetation, or combustible materials near structures, the risk remains high. Firewise encourages neighbors to act together, and that is one of the program's greatest strengths.

It is also useful to view Firewise in the context of NFPA's broader wildfire policy and resilience work. NFPA's Outthink Wildfire initiative is designed to complement programs like Firewise by advancing the larger policy and systems changes needed to reduce community destruction from wildfire over time. In practical terms, Firewise helps residents organize and take action locally, while Outthink Wildfire reinforces the broader standards, planning, and resilience environment needed to make those local efforts more effective and more durable.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS

- ⦿ Firewise USA is a community recognition program, not a property-level certification program.
- ⦿ The NFPA Firewise USA® initiative is about community resilience, not insurance discounts - the California Department of Insurance has a wildfire framework that is directly related to possible insurance discounts.
- ⦿ In California, Firewise community participation may support eligibility for mitigation discounts or credits, but insurance outcomes still depend on the insurer's filed rating plan and mitigation on the specific property.
- ⦿ Annual renewal is based on site-level wildfire risk-reduction investment tied to dwelling units, not a personal one-hour requirement for every resident.

UPDATED FIREWISE PROCESS FOR RESIDENTS AND HOAS/POAS

THEME	REPRESENTATIVE GUESTS AND FEATURED VOICES
1. Engage	Engage MySafe:LA and complete a community-level wildfire risk assessment.
2. Organize	Form a Firewise committee or board made up of residents and community leaders.
3. Plan	Define site boundaries and develop a wildfire risk-reduction plan that includes defensible space, home hardening, and other ignition-reduction priorities.
4. Document	Document resident engagement, completed mitigation work, and the site's annual wildfire risk-reduction investment.
5. Apply	Submit the application for recognition and celebrate the achievement publicly to build momentum.
6. Renew	Renew annually and keep the plan active as conditions, leadership, and risk change over time.

Overall, Firewise USA remains one of the strongest neighborhood-level tools available for building a more wildfire-resilient Los Angeles. It gives residents a practical structure for working together, turns community concern into measurable action, and reinforces the larger strategy of helping neighborhoods become more organized, more informed, and more capable of reducing wildfire risk over time.





2025 CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHALLENGES IN 2025

- ⦿ Managing immediate recovery while still asking communities to invest in long-term mitigation and home hardening.
- ⦿ Navigating insurance instability, rebuild cost escalation, and confusion about resilient reconstruction.
- ⦿ Addressing public-health impacts from smoke, ash, contaminated air, and return-home safety concerns.
- ⦿ Confronting infrastructure fragility, especially public confidence in alerts, water delivery, communications, and evacuation flow.
- ⦿ Reaching vulnerable residents - older adults, renters, low-income households, non-English speakers, and people with limited technology access - with actionable information.
- ⦿ Combating misinformation and oversimplified narratives in a highly emotional, politically charged recovery environment.
- ⦿ Securing funding and staffing for more assessments, technical assistance, and on-the-ground community support.
- ⦿ Weak community engagement relative to taking any meaningful action to better defend properties and structures.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

- ⦿ Maintained and broadened the Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance during the most challenging wildfire year in recent local history.
- ⦿ Supported LAFD repopulation operations during the Hurst Fire and continued to provide public safety information during the January incidents.
- ⦿ Expanded wildfirela.org into a more comprehensive recovery and rebuilding information platform.
- ⦿ Continued home wildfire assessments, community education, and neighborhood engagement throughout at-risk areas.
- ⦿ Advanced Fire Safe Council and Firewise activities are being organized in city and county neighborhoods while helping residents understand the value of formal community wildfire structures.
- ⦿ Collaborated with affected families and community stakeholders in Pacific Palisades and Altadena.
- ⦿ Built school-based emotional wellness programming with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus and seven school communities.
- ⦿ Grew REBUILD:LA into an award-winning public information platform for wildfire recovery and resilience.
- ⦿ Advanced the CWPP through extensive public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and interagency collaboration.
- ⦿ Expanded regional coordination through the renamed SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group.



SOCA WILDFIRE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

What began as an ad hoc, multi-county collaboration has evolved into the **SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group** — a more accurate name for a practical Southern California alliance built on shared lessons, regional coordination, and the spread of effective wildfire resilience strategies. The name matters because the mission is broader than periodic discussion. The working group is intended to help shape how wildfire mitigation, preparedness, recovery, and rebuilding are understood and advanced across county lines.



The value of a regional alliance is clear: **wildfire risk does not stop at city boundaries, county lines, or fire department jurisdictions.** Southern California counties differ in topography, vegetation patterns, governance structures, and community demographics, yet they share common threats — wind-driven fire, ember cast, evacuation complexity, insurance instability, infrastructure vulnerability, and the challenge of helping residents take practical mitigation action before the next disaster. A regional working group helps reduce duplication, accelerates learning, spreads workable models, and creates more consistent public messaging across multiple counties. That coordination can improve not only education and planning but also grant strategy, policy advocacy, mitigation standards, and long-term recovery.

The SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group brings together wildfire coordinators, Fire Safe Council leaders, fire service partners, and resilience-focused organizations from Los Angeles and neighboring counties, including Ventura, Orange, Kern, and Riverside, with interest from additional jurisdictions. The 2024 report documented the origins of this effort in a multi-county workshop model and noted that the broader MySafe:LA strategy already emphasized connecting county programs, creating networks of initiatives, and supporting Fire Safe Councils and NFPA Firewise USA sites as scalable resilience structures.

