

Eaton Fire Recap

Chad Augustin
Fire Chief

City Council Meeting
June 9, 2025





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department

Background & Preparation

- In 2022, started work on the City's first evacuation plan
- Hired Emergency Manager in 2023
- Presented to the Public Safety Committee and City Council in January 2023
- Evacuation Drill at Brookside on November 7, 2024
- Updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Developed and implemented "Prepared Pasadena" program





Eaton Fire Response

Fire Department

Week Prior to January 7

- Notification of wind event in Southern California with Red Flag conditions
- Daily updates from the National Weather Service (NWS)
- Worked with BSFMD to ensure all fire apparatus were ready to be deployed if needed
- Request through the State of California Office of Emergency Services (OES) to have a pre-positioned Strike Team approved and deployed in the Pasadena area
- Declared Red Flag conditions for Pasadena
- Multiple City departments upstaffed additional personnel
 - Fire
 - Pasadena Police
 - Public Works
 - Water & Power
- Activated Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - All City Departments participated
 - Operated for multiple weeks





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department

Day of January 7

- Held two Executive Leadership Team briefings on the Wind Event
 - Identified 24/7 EOC staffing
- Palisades Fire started around 10:30 am
- At 18:15 while on an ELT call, the Eaton Fire started
- Full Staffing at EOC





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department



Photo Credit: NY Times



Photo Credit: Associated Press





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department





Eaton Fire Recap

Fire Department

Time	Recipients	Type	Location
18:22:00 (6:22 pm)		In-Person	PPD & PFD door-to-door evacuations near Fairpoint Street
19:44:01 (7:44 pm)	559	PLEAS/NIXLE	North of New York Drive, east of Altadena Drive, and west of Sierra Madre Villa Avenue
20:01:00 (8:01 pm)	400-500	In-Person	PPD & PFD door-to-door evacuations and evacuation of 2 Altadena Skilled Nursing Facilities
20:24:11 (8:24 pm)	1,571	PLEAS/NIXLE	East of Allen Avenue, north of Washington Boulevard, and west of Sierra Madre Villa Avenue
22:45:06 (10:45 pm)	9,407	PLEAS/NIXLE	North of Orange Grove/Rosemead Boulevard, east of Lake Avenue, and west of Michillinda Avenue
2:30 - 4:30 am		In-Person	PPD door-to-door evacuations from Mid-City to Florecita/JPL

Additional notifications sent to Pasadena residents through LA County Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) around 2:30 am.

Recipients include businesses, households, and PLEAS-registered cell phones linked to addresses in the evacuation area.



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Fire Department

Multi-Notification System

- Business & Household Landlines
- Pasadena Local Emergency Alert System (PLEAS) & NIXLE
- Mainstream Media
 - PIO phone interviews giving perimeters of evacuation areas at that time
- Social Media
- PPD & PFD on the Ground
 - PA system
 - Door-to-door knocking

Time	Media Outlet
20:00:00 (8:00 pm)	KCVS/KCAL
20:10:00 (8:10 pm)	ABC
20:30:00 (8:30 pm)	NBC
21:10:00 (9:10 pm)	FOX
21:40:00 (9:40 pm)	KNX AM (radio)



