

Welcome



Greg Mills

Chair, WACO

Director, Serrano Water District



WACO Meeting – June 6, 2025



I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of
America, and to the republic
for which it stands, one nation
under God, indivisible, with
liberty and justice for all.

Reminders

- Participants will be muted during the presentation
- Reports first, then our program speaker, followed by Q&A
- Conclude with agency announcements if we have time



MET Report



Linda Ackerman
MWDOC MET Director



ACWA Report

Upcoming ACWA Events:

ACWA Conferences:

December 2-4, 2025, ACWA Fall Conference & Expo, San Diego, CA

February 24-26 Annual Washington D.C. ACWA Conference

May 5-7, 2026, ACWA Spring Conference & Expo, Sacramento CA

December 1-3, 2026, ACWA Fall Conference & Expo, Anaheim, CA

ACWA Region Meetings:

August 20 Region 3 Webinar: Funding support for small public water agencies (Details to follow)

September 12 Region 1 Tour and Program, Windsor, CA

September 26, Region 5 Event, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

October 10-11, Regions 6,7 Event (Details to follow)

October 23, Region 2 Tour and Program, Oroville, CA

November 14 Regions 8,9,10 Event (Details to follow)



Program

Wildfire Impacts and Lessons Learned



David Pedersen, P. E.
General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District



Lessons Learned from Wildfire and Building a More Resilient Water System

Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)

June 6, 2025

David Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager



Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires

Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires

	FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1	CAMP (Powerlines)	November 2018	Butte	153,336	18,804	85
2	EATON (Under Investigation) *	January 2025	Los Angeles	14,021	9,413	18
3	PALISADES (Under Investigation) *	January 2025	Los Angeles	23,707	6,833	12
4	TUBBS (Electrical)	October 2017	Napa & Sonoma	36,807	5,636	22
5	TUNNEL - Oakland Hills (Rekindle)	October 1991	Alameda	1,600	2,900	25
6	CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
7	NORTH COMPLEX (Lightning)	August, 2020	Butte, Plumas, & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
8	VALLEY (Electrical)	September 2015	Lake, Napa & Sonoma	76,067	1,955	4
9	WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
10	WOOLSEY (Electrical)	November 2018	Ventura	96,949	1,643	3
11	CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County, Trinity	229,651	1,614	8
12	GLASS (Undetermined)	September 2020	Napa & Sonoma	67,484	1,520	0
13	LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning/Arson)	August 2020	Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Lake, & Colusa	363,220	1,491	6
14	CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Santa Cruz, San Mateo	86,509	1,490	1
15	NUNS (Powerline)	October 2017	Sonoma	54,382	1,355	3
16	DIXIE (Powerline)	July 2021	Butte, Plumas, Lassen, & Tehama	963,309	1,311	1
17	THOMAS (Powerline)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,063	2
18	CALDOR (Under Investigation)	September 2021	Alpine, Amador, & El Dorado	221,774	1,003	1
19	OLD (Human Related)	October 2003	San Bernardino	91,281	1,003	6
20	JONES (Undetermined)	October 1999	Shasta	26,200	954	1

"Structures" include homes, outbuildings (barns, garages, sheds, etc) and commercial properties destroyed.