The January 2025 firestorm made the need for this kind of regional collaboration even clearer. Large, destructive fires in Southern California quickly become more than local incidents. They trigger regional consequences for mutual aid, public health, insurance, debris management, utility reliability, repopulation, rebuilding, school continuity, and public trust. In that environment, a cross-county resilience network becomes an important vehicle for turning lessons learned into coordinated action.

The SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group **plays a vital role in shaping the broader wildfire policy landscape.** In Sacramento, a range of wildfire-related bills was introduced in February 2026, covering areas like a Wildfire County Coordinator Program, the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program, grants for older adults and people with disabilities, fuels reduction, vegetation management, regional forest and fire capacity grants, wildfire disaster preparedness for water systems, and updates connected to the state's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. These initiatives highlight that wildfire mitigation is being discussed not just as a fire service concern but also as a matter intertwined with infrastructure, equity, land management, regional planning, and long-term resilience.



California's Zone 0 framework is now entering a more refined implementation phase. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is expected to complete the reworked policy structure tied to AB 3074 by mid-2026, following an extended public process that included residents, fire agencies, wildfire specialists, insurers, and other subject matter experts. That process matters. It shows the Board's willingness to listen, evolve, and better align Zone 0 with established ignition science while also recognizing that implementation must be practical across very different communities. **MySafe:LA and the SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group contributed to that broader policy discussion**, helping support improvements that strengthen the scientific foundation of Zone 0 while preserving flexibility for local jurisdictions to adapt the concept to local conditions. Zone 0 remains one of the clearest examples of where science, policy, building survivability, and public education meet — and where regional alignment can help turn a technical standard into a workable, widely understood resilience strategy.

This is where the SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group becomes especially valuable. Once Zone 0 moves from policy development to implementation, Southern California will need a trusted regional forum to help translate that framework into consistent, practical action. **The working group can help elected officials,**

fire departments, and wildfire agencies compare tactics, communications models, and operational lessons while also bringing forward grounded, field-based perspectives on what communities actually need. It can strengthen the expansion of Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise USA sites, and related resilience models by promoting clearer standards, stronger local partnerships, and a more practical path from education to implementation. Just as important, it can help connect home hardening, defensible space, evacuation readiness, smoke impacts, public health, insurance pressures, and rebuilding practices into a more coherent Southern California strategy. That kind of coordination is increasingly important as community wildfire structures continue to grow in scale and geographic reach, both in Los Angeles and across neighboring jurisdictions.

Ultimately, the purpose of the SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group is not simply to meet. It is to **help Southern California become more coordinated, more persuasive, and more effective in reducing wildfire risk.** Regional alliances matter because they create scale. They allow communities to move beyond isolated projects and toward a shared resilience architecture — one capable of influencing policy, improving practice, and helping residents across multiple counties prepare for a wildfire future that is already here.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN UPDATE

MySafe:LA continued to lead development of the City of Los Angeles Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or CWPP, throughout 2025, with completion now scheduled for 2026. This work is uniquely important because Los Angeles is not a small rural jurisdiction with a simple edge between town and wildland. It is a vast, complex urban environment where wildfire exposure is distributed across canyons, hillsides, neighborhoods, major infrastructure, parklands, and interconnected transportation corridors.

In 2025, the CWPP process matured through nine months of public meetings, an online survey, and extensive consultation with agencies and stakeholders. Input came from the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Emergency Management Department, Recreation and Parks, and many other partners whose work intersects with evacuation, land management, vulnerable populations, infrastructure, communications, and community preparedness. As the plan moves toward completion in 2026, it will incorporate the latest available data provided by FSRI and AECOM, along with relevant findings from the new Los Angeles Climate Plan.

The goal of the CWPP is not simply to produce a document. It is to create a decision-making framework for hazard mitigation, evacuation readiness, public education, defensible-space priorities, home-ignition reduction, infrastructure resilience, and coordinated action in the city's wildfire-exposed neighborhoods. Just as important, the City CWPP is being developed to acknowledge and align with related wildfire planning underway beyond city limits, including the reworked CWPP being advanced by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County, as well as wildfire planning efforts in smaller jurisdictions such as Beverly Hills.

The January 2025 firestorm changed the CWPP's relevance. It is no longer only a forward-looking preparedness product. It is also part of Los Angeles's long-term recovery architecture - a framework for translating hard lessons from the January fires into policy, operations, investment priorities, public education, and neighborhood-level action. In that sense, the CWPP is intended to connect recovery, resilience, and future risk reduction in one coherent strategy.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CWPP





LOOKING AHEAD: OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND TACTICS FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

“The work ahead is not only to reduce future wildfire loss, but to help communities recover, rebuild smarter, and outthink wildfire before the next disaster begins.”

**Karen Flores,
L.A. Wildfire Specialist,
MySafe:LA**



The 2026 outlook should be understood not simply as a wildfire forecast, but as a strategic framework for action. Los Angeles is living in a new wildfire reality shaped by climate stress, more destructive fire behavior, rising recovery costs, toxic smoke and debris impacts, infrastructure fragility, insurance instability, and the growing difficulty of helping residents prepare before disaster and recover afterward. In Los Angeles, the risk is especially complex because the region lacks a simple, consistent wildland-urban interface. Instead, MySafe:LA increasingly uses the term wildland-urban intermix to describe the way homes, roads, utilities, hillsides, canyons, parklands, and brush communities are woven together across the city and county.