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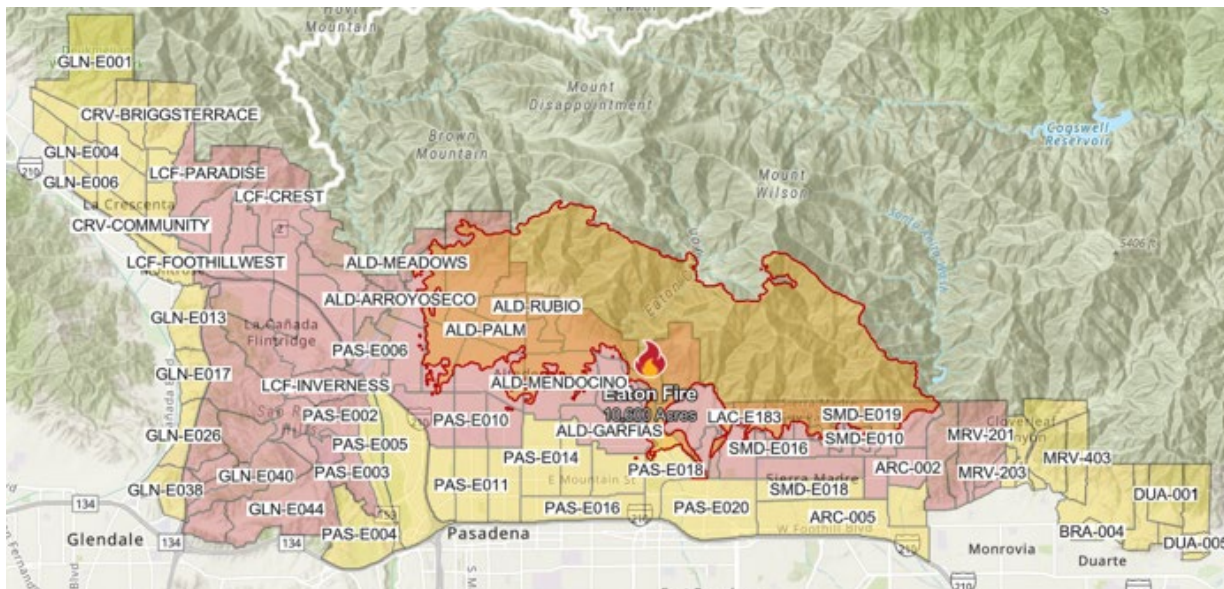
Fire Department

Evacuation Orders

City	Population	Structures
Altadena	32,200	15,334
LAC Unincorporated	651	167
Pasadena	2,729	1,058
TOTAL	35,580	16,559

Evacuation Warnings

City	Population	Structures
Pasadena	27,500	11,029





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Skilled Nursing Facilities Evacuations

- Evacuated residents from multiple Pasadena and Altadena Senior Care Facilities
 - Coordinated effort with PPD, multiple other City departments, assisting partner agencies, and Transdev/First Transit
- Plans to work with LA County and Skilled Nursing Facilities to develop emergency plans



PASADENA



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Fire Department

Post January 7

- Held Executive Leadership Team briefings twice daily
 - Identified 24/7 EOC staffing
- Full Staffing at EOC