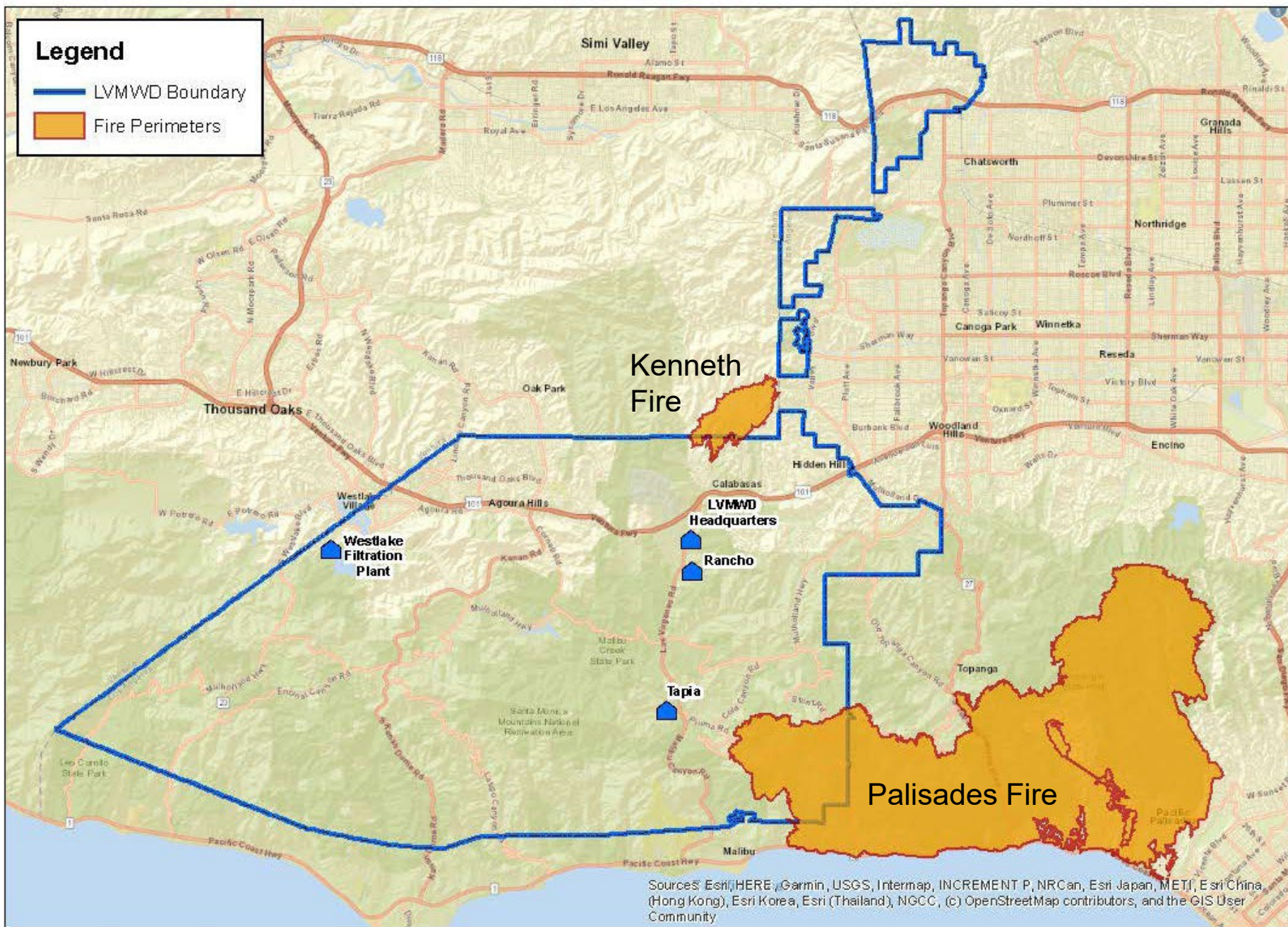
This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, local or tribal responsibility.

*Numbers not final *DINS Disclaimer: These numbers are preliminary based on aerial assessments dedicating heat sources which can include chicken coops, outbuildings, sheds, water containers, etc. *Validated inspections are currently being ground-verified by Damage Assessment Teams.