As MySafe:LA looks toward 2026 and 2027, the mission remains clear: reduce the threat of wildfire in at-risk communities, strengthen neighborhood resilience, and help residents lower the likelihood that their homes will ignite during a wildfire. But that mission now sits inside a broader challenge. The Safe Community Project and all of its divisions, including MySafe:LA, must help address the unprecedented human, climate, and economic impacts of megafires. These fires do not only burn land. They contaminate air, damage public health, destabilize housing and insurance, strain infrastructure, and deepen inequality in communities already under stress.

MySafe:LA's forward-looking posture should also be understood in the context of a changing policy environment. Several California measures now directly affect the organization's work, including legislation tied to the Wildfire County Coordinator Program, home hardening and defensible space financing, and wildfire innovation. MySafe:LA serves as the Wildfire County Coordinator for Los Angeles County, while another Safe Community Project division serves Riverside County. Executive Director David Barrett has supported the California Fire Safe Council and Megafire Action in relation to these and other wildfire-resilience measures, while the organization continues to work in support of the wildfire policy efforts of State Senators Allen, Becker, and Stern, Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón, and Assembly partners, including Steve Bennett in Ventura County.

This wider lens is essential. MySafe:LA is not only helping develop Fire Safe Councils, NFPA Firewise USA sites, and the Los Angeles CWPP. It is also helping shape the environment in which those efforts can succeed: stronger county coordination, more accessible mitigation finance, better use of technology, more science-informed policy, and deeper alignment with CAL FIRE and Cal OES. That is also why MySafe:LA increasingly aligns with the larger NFPA ambition to Outthink Wildfire — not merely by helping communities organize, but by helping move communities, agencies, and policymakers toward smarter, more durable wildfire-resilience systems.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026–2027

PRIORITY	OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND TACTICS
Build More Wildfire-Prepared Communities	Expand NFPA Firewise USA sites and California Fire Safe Councils throughout Los Angeles County; improve the quality, sustainability, and technical capacity of those entities; build momentum toward 100 Firewise sites and 40 Fire Safe Councils countywide.
Expand Parcel-Level Risk Reduction	Increase the number and depth of home wildfire assessments; offer pathways from basic screenings to detailed property-specific guidance on home hardening, defensible space, ember exposure, access, and evacuation considerations.
Connect Planning to Implementation	Complete the City of Los Angeles Community Wildfire Protection Plan and advance ancillary short-form CWPPs aligned with at-risk Los Angeles City Council Districts so citywide strategy can be translated into place-based guidance.
Strengthen Evacuation Readiness and Public Understanding	Deliver workshops, wildfire safety fairs, neighborhood meetings, and public education that improve understanding of alerts, evacuation, route planning, communications, smoke impacts, and re-entry during fast-moving incidents.
Support Recovery as Part of Resilience	Continue recovery support in Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and other impacted areas; pair rebuilding literacy with emotional wellness, public information, environmental health awareness, and the planned Year Two Recovery Guide.
Advance Policy-Supported Mitigation	Support non-lobbying education and alignment around key wildfire legislation and implementation frameworks that strengthen county coordination, mitigation finance, wildfire innovation, and practical pathways for home hardening and defensible space. This includes continued support for the Wildfire County Coordinator Program and close coordination with CFSC, CAL FIRE, and Cal OES.
Use Technology as a Force Multiplier	Expand the role of practical tools, risk data, digital outreach, and scalable resident-facing technology that can improve assessments, public understanding, and mitigation follow-through. This includes support for AEGIS365 and other innovations that help turn information into action.
Strengthen CAL FIRE and Cal OES Alignment	Deepen working relationships with CAL FIRE and Cal OES to improve local mitigation coordination, planning consistency, recovery support, and integration with statewide wildfire resilience initiatives.
Shape a Regional Megafire Resilience Strategy	Use the SoCA Wildfire Regional Working Group to align messaging, share field-based lessons, support implementation of Zone 0 and related policies, and connect home hardening, defensible space, smoke, public health, insurance, recovery, and rebuilding into a more coherent Southern California strategy.
Broaden Public Safety Capacity	Strengthen related preparedness programs such as CPR training, elementary school visits, smoke alarm canvassing, and free alarm installation to reinforce trust, visibility, and readiness across Los Angeles.

FEATURED TOOL



AEGIS365: A NEW TOOL FOR HOMEOWNERS

- ⦿ Free home hardening and defensible space app
- ⦿ Helps residents better understand property vulnerabilities
- ⦿ Supports ongoing risk reduction and maintenance
- ⦿ Designed to scale resident education and mitigation support over time