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Fire Department

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

- Pasadena had a DRC open for nearly 1 month to assist our impacted community





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Fire Department

Pasadena Convention Center

- Open January 7 through February 13
- Housed 1,140 people at its peak period



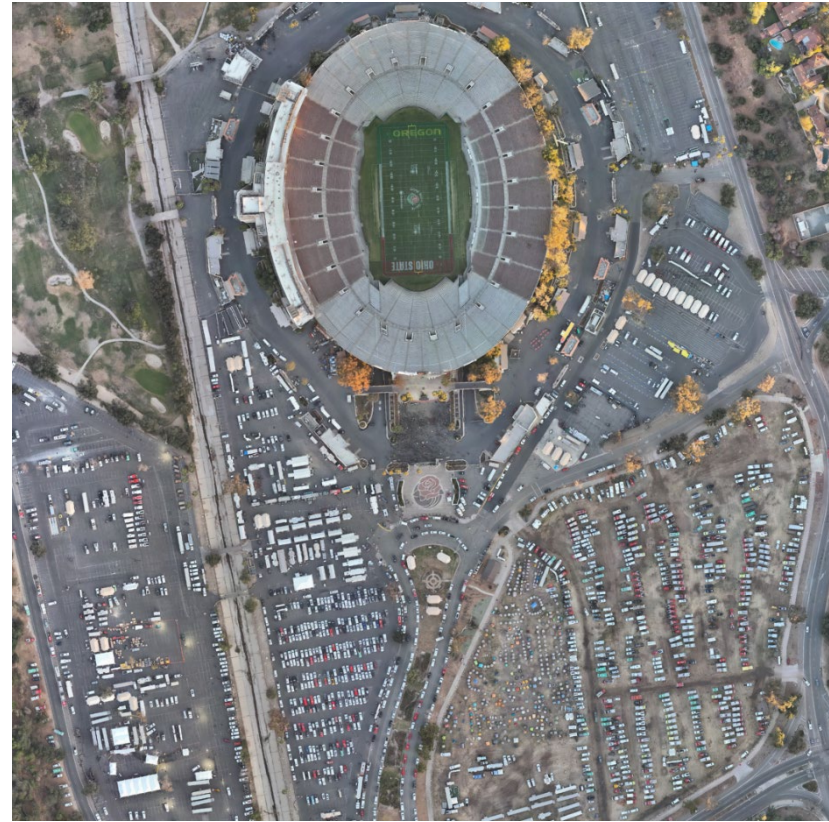


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Fire Department

Rose Bowl

- Served as Incident Command
- Approximate personnel
 - Firefighters: 3,500
 - Police: 509 daily at the Rose Bowl
 - » 10,179 Officers and Deputies assigned to the Eaton incident
- Crews from all over the country and international agencies
- Included sleeping barracks, showers, food, and more



PASADENA



Fire Department

Pasadena Public Health Department

SUMMARY OF EATON FIRE RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Manuel Carmona
Director of Public Health



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Fire Department

Evacuation Shelter

- From Jan 7 to Jan 11, 2025,
 - Provided medical support for over 1,100 evacuation shelter residents, including 400 long-term care facility residents needing high acuity medical support
 - Coordinated over 100 volunteer doctors, nurses, and other clinicians to provide medical support
 - Sustained medical operations until Red Cross assumed control
- Supported the transfer of over 400 long-term care facility residents within first 48 hours of shelter opening to appropriate care facility
- No lives lost among long-term care facility residents due to evacuations