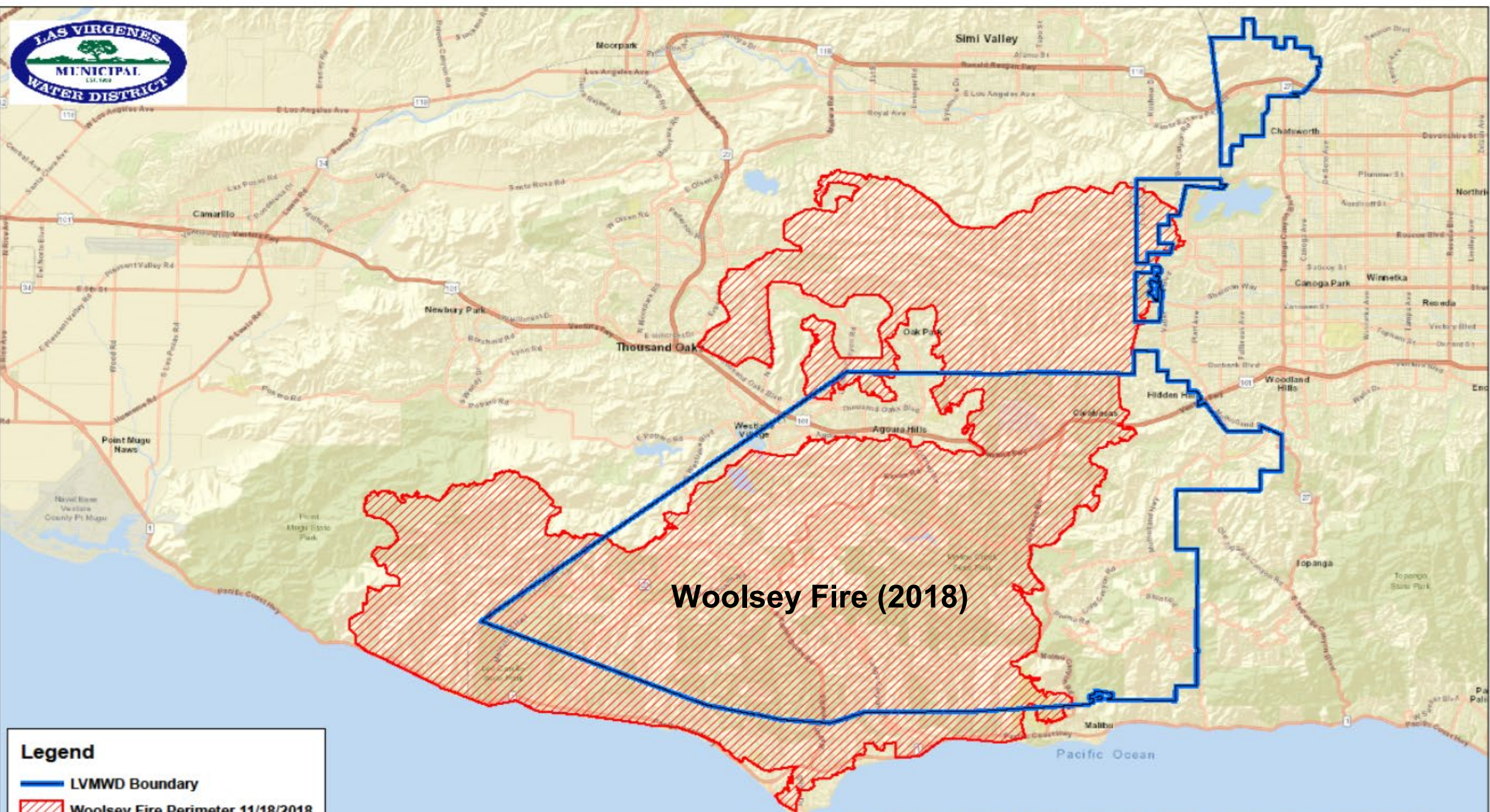


4/3/2025





Palisades & Kenneth Fires
January 2025