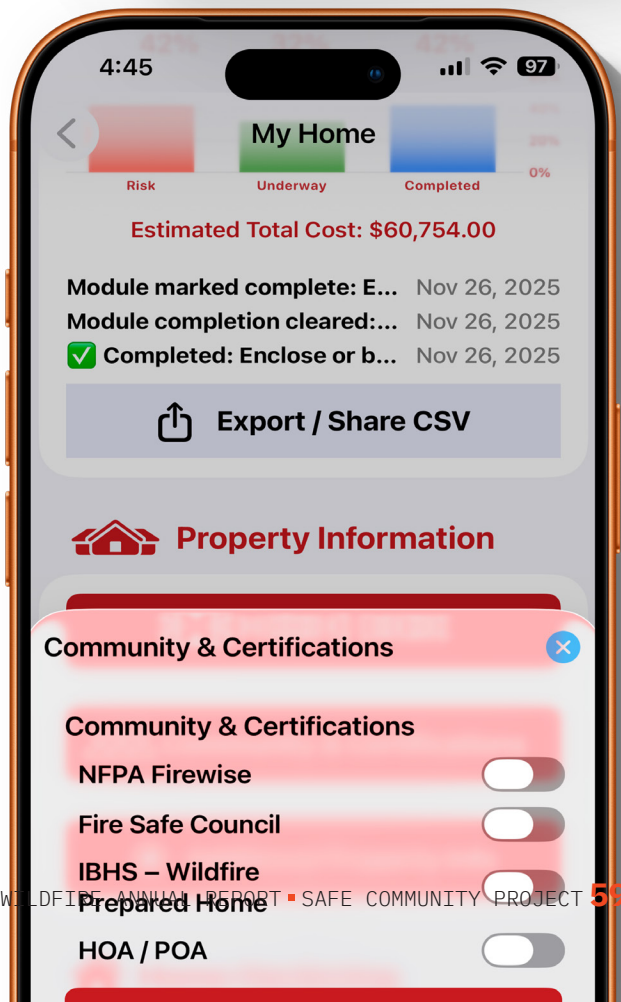
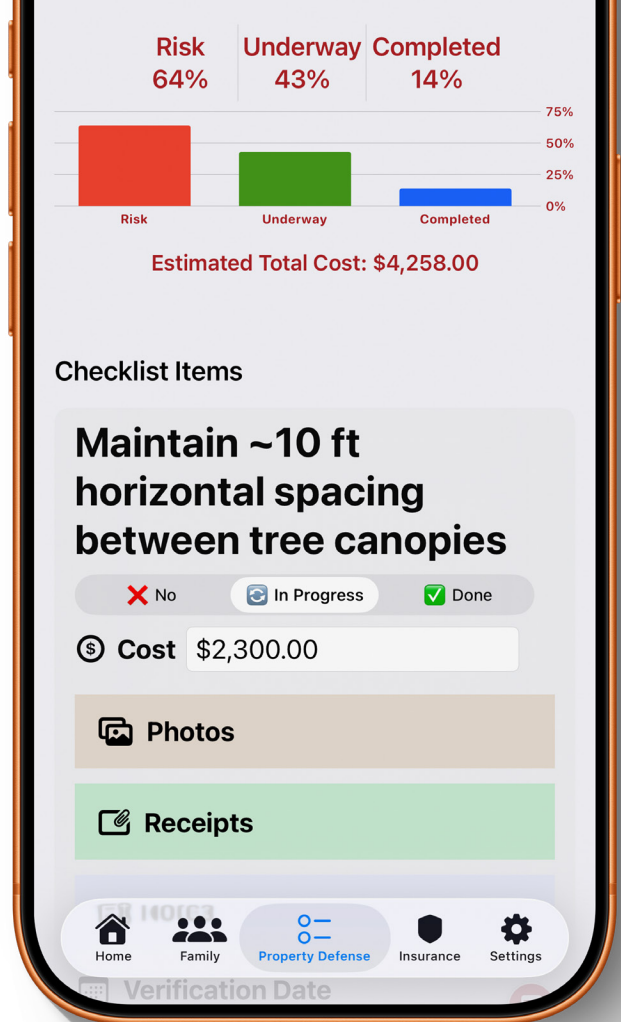
To help scale parcel-level risk reduction, MySafe:LA is launching AEGIS365, a free home hardening and defensible space app designed to help residents better understand vulnerabilities and take practical action to reduce wildfire risk. The platform is intended to make mitigation guidance more accessible, more scalable, and easier to use over time as residents maintain their properties and prepare for future fire seasons. In a wildfire environment where awareness is only the first step, tools like AEGIS365 can be an important force multiplier.

Recovery support in communities affected by the January 2025 fires will remain a core commitment. MySafe:LA will continue assisting impacted areas, including Pacific Palisades and Altadena, while recognizing that long-term recovery is not limited to rebuilding structures. It also includes public education, wellness, emotional recovery, navigating complex systems, safer rebuilding choices, and helping residents understand the environmental and public health consequences of wildfire.

The same forward-looking framework also includes continued collaboration with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus and multiple high schools to support emotional wellness and community recovery. Looking ahead, MySafe:LA's objectives for 2026 and beyond should be understood as both strategic and practical: organize more communities, reduce more ignition risk, strengthen policy and agency alignment, complete the planning work that guides action, support technology that improves outcomes, and help communities recover in ways that leave them safer than before.



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WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Success will be measured not only by the number of deliverables produced, but by whether more communities are organized, more homes are better prepared, more residents can access real mitigation support, and more families are able to recover and rebuild with lower future risk.







CONCLUSION

The 2025 wildfire year changed Los Angeles, but it also clarified what leadership, partnership, and community resilience must look like in the years ahead. For MySafe:LA, wildfire resilience is no longer defined only by preparedness before a fire or recovery after one. It now includes the full continuum: risk reduction, public education, neighborhood organization, response support, rebuilding guidance, emotional recovery, and long-term community adaptation.



That expanded mission matches the reality on the ground. Wildfire is not a narrow or isolated threat affecting only a handful of hillside neighborhoods. It is a defining regional challenge that touches housing, public health, infrastructure, insurance, schools, local government, and the daily confidence people place in the systems meant to protect them. In a region as large and interconnected as Los Angeles, resilience must be built deliberately, collaboratively, and at scale.