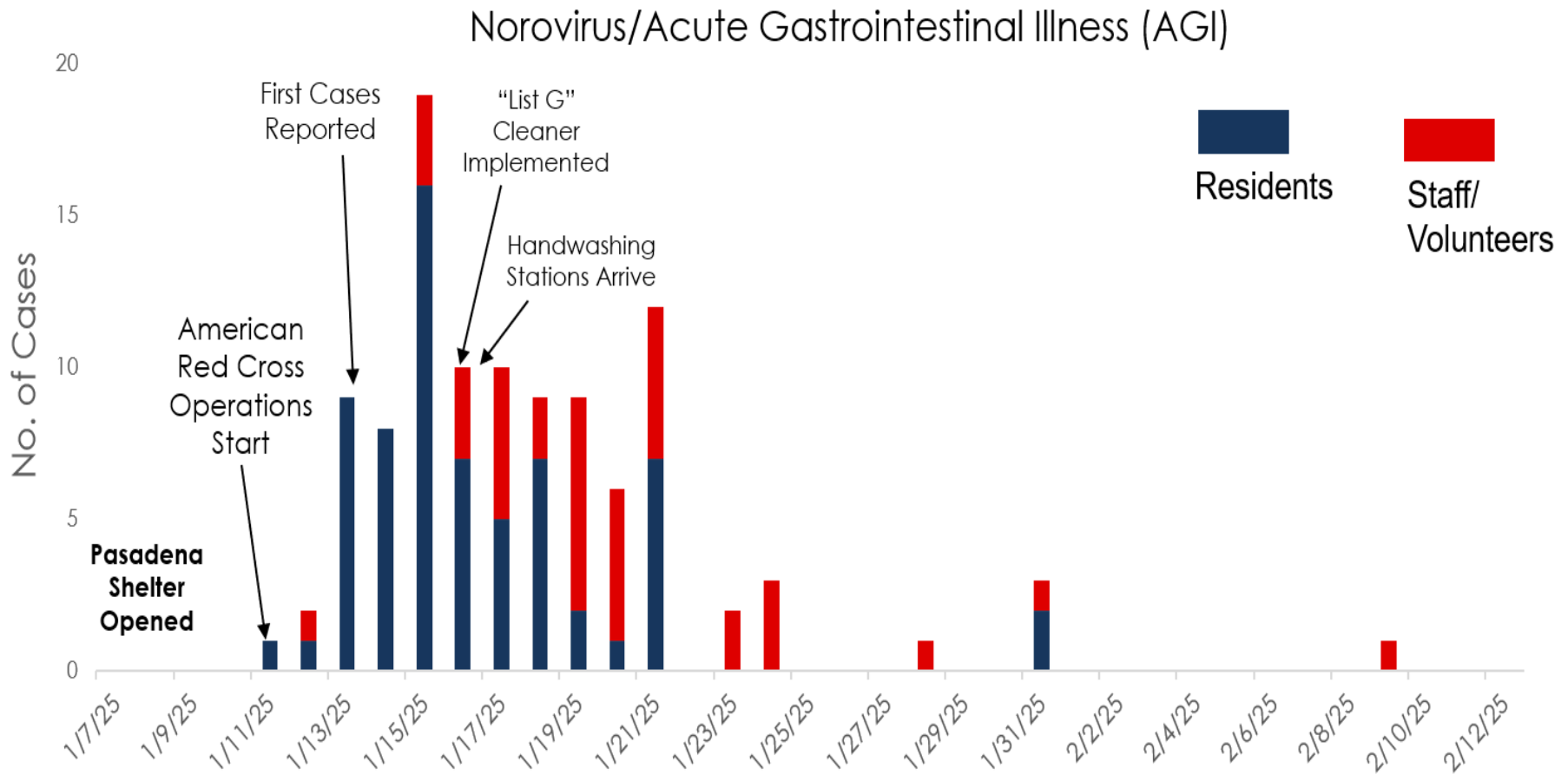


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Evacuation Shelter

- Infection Prevention and Control responded to a norovirus





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Fire Department

Evacuation Shelter

- Partnered with private medical provider, other government agencies, and academic institutions to support medical needs and prevent spread of illness
- AltaMed
- Kaiser Permanente
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Acute Communicable Disease Control
- City of Long Beach Medical Reserve Corp
- Pasadena Elderly and Dependent Adult Liaisons (PEDAL)
- Huntington Health
- Wise and Healthy Aging Ombudsman Program
- Pasadena City College Nursing Program
- Acts of Mercy
- Adventist Health
- Cedars Sinai
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- LA County USC Medical Center
- Optum
- UCI Medical Center
- UCLA Health
- Stanford



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Emergency Supports

- Coordinated isolation of 12 evacuees at motels including transportation, food deliveries, medication delivery and social support
- Expedited health permit issuance to approve food service operations at Evacuation Shelter and displaced students
- Expedited animal display permit for evacuation shelter to support well-being



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Fire Department

Point of Distribution at 450 N. Lake from Jan 15 - 19

- In partnership with the Pasadena Water and Power Department, PPHD distributed
 - Over 147,000 N95s
 - Thousands of cases of bottled water





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Fire Department

Recovery Support and Guidance

- Hosted virtual reopening information sessions
 - Skilled nursing facilities
 - Assisted living facilities
 - Restaurants
 - Early childhood education centers
- Coordinated and monitored repopulation of Long-Term Care Facilities after evacuation orders were lifted
 - 8 skilled nursing facilities, including inspections
 - 23 assisted living facilities
 - Provided PPE for LTCF residents