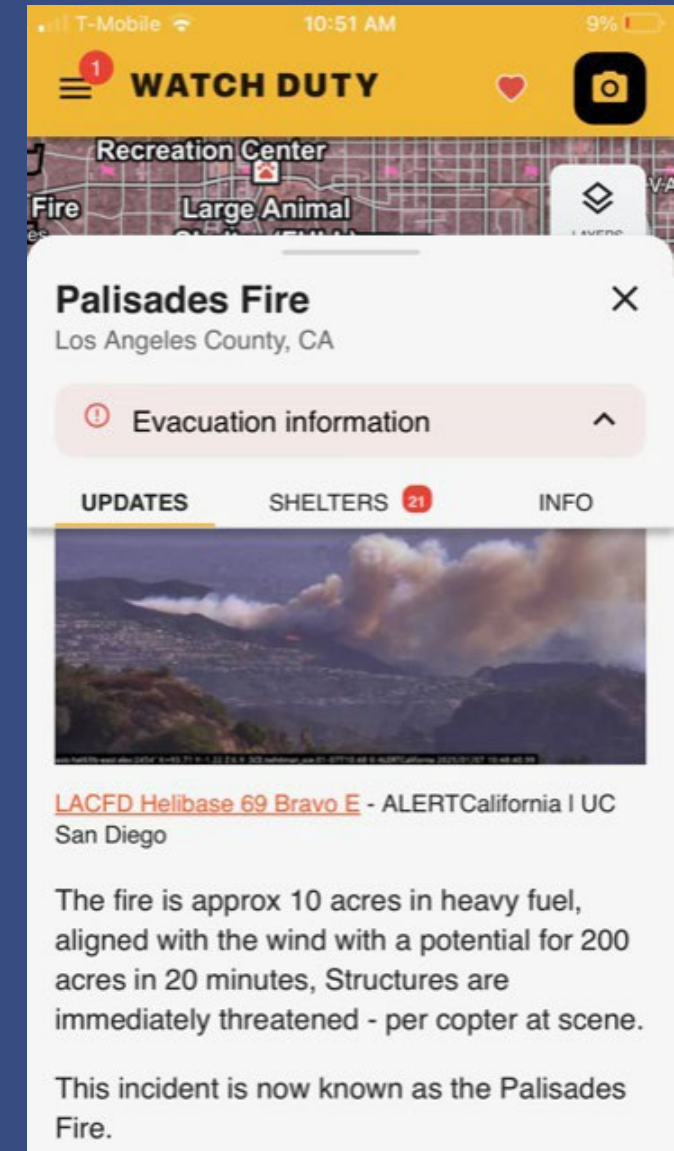
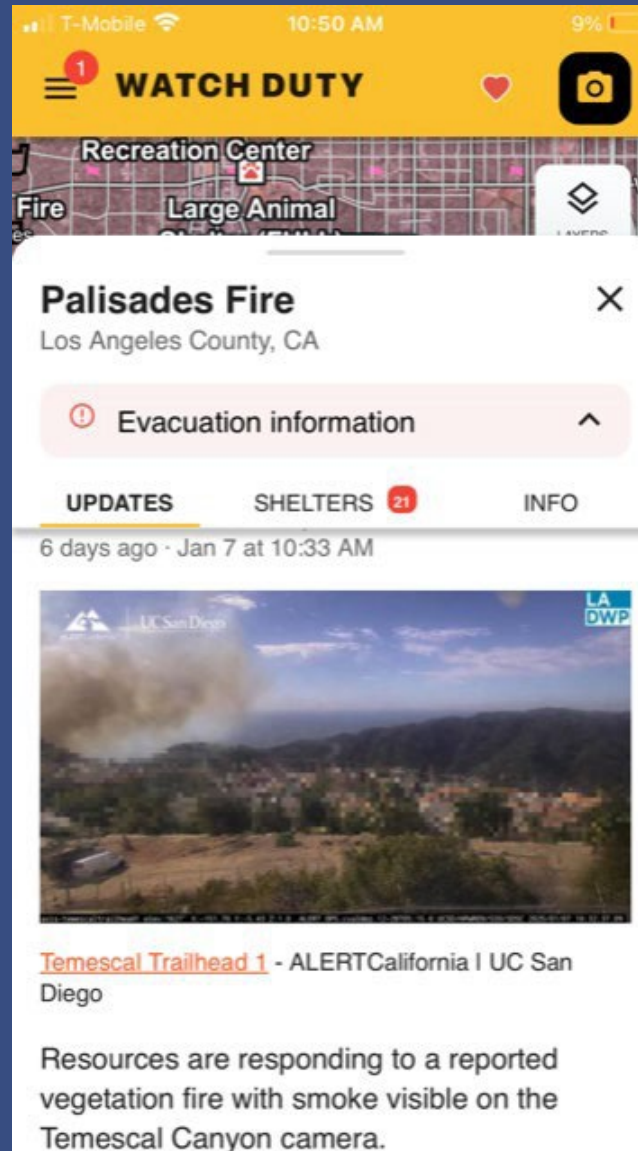