MySafe:LA is prepared for that challenge. The work described throughout this report reflects an organization that can convene partners, educate the public, support residents, strengthen neighborhood structures, and help translate hard lessons into practical action. From home wildfire assessments and Fire Safe Council development to NFPA Firewise growth, CWPP leadership, recovery communication, school-based wellness efforts, repopulation support, and public safety innovation, MySafe:LA is helping build a more fire-adapted Los Angeles.

As MySafe:LA moves into 2026 and beyond, the organization does so with a strong sense of purpose and an increasingly clear vision. We will continue helping residents reduce ignition risk, helping neighborhoods organize around shared safety goals, helping communities recover with greater resilience, and helping public agencies and partners engage the public more effectively. We will continue investing in practical tools, stronger local relationships, scalable education, and measurable outcomes that reduce risk over time.

The January firestorm revealed what is at stake, but it also revealed what is possible. It showed the cost of vulnerability, the importance of trusted information, and the urgent need for better-organized communities before the next emergency begins. It also reinforced something MySafe:LA has long believed: resilience is not built in a single season, a single grant cycle, or a single recovery effort. It is built through sustained commitment, shared responsibility, and the willingness to prepare before disaster strikes again.

Los Angeles still faces serious wildfire risk. But it also has something powerful: communities that are more aware, more engaged, and more ready to act than ever before. MySafe:LA intends to help turn that momentum into long-term progress — creating safer homes, stronger neighborhoods, and a more resilient future for the people of Los Angeles.

With gratitude to CAL FIRE, Cal OES, the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the Los Angeles City Council, the Eaton Fire Survivor's Network, the Palisades Recovery Coalition, the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, the Department of Angels, the California Community Foundation, other partner agencies, school partners, community leaders, and the families of Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and every neighborhood working to become more wildfire resilient.

MYSAFE:LA MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Dante Cornejo is the well-deserved recipient of MySafe:LA's 2025 Member of the Year, recognized for his inspiring leadership, dedicated field presence, and meaningful contributions to wildfire resilience across Los Angeles. He started his journey with MySafe:LA as the wildfire coordinator for the Los Angeles area and quickly grew into a key leadership role in field operations. Today, he is listed as Supervisor, Wildfire Ops, highlighting his vital role in the organization's wildfire efforts.

Throughout his time with MySafe:LA, Dante has been instrumental in establishing numerous Fire Safe Councils and NFPA Firewise sites, while also supporting members engaged in a variety of public safety activities. His work truly embodies the core qualities of MySafe:LA's Los Angeles division: initiative, consistency, practical problem-solving, and an unwavering dedication to helping communities stay safe and well-prepared.

Dante is also celebrated as a fun, encouraging, and highly responsible public safety professional—a person who brings positive energy to the team and has earned the trust of residents, partners, and colleagues alike. In a year full of wildfire response, recovery, and resilience efforts, Dante's contributions shone brightly as a shining example of service and leadership.

Currently serving as an inspector with the Ventura County Fire Department, Dante's influence on MySafe:LA's wildfire initiatives continues to be felt. The Fire Safe Councils, Firewise projects, and field systems he helped build remain a strong part of the organization's foundation, and his connection to the mission is sure to inspire ongoing efforts for years to come.



ANNEX A

COMPLETED AND IN-PROGRESS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE ENTITIES AND SUPPORTED GEO REGIONS

NFPA FIREWISE USA® ENTITIES IN DEVELOPMENT VIA MYSAFE:LA:

- Mt. Washington Firewise
- Fryman Canyon Association Firewise
- Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch Firewise
- Lake Hollywood Estates Firewise
- Hollywood Knolls Firewise
- Hollywood Manor Firewise
- Lake Ridge Estates Firewise
- Oaks Neighborhood Association Firewise

NFPA FIREWISE USA ENTITIES APPROVED VIA MYSAFE:LA SUPPORT IN 2025:

- Upper Riviera Estates
- California Riviera
- Riviera Estates Association
- Brentwood Circle HOA
- Bel-Air 1 HOA
- Bel-Air 2 HOA
- Bel Air Ridge
- Hollywood Dell Civic Association
- Los Feliz Estates

EXISTING NFPA FIREWISE USA ENTITIES IN L.A. COUNTY (EFFECTIVE 2/1/2026):

- Malibu West
- Point Dume Community Brigade
- Portico at Malibu
- Pointe at Malibu
- Ramirez Canyon
- Winding Way Murphy Way HLA
- Malibu Country Estates
- Toscana at Malibu Canyon
- Malibu Canyon Village (MCV)
- Vista Pacifica at Broad Beach
- Malibu Gardens
- Rambla Pacifico
- Big Rock Mesas Property Owners Association
- Malibu Lake Mountain Club/Malibu Lakeside Community Association
- Lake Lindero
- Reyes Adobe
- Agoura Hills - Chateau Creek
- Peacock Ridge
- Hillrise