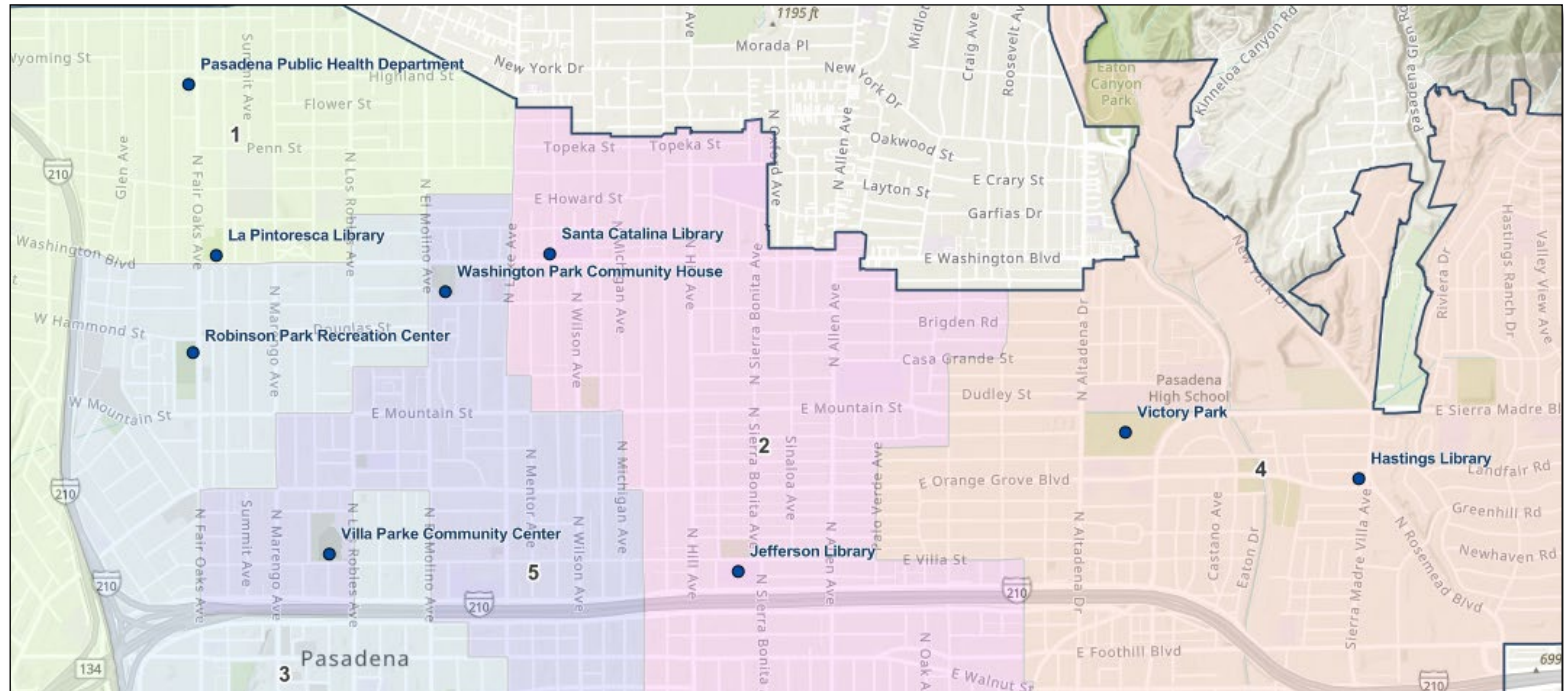


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Recovery Support

- Completed interior testing for lead and asbestos at 9 city facilities



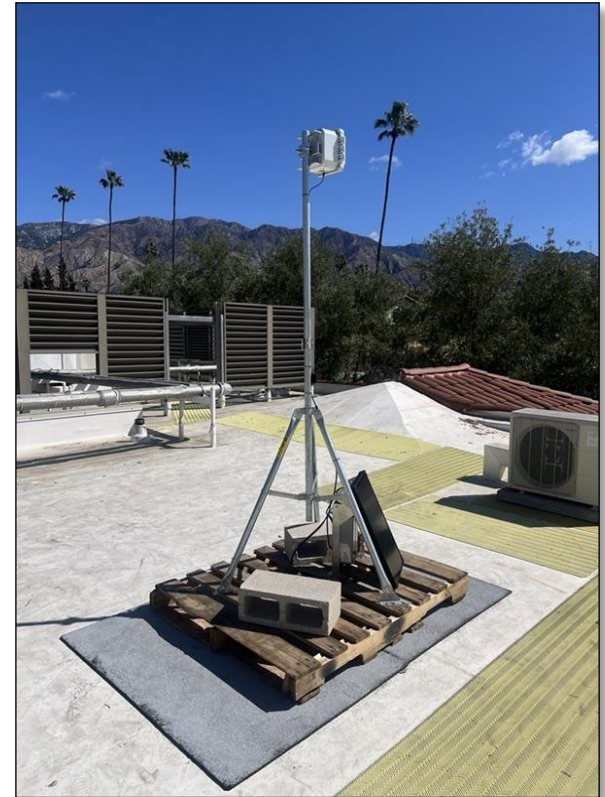


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Recovery Support

- Deployed high quality air sensor at the Pasadena Public Health Department
 - Participating in the CalTech PHOENIX Air Quality Monitoring Hub which includes over 25 air quality sensors across Pasadena and Altadena
- Deployed nine PurpleAir sensors across Pasadena neighborhoods north of the 210 Freeway



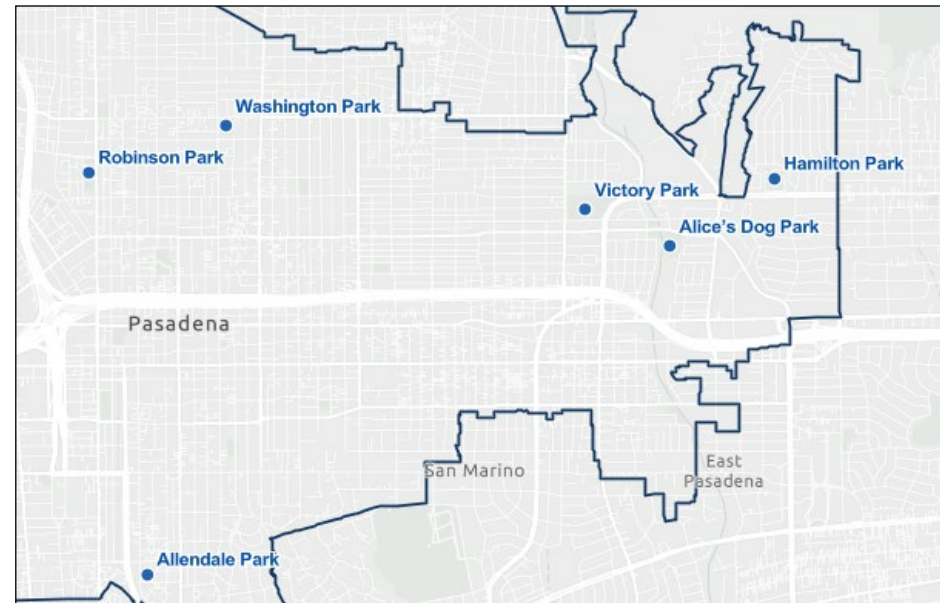


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Recovery Support

- After learning of LACDPH soil sample study results, issued guidance for sensitive sites within Pasadena neighborhoods
 - Focused on schools, parks, early childhood education centers, and youth sports leagues
 - Testing for lead and other heavy metal completed at six city parks
 - All results were within screening or background levels, no risk to human health





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Public Health Guidance

- Declared public health emergency
- Released 2 health officer orders
- Issued 12 press releases
- Generated 16 social media posts to inform the community and protect public health
- Distributed several post-fire health education materials
- Continuing to monitor data collection efforts to assess the need for additional public health guidance



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Fire Department

Departmental Support

- 83 Public Health staff responded
- 3,857 total hours logged





Fire Department

Pasadena Public Works Department

EATON FIRE

Greg de Vinck
Director of Public Works



HIGH WINDS PREPARATION

Fire Department



Before the winds started, Public Works prepped our trucks with fuel, tools and supplies, and put staff on notice for a possible after-hours response.