Legend

- LVMWD Boundary
- Woolsey Fire Perimeter 11/18/2018

Emergency Operations

- Palisades Fire first reported at 10:33 am on Tuesday, Jan. 7
- Mandatory evacuations within LVMWD Service area (ocean side of Saddle Peak) at 1:02 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 7
- Staff kept close watch of fire progress
- Loss of power over 122-square miles
- LVMWD Emergency Operations Center activated 6:24 am, Wednesday, Jan. 8





21602



Top of Saddle Peak



Establish Response and Recovery Priorities



Woolsey Fire Response and Recovery Priorities November 2018

1. Restore/maintain water system operations.
2. Restore/maintain wastewater treatment operations.
3. Isolate all mainline leaks.
4. Isolate all customer-side leaks.
5. Assess and document damages.
6. Prepare an inventory of affected customers.
7. Communicate the plan.

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- Restore/maintain water system operations.
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Water Service Shutoffs

- Water services to homes melt and water shoots out
- There can be hundreds of these at one time, making it difficult to maintain water storage
- Encountered about 108 of these at homes fed by Saddle Peak Tank.



LVMWD's Role

- Inform our community
- Push out accurate information
- Help neighboring colleagues
- Maximize our media availability
- Combat misinformation
- Fix leaks, shutoff services and maintain system pressure