- Morrison Ranch - Agoura Hills
- Fountainwood - Agoura Hills
- Annandale Townhouse Association
- Old Agoura
- Liberty Canyon
- El Encanto HOA
- The Oaks of Calabasas
- The Estates of the Oaks
- Mountain Park HOA
- Calabasas Park Estates
- Calabasas Hills/Estates
- Vista Pointe HOA
- Fire Safe Westridge Calabasas
- Stonecreek HOA
- The Ridge
- Creekside Calabasas Park HOA
- Greater Mulwood
- Mulholland Heights North HOA
- Braewood Calabasas
- Three Springs HOA
- Watergate Townhomes HOA
- Upper Terrace
- Westlake Cove HOA
- Westlake Pointe HOA
- Westlake Trails
- The Ridge at Westlake Village
- Lakeshore Community Homeowners Association
- First Neighborhood POA
- Topanga
- Woodland Crest Neighborhood
- Santa Ynez HOA
- Laurel Hills Community
- Big Tujunga Estates
- Easton Drive
- Beverly Hills
- Whiting Woods
- Montecito Park Neighborhood Association
- San Rafael Heights - SW
- Vogel Flats, Big Tujunga Canyon #1
- Trail Canyon - Ybarra, Big Tujunga Canyon #2
- Rancho Americana
- Vista Ladera /Star Point Ranch HOA
- Rustic Canyon Estates
- City of La Habra Heights
- Avocado Grove HOA
- Deerlake Ranch
- Tweedy Lake Club
- Pine Canyon

ANNEX A

COMPLETED AND IN-PROGRESS COMMUNITY WILDFIRE ENTITIES AND SUPPORTED GEO REGIONS

- Green Valley/Angeles National Forest
- Hidden Hills

SPECIAL THANKS TO NFPA VOLUNTEER GABE ALBARIAN FOR HIS ONGOING EFFORTS.

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS (ACTIVE) AS OF 12/31/2025:

- Bel Air Fire Safe Council
- Bel Air Ridge Fire Safe Council
- Brentwood Fire Safe (Fire Safe Council)
- Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council
- Fryman Canyon Association Fire Safe Council
- Mandeville Canyon Association Fire Safe Council

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS IN DEVELOPMENT OR IN REVIEW:

- Shadow Hills
- Oakridge Resident’s Association
- Beachwood Canyon
- Lake Ridge Estates
- Tahitian Terrace
- Woodland Hills Warner Center
- Hollywoodland Homeowner’s Association
- Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) Fire Safe Council
- Doheney Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association
- Highland Park Neighborhood Council
- Marquez Knolls Homeowner’s Association

COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICTS ENGAGED:

- District 1
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5

COUNCIL DISTRICTS ENGAGED:

- CD-1
- CD-3
- CD-4
- CD-5
- CD-7
- CD-11
- CD-12
- CD-15

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAUS ENGAGED:

- Operations Central Bureau
- Operations Valley Bureau
- Operations West Bureau
- Operations South Bureau

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS ENGAGED:

- Division 3
- Division 7
- Division 8
- Division 9

ZIP CODES ENGAGED:

90007	90065	91311
90008	90066	91316
90012	90068	91326
90015	90077	91330
90024	90078	91331
90027	90095	91342
90028	90265	91345
90031	90272	91362
90037	90274	91364
90041	90732	91401
90042	91001	91403
90044	91040	91405
90045	91104	91411
90046	91106	91436
90048	91302	91604
90049	91304	92647

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

This annex provides a month-by-month record of MySafe:LA wildfire-related meetings, events, assessments, trainings, workshops, and public engagements conducted during calendar year 2025.

HOW TO USE THIS ANNEX

The entries below are organized by month and grouped by activity type so the full year can be followed more easily. The source record reflects the breadth of MySafe:LA’s work, including incident support, community outreach, Fire Safe Council and Firewise development, public education, home assessments, policy engagement, agency coordination, and recovery-related efforts following the January 2025 firestorm.

ACTIVITY KEY			
Incident Support & Recovery	Community Meetings	Fire Safe Council / Firewise	Government & Agency Coordination
Workshops & Training	Home Assessments	Public Events & Fairs	Media / Policy / Regional Coordination

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2025	
<p>PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Incident support and emergency coordination, Government and agency coordination, Fire Safe Councils and community wildfire groups.</p>	
<p>Incident support and emergency coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provided at the Emergency Operations Center during the Palisades Fire • Hurst Fire repopulation support at the Incident Command Post
<p>Government and agency coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with LAFD South Bureau • Meetings with Los Angeles City Council Districts 1, 12, and 15 • Meetings with UCLA Sustainability and CNN • Coordination with the NFPA Firewise Regional Coordinator for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
<p>Fire Safe Councils and community wildfire groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council • Brentwood Fire Safe Council • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Bel Air Ridge Fire Safe Council • SoCal CFSC County Coordinator Ad Hoc Work Group
<p>Community outreach and engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council • Glassell Park Improvement Association • Pacific Palisades Community Council • Mount Washington • Los Feliz Estates • Doheny Sunset Neighborhood Plaza • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
<p>Internal coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple internal team wildfire meetings throughout the month

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Community outreach and canvassing, Fire Safe Councils and Firewise-related coordination, Assessments and workshops.	
Community outreach and canvassing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildfire informational community canvassing• Community meetings in Riviera Estates, Hollywood Dell, Hollywoodland, Mount Washington, Sherman Oaks, and Pasadena
Fire Safe Councils and Firewise-related coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council• Brentwood Fire Safe Council• Bel Air Fire Safe Council• Coordination with NFPA Firewise Regional Coordinators for Los Angeles/Ventura and Mono/Inyo Counties• SoCal CFSC County Coordinator Ad Hoc Work Group
Assessments and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildfire home assessments• USC and LAFD workshop• Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council panel
Government and agency coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAFD Central Bureau• Glassell Park Improvement Association and Los Angeles City Council District 1• City of La Habra Heights• Beverly Hills Fire Department• Office meeting with Congresswoman Luz Rivas
Public engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