At the peak of the winds and start of the fire, staff cleared downed trees, streetlights, signs, and traffic signals to clear access for emergency response vehicles and evacuating residents.



INITIAL FIRE RESPONSE

Fire Department



At the peak of the crisis, Public Works staff used utility vehicles to evacuate senior wheelchair users and their medical supplies from a senior care facility that was already on fire. They also used hand tools to help extinguish fires that were spreading in our parks.



GREEN-WASTE CLEAN UP

Fire Department



Public Works issued contracts for 56 pieces of heavy equipment with operators to gather green waste.



50 contracted laborers, well over 50 staff, and several hundred volunteers worked 7 long days per week to assist gathering the green-waste into the heavy equipment.

PASADENA



GREEN-WASTE CLEAN UP

Fire Department

In just four weeks after the winds, staff cleared fallen trees from driveways, sidewalks, and picked up green-waste everywhere in the city.



Public Works filled 3,000 Super-10 Dump trucks with windstorm green-waste and mulched them all at the Brookside Golf Course.

PASADENA



ONGOING MUD FLOWS

Fire Department



In preparation for rain events and expected mud flows from burn-scarred hillsides, Public Works and LA County installed concrete k-rails at strategic locations to mitigate potential problems.

In recent rains, Pasadena did experience some mild to moderate mud flows on 4 streets in the North Hastings Ranch neighborhood.



Fire Department

City of Pasadena

RESPONSE ACROSS CITY DEPARTMENTS

Danielle St. Clair
Assistant City Attorney



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Fire Department

- All City employees are disaster services workers
 - "[A]ll public employees are hereby declared to be disaster service workers subject to such disaster service activities as may be assigned to them by their supervisors or by law."
Gov't Code section 3100



- Employees from various departments were re-assigned to provide immediate disaster relief assistance
- Staffing emergency shelter 24/7
- Distributing PPE and bottled water
- Other duties as assigned



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Fire Department

Highlights of Immediate Efforts of other City Departments include but are not limited to:

- **City Manager:** kept public informed in real time through a variety of channels
- **City Clerk:** organized emergency Council meetings
- **HR:** coordinated staffing needs at emergency shelter; identified and liaised with impacted employees
- **IT:** rapidly restored connections and supported emergency operations at various locations
- **Transportation:** coordinated Pasadena Transit busses for evacuations
- **Finance:** quickly procured items needed for disaster response
- **Library:** provided enrichment for children at emergency shelter
- **Planning:** completed assessments of wind and fire damaged properties
- **Parks:** led initial logistical operations of the emergency shelter until Red Cross took over
- **PWP:** provided water and system support for fire fighting efforts and protected water facilities
- **Rent Stabilization:** assisted tenants with questions about habitability and other protections
- **Housing:** prioritize the issuance of rent vouchers for families who lost their homes
- **City Attorney/Prosecutor:** prepared Declaration of Local Emergency and other legal agreements



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Fire Department

Other Initial Takeaways and Areas for Growth

- EOC Operations
 - Train additional staff to be able to participate to allow for employees to rotate more frequently and to provide coverage for staff impacted by disaster
 - Continue hands-on scenario practice
- Technology
 - Continue digitizing documents and records so they are available remotely
 - Expand wi-fi coverage at the Rose Bowl to include perimeter areas
 - Continue to improve resiliency of City's internet connections
- Develop plan to coordinate receipt and storage of influx of donations



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Fire Department

Other Initial Takeaways and Areas for Growth

- Procurement of Supplies
 - Evaluate City's stock of on-hand emergency supplies and any needed on-call agreements
 - Train additional staff in emergency procurement to allow efforts to be spread across more people
- Emergency Shelter Operations
 - Identify additional possible sites for shelter(s)
 - Update operating procedures and identify potential service partners
- Coordination with Other Entities
 - Identify available spaces in the region to serve as emergency facilities
 - Develop a list of resources to be used in emergency situations and respective responsibilities



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Fire Department

Acknowledgements

- Community
- Partner Agencies
- City Leadership Team
- City Council