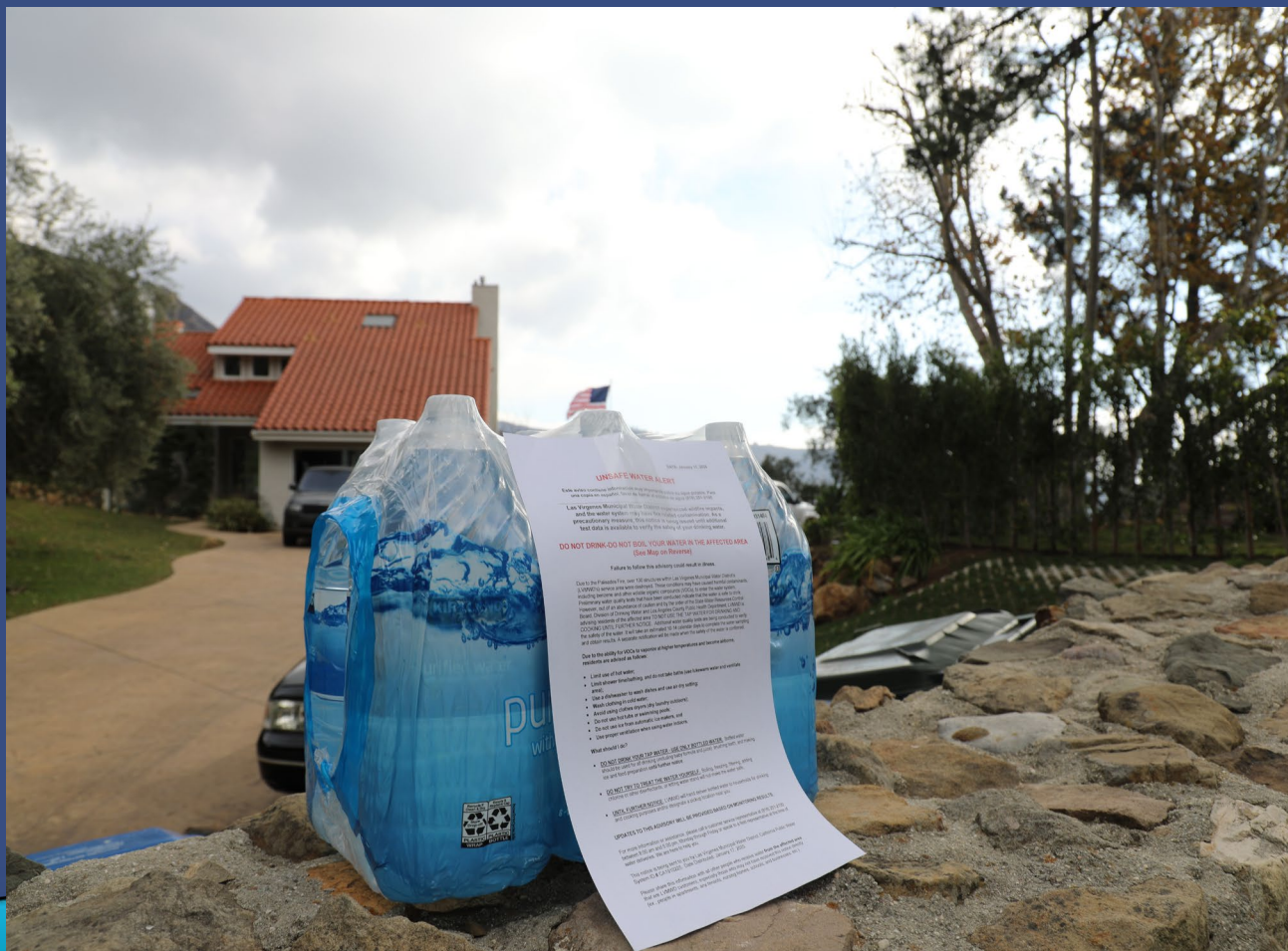


The Role of Social Media

- Social media can become a primary source of information even during emergencies
- Used to confirm personal biases
- Headlines are often all that is read
- Influencers can be considered sources of accurate information



Do Not Drink Order (AB 571 – Benzene)



WATER DISTRICT

For Customers

The District

Our Services

Community Resources

PALISADES FIRE INFO

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE SURVEY

VIEW OR PAY MY BILL

BILL INSERTS

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

MY ACCOUNT

START/STOP WATER SERVICE

WATER BUDGETS

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

TECHNICAL SERVICES

SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

RATES AND FEES

FIND MY WATER METER

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATION

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER - THE CURRENT FLOW

CONTACT LVMWD

WOOLSEY FIRE HELP PAGE

For Customers

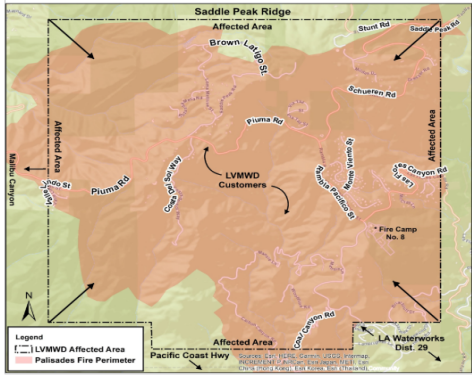
Palisades Fire Information

[Print](#) [Feedback](#) [Share & Bookmark](#) [Font Size](#) [Like](#) [Post](#)

Palisades Fire Update: Friday 01/17/2025 11:30 am

DO NOT DRINK-DO NOT BOIL YOUR WATER IN THE AFFECTED AREA
Failure to follow this advisory could result in illness.

Affected Area
DO NOT DRINK YOUR TAP WATER IN THIS AREA



Due to the Palisades Fire, over 100 structures within Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's (LVMWD's) service area were destroyed. These conditions may have caused harmful contaminants, including benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), to enter the water system. Preliminary water quality tests that have been conducted indicate that the water is safe to drink. However, out of an abundance of caution and by the order of the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water and Los Angeles County Public Health Department, LVMWD is advising residents of the *affected area* to NOT USE THE TAP WATER FOR DRINKING AND COOKING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Additional water quality tests are being conducted to verify the safety of the water. It will take an estimated 10-14 calendar days to complete the water sampling and obtain results. A separate notification will be made when the safety of the water is confirmed.

Due to the ability for VOCs to vaporize at higher temperatures and become airborne, residents are advised as follows:

- Limit use of hot water;
- Limit shower time/bathing, and do not take baths (use lukewarm water and ventilate area);
- Use a dishwasher to wash dishes and use air dry setting;
- Wash clothing in cold water;
- Avoid using clothes dryers (dry laundry outdoors);
- Do not use hot tubs or swimming pools;
- Do not use ice from automatic ice makers, and
- Use proper ventilation when using water indoors.