MARCH 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Government and agency coordination, Fire Safe Councils and regional collaboration, Community meetings and outreach.	
Government and agency coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services • Los Angeles City Council Districts 4, 12, 13, and 15 • Los Angeles City Emergency Management Department • Meetings with Senator Adam Schiff and Senator Alex Padilla
Fire Safe Councils and regional collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Bel Air Ridge Fire Safe Council • Ventura County Regional Fire Safe Council
Community meetings and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of La Habra Heights • White Point • Glassell Park Improvement Association • Hollywoodland • Mount Washington • Brentwood Community Council • The Oaks Neighborhood Association • Riviera Estates • Whitley Heights • Pacific Palisades Community Council • Bel Air Hills • Lake Hollywood Estates • Hollywood Knolls • Hollywood Manor • Lake Ridge Estates
Workshops and public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USC Disaster Preparedness Workshop • United Teachers Los Angeles Retirees • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
Internal coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple internal team wildfire meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

APRIL 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Agency and partner coordination, Government and civic engagement, Fire Safe Councils and neighborhood engagement.	
Agency and partner coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California Community Foundation• M-Fire• LAFD• LAFD South Bureau• Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
Government and civic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with Los Angeles City Council Districts 1 and 13• Autry Museum of the American West and Los Angeles City Council District 4
Fire Safe Councils and neighborhood engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brentwood Fire Safe Council• Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council• Bel Air Fire Safe Council• Bel Air Ridge Fire Safe Council community education
Workshops and public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rotary Club of Woodland Hills• Los Angeles City Council District 1 Home Hardening Workshop• Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
Internal coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple internal team wildfire meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

MAY 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Community outreach, Fire Safe Councils and public engagement, Public events.	
Community outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crescent Heights • Glassell Park Improvement Association • Whitley Heights • Oaks Neighborhood Association • Encino Neighborhood Council • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council • Autry Museum of the American West and Los Angeles City Council District 4
Fire Safe Councils and public engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brentwood Fire Safe Council community meeting • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
Public events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAFD Fire Service Day • Fleet Week activities across multiple days
Partner meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Plot Nonprofit • Fire Aside
Internal coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple internal wildfire team meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

JUNE 2025	
<p>PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Policy and strategic coordination, Community meetings and outreach, Public education and events.</p>	
<p>Policy and strategic coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Ben Allen • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • CAL FIRE and California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services • California Board of Forestry Zone Zero Regulation meeting
<p>Community meetings and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Pedro Town Hall • California Riviera Estates • Whitley Heights • Oaks Neighborhood Association • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Eagle Rock • Benedict Canyon • Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council • Los Feliz Estates • Upper Riviera Estates
<p>Public education and events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council Wildfire Safety Fair • Pacific Coast Building Conference x IBHS Home Wildfire Demo • MSLA Wildfire L.A. Event at the Autry • Los Angeles City Council District 1 Virtual Wildfire Workshop • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
<p>Partner and site work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCLA Sustainability • Autry Museum site visit • Edward Charles Foundation
<p>Internal coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple internal wildfire team meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

JULY 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Regional and policy coordination, Community meetings, Government and agency	
Regional and policy coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoCal CFSC County Coordinator Ad Hoc Work Group • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • Los Angeles County Planning Department countywide CWPP planning • California Board of Forestry Zone Zero Regulation meeting
Community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Riviera Estates • Bel Air Place • Castellammare Mesa Home Owners • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch • Oaks Neighborhood Association • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Outpost Neighborhood Association • Brentwood Fire Safe Council • Mandeville Canyon Association
Government and agency coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles City Council District 1 • LAPD Foothills Community Advisory Board • Los Angeles City Emergency Management Department • Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Public engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
Internal coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple internal wildfire team meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 2025

PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Government, policy, and partner meetings, Fire Safe Councils, Firewise, and neighborhood outreach, Assessments and field work.

<p>Government, policy, and partner meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón • Anaheim Fire Department • California State Assembly Members Lisa Calderon, Steve Bennett, and Jacqui Irwin • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • Los Angeles County Planning Department countywide CWPP planning • California Board of Forestry Zone Zero Regulation meeting
<p>Fire Safe Councils, Firewise, and neighborhood outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bel Air Fire Safe Council • Benedict Canyon • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch • Hollywood Knolls • Upper Riviera Estates • Outpost Neighborhood Association • Los Feliz Estates • Eagle Rock • Oaks Neighborhood Association • Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
<p>Assessments and field work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire mitigation training and Eaton Fire field tour • Multiple wildfire home assessments • BurnBot demonstration
<p>Public events and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles Country Club Health Fair • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall • LAFD Pancake Breakfast Event • Eaton Canyon Natural Area Rebuild Round Table Discussion
<p>Agency coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAFD Valley Bureau • LAFD Central Bureau • Regional coordination with Ventura County and Santa Barbara County Regional Fire Safe Councils • Meetings with NFPA Firewise Regional Coordinators for Los Angeles/Ventura and Mono/Inyo Counties

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2025

PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Regional and state coordination, Home assessments, Community meetings and outreach.

<p>Regional and state coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoCal California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Gathering • Inland Empire Regional Meeting: California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Taskforce • California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • California Board of Forestry Zone Zero Regulation meeting • Los Angeles County Planning Department countywide CWPP planning
<p>Home assessments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple wildfire home assessments throughout the month
<p>Community meetings and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Malibu Wildfire Safety Fair • Hollywood Hills Fire Safe Council • Brentwood Fire Safe Council • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch • Hacienda Heights Improvement Association • Glassell Park Improvement Association • Bahá’í Faith Community • Los Angeles City Council District 15 Town Hall • Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
<p>Public events and fairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydraulics International Benefits and Wellness Fair • California Club Health and Wellness Employee Fair • MSLA Wildfire Safety Fair at Montecito Heights Community Center • Autry Museum Annual Block Party • LAFD Salute to Firefighters • COAST Pre-Wind Season BBQ
<p>Education and training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAL FIRE Defensible Space Assessor Training • Jr. Fire Marshal presentations at Sacred Heart Elementary and Glassell Park Elementary • Monthly MSLA Wildfire Town Hall
<p>Policy engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Briefings on Wildfire Recovery Efforts • Senator Ben Allen • U.S. Representative George Whitesides’s Office

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2025	
PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Training and preparedness, Community meetings and outreach, Government and policy coordination.	
Training and preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LAPD & LAFD Evacuation Table Top Exercise
Community meetings and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch• Bahá'í Faith Community• Hollywood Knolls• Mount Washington• Altadena Fire Safe Council• Highland Park Neighborhood Council• Pacific Palisades Community Council• Team Palisades• Fryman Canyon
Government and policy coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Los Angeles City Council Districts 1, 5, 12, and 15• California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator• Los Angeles County Planning Department countywide CWPP planning• Senator Ben Allen• U.S. Representative George Whitesides's Office• Los Angeles City Mayor Bass Disaster Event
Assessments and field work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple wildfire home assessments
Public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jr. Fire Marshal presentations at St. Bernard Elementary, LA Leadership Academy, and Aragon Elementary• LMU Emergency Preparedness Fair
Media and partner meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NBC Universal• Fire Aside

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2025

PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Government, agency, and partner coordination, Community meetings and outreach, Home assessments.

<p>Government, agency, and partner coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAFD West Bureau • NFPA Firewise Regional Coordinator for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • CAL FIRE • CSUN Institute for Sustainability • Jane and Bert Boeckmann Park site visit
<p>Community meetings and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brentwood Park Property Owners Association • Bahá'í Faith Center community meeting on wildfire prevention and mitigation • Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council • Hollywood Manor • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch
<p>Home assessments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple wildfire home assessments
<p>Public events and recognition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank You LA County Firefighters Event • Los Angeles County Supervisory District 3 Get Ready Stay Ready Event • California Fire Safe Council 2025 County Coordinators Workshop
<p>Media and partner meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firedome • ABC 7 • CBS LA

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2025	
<p>PRIMARY ACTIVITY THEMES: Policy, agency, and partner meetings, Community meetings and outreach, Assessments and public education.</p>	
<p>Policy, agency, and partner meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Ben Allen • ABC News • CAL FIRE • LAFD Chief Moore • California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator • Outthink Wildfire Policy Collaborative • COAST • Irvine Ranch Conservancy • CSUN Institute for Sustainability
<p>Community meetings and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oaks Neighborhood Association • Lake Ridge Estates • Hollywood Knolls • Lake Hollywood Estates • Mount Washington • Royal Woods Neighborhood Watch • Brentwood Park Property Owners Association • Fryman Canyon • Los Angeles City Council District 1
<p>Assessments and public education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple wildfire home assessments • NFPA Wildfire Evacuation Challenges & How Research-Based Tools Can Help event
<p>Government and agency coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAFD Valley Bureau
<p>Internal coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional internal wildfire team meetings

ANNEX B

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND WILDFIRE ACTIVITIES

2025 ACTIVITY THEMES AT A GLANCE

THEME	WHAT THE 2025 RECORD SHOWS
Incident support and recovery	Direct support during the January fire period, including Emergency Operations Center support and Hurst Fire repopulation assistance.
Neighborhood engagement	A steady calendar of community meetings across Los Angeles neighborhoods, canyons, hillsides, and wildfire-exposed communities.
Fire Safe Councils and Firewise	Ongoing support for Fire Safe Councils, Firewise communities, and neighborhood organizing throughout the year.
Assessments and mitigation	Repeated wildfire home assessments and mitigation-related field engagement expanded through the second half of the year.
Public education	Wildfire fairs, workshops, school presentations, evacuation exercises, and community-facing preparedness events remained a central line of effort.
Policy and interagency coordination	Regular coordination with city, county, state, federal, and regional partners, including CWPP, Zone 0, recovery, and resilience discussions.

ANNEX C

LIST OF ACRONYMS

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

ANNEX C

LIST OF ACRONYMS

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

ANNEX D

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DAVID BARRETT

Executive Director



STEVEN OWENS

Director, Captain I – LAFD (retired)



CAMERON BARRETT

Director, Education/Training,
and Film Unit



HAROUT SEMERDIJAN

Director, Government Relations for
the Port of Long Beach



WILLIAM WHITNEY

Search Executive, CERT leader
(retired)

ANNEX E

ADVISORY BOARD



JOE CASTRO

Chief Deputy- LAFD (retired)

DAVID YAMAHATA

Chief Deputy – LAFD (retired)

DON FRAZEUR

Deputy Chief – LAFD (retired)

DAREN PALACIOS

Deputy Chief – LAFD (retired)

GREG DOYLE

Lieutenant – Los Angeles Police Dept. (retired)

ANNEX F

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