Lessons Learned

1. Invest in emergency backup power and improved redundancy.
2. Activate early and apologize later (if necessary).
3. Water agency personnel are first responders; be safe.
4. Set up 12-hr. shifts and send people home to rest.
5. Some chaos is normal but manage it.
6. Request mutual aid before you need it.
7. Document from the start for FEMA reimbursement.
8. Test emergency generators under load.
9. Send a representative to Fire Incident Command (IC).
10. Explain importance of facilities IC Liaison Officer.
11. Issue public notices and updates without delay.
12. Emergency response is a sprint; disaster recovery is a marathon.



Planning a More Resilient Water System

- Greater degree of redundancy
 - Backup power for all essential treatment and pumping systems with automatic transfer switches
 - Interconnections with neighboring water systems
 - Larger amounts of gravity storage
 - Looped distribution systems w/isolation valves
- Participation in Mutual Aid Agreements (CalWARN)
- Emergency Response Planning/Hazard Mitigation Planning
- On-Site Fuel Storage and Delivery Capabilities
- Routine Maintenance and Testing of Equipment
- Emergency Contracts w/Key Vendors
- Improved Communication w/Power Utility Representatives
- Well-Trained Employees



Questions



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Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
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Program



Sharon Smith
Outreach Analyst
California Dept. of Insurance






Wildfire Insurance Webinar

Sharon Smith
Outreach Analyst
California Department of Insurance



Insurance at a Crossroads in California

- 
- An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood with many houses, palm trees, and winding roads. The houses have red-tiled roofs and are surrounded by greenery. In the background, there are hills and a clear sky.
- Growing climate change threats
 - Historic inflation
 - Several insurers stopped writing and non-renewing policyholders despite approval of multiple rate increases
 - Accelerated FAIR Plan growth
 - Fewer options and higher costs
 - Outdated decades-old regulations



- Streamline and improve Department's rate application approval process
- Introduce new risk management tools in ratemaking – Catastrophe Modeling and Reinsurance Costs
- Insurer commitments to write more policies in wildfire distressed areas and reduce FAIR Plan policies
- Strengthen and Modernize FAIR Plan

Sustainable Insurance Strategy

Insurance Commissioner's Sustainable Insurance Strategy

(Announced September 2023)

**Governor's
Executive Order
N-13-23
To Strengthen
Property
Insurance Market**



Current Rate Review Process

By statute under Prop. 103, Department must approve rate applications within 180 days upon receipt

However, delays largely due to:

↓

Insurers not submitting all necessary and complete information needed to support rate application and justify rate need

↓

Intervenor delays

↓

Outdated technology to reconcile data between Department and insurers

↓

Department staff bandwidth and continued review of successive +6.9% rate increase requests from insurers

Department has been hiring additional staff and re-directing vacancies to meet needs, in addition to Complete Rate Application regulation, intervenor transparency reforms, and filing timing/process efficiencies



Introduction of Catastrophe Modeling

- Use of historical losses are not as accurate, and do not take parcel-level and community-wide mitigation efforts into account
- While majority of other states allow the use of private catastrophe models in ratemaking, California cannot introduce such use without meeting the public transparency requirements of Prop. 103.

California had to:

1

Develop regulations to allow the use of catastrophe models in ratemaking while meeting Prop. 103 mandate for public review and transparency in addition to recognizing proprietary material contained in such models

2

Develop the process for incorporating catastrophe models into actuarial formulas in insurer rate filings

3

Identify "Distressed Areas" that the Department expects insurers to commit to writing more policies in before allowing them to incorporate the use of catastrophe models in ratemaking



Reinsurance in Ratemaking

Sustainable Insurance Strategy



Goal is to increase insurance availability to Californians across state



Insurers paying more to manage growing natural climate disaster losses and need to accurately reflect growing costs of writing insurance in California



Insurers commit to writing more policies in distressed areas before allowing them to incorporate California-only reinsurance costs in ratemaking

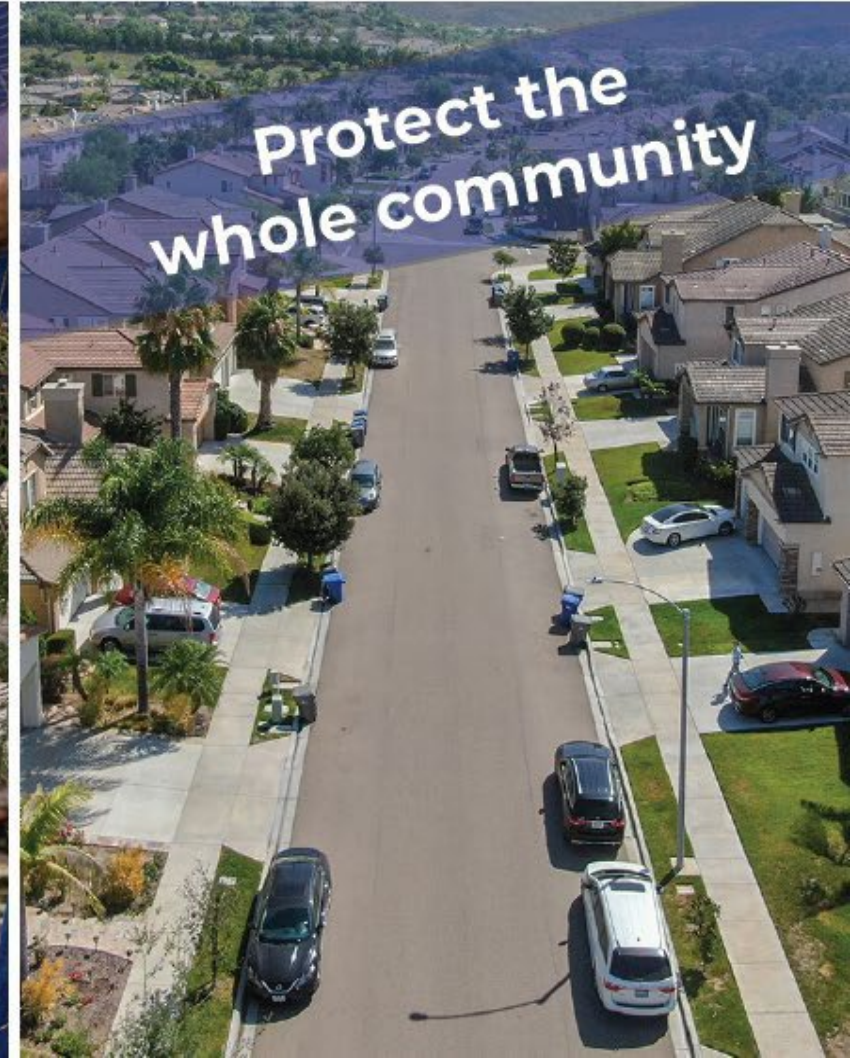
What's Next for SIS?

- Catastrophe models are now being submitted for review – Verisk and Moody's are being reviewed now with more expected in months
- Insurance companies will need to submit complete rate applications
- Insurance Companies expected to have new policies available once rate applications are approved



Being Safer from Wildfires

Can Help With Your Insurance





Safer from Wildfires

- **Class A fire-rated roof**
- **5-foot ember-resistant zone around the structure**
- **Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of walls**
- **Ember- and fire-resistant vents**
- **Double pane windows or added shutters**
- **Enclosed eaves**
- **Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks**
- **Move sheds and outbuildings at least 30 feet away**
- **Trim trees and remove brush in compliance with state and local defensible space laws**
- **Neighborhoods can form a Firewise USA community**
- **Cities, counties, and local districts can become certified as a Fire Risk Reduction Community**

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a teal blazer, is smiling at the camera. She is sitting at a desk with a computer monitor, a multi-line office phone, and some papers. In the background, there are pink orchids and a small sign that says "Grow".

INSURANCE ISSUES?

We can help

800-927-4357

Questions



To ask a question, please use the chat box or use the raise hand feature.

Announcements

Have something to share?





Thank you

Next WACO meeting:

Friday, July 11, 2025 at 7:30am via Zoom

Next WACO planning meeting:

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 7:30am via Zoom

