



A broken gas pipe feeds a continuous fire in the burnt remains of a Pasadena home at the edges of the Eaton fire.

On Tuesday, January 7, major fires erupted across Los Angeles County, fueled by extreme dry weather conditions and strong Santa Ana winds. Nearly one week later, at least three major fires continue to rage throughout the county, burning more than 40,000 acres—an area larger than Paris—displacing more than 150,000 residents and leaving at least 24 dead, with that number expected to rise as search and rescue efforts continue. A red flag warning is still in place for parts of the county, with wind gusts up to 70 mph expected this week.

President Joseph Biden has authorized federal assistance, with a major disaster declaration, and Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency. Military planes and fire support from Canada and Mexico have been deployed to support the firefighting response. The US Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency, as the ongoing fires have created hazardous conditions, including polluted air, contaminated water and power outages—threatening health and safety for all communities in the region.

Though other fires have now been largely contained, with the Hurst fire nearly 95% contained, the Palisades Fire—already considered one of the most destructive fires in California history—and the Eaton Fire in Pasadena continue to threaten surrounding residential communities, with only 13% and 33% respective containment. The fires have already destroyed entire neighborhoods and communities, including more than 12,000 homes, businesses and community centers. Many of those who were able to return home from evacuation orders have found their residences uninhabitable, with unstable structures, poor air quality and disrupted essential services, including power and water.

To meet the high volume of displaced families and individuals, emergency shelters have opened across Greater Los Angeles. The largest general-population shelter, the Pasadena Convention Center, has received 570 residents affected by the nearby Eaton Fire; it is unclear how long residents may stay. Shelters, distribution centers, and local organizations and health clinics have expressed urgent need for items, including wound-care kits, hygiene kits, N95 masks and potable water. Community needs will continue to be significant, particularly for the elderly, children and those with underlying respiratory or chronic conditions such as asthma or COPD. Affected residents remain at an increased risk of adverse health effects due to the smoke, contaminated water and loss of power, and of enormous mental and emotional stress caused by the sudden change and loss of homes and property, wages and loved ones.

FAST FACTS

- More than 40,000 acres of land and at least 12,000 structures have burned across Los Angeles County since the first fire ignited on Tuesday, January 7. At least 24 deaths have been confirmed, with that number likely to rise.
- The wildfires have created hazardous conditions for residents across the LA area, with severely polluted air, contaminated water and power outages—further threatening safety and health amid ongoing evacuations and displacements.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps deployed an emergency response team to the Los Angeles area on Wednesday, January 8.
- The team has so far distributed **540 hygiene kits** and **1,280 wound-care kits** to both the Pasadena Convention Center and the Santa Anita Park Way Community Distribution Center.
- Medical and mental health teams remain on standby to work with first responders on providing direct health services and additional critical support.
- International Medical Corps is coordinating closely with local, state and regional agencies, including the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, California Department of Public Health, California Emergency Medical Services Authority, National Association of Community Health Centers, California Primary Care Association, California Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the Red Cross, and local organizations, shelters and health centers.

As crews continue to fight the fires, rapid response and recovery efforts are critical for those directly and indirectly affected.

International Medical Corps' Response

International Medical Corps, headquartered in Los Angeles, deployed an Emergency Response Team on Wednesday, January 8, and is operating in close communication with state, county and local responders—including the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the LA Mayor's office—on coordination efforts.

Since initiating our response, International Medical Corps has distributed 1,280 wound-care kits and 540 individual hygiene kits to more than 1,000 community members and displaced residents at both the Pasadena Convention Center shelter and the Santa Anita Park Way Community Distribution Center. Teams also have visited other shelters and distribution centers, which are central locations for community members to receive essential items. Though many shelters have received an overwhelming number of donated goods and supplies, distribution centers are still seeking and accepting donations. Masks, hygiene and wound-care kits remain in high demand.

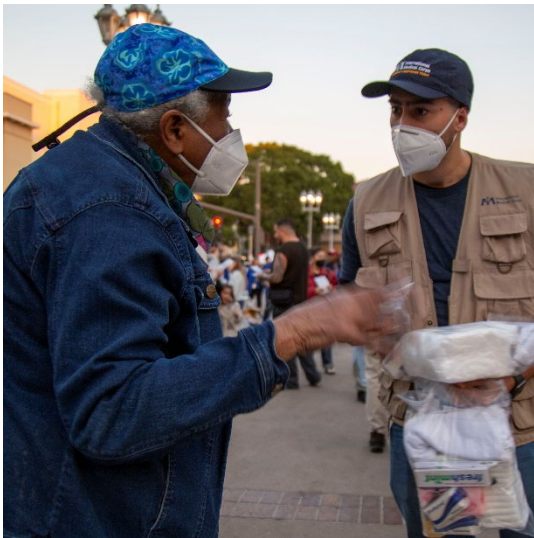
International Medical Corps teams are working to quickly mobilize and deliver additional essential relief supplies, including hygiene kits, first-aid kits, KN95 masks and towels to support affected communities, health facilities and local organizations.

International Medical Corps has also activated our Emergency Roster and has medical and mental health teams on standby to provide direct health services and additional critical support to affected communities. Our teams are continuing to coordinate closely with agencies and organizations throughout the region—including the Mayor's office, CDPH, EMSA, the Red Cross, our partner network of health facilities and local organizations, and other local, county and national first responders—to see how we can fill gaps in medical and mental health services, including in shelters. We also are ready to help health facilities remain operational by providing additional supplies, surge staffing, medications and medical equipment. Our priority is to deliver healthcare for those who need it most, and we are committed to working in the region for as long as it takes to help communities recover.



The Palisades fire, as seen from International Medical Corps headquarters in Los Angeles.

International Medical Corps in the US and Territories



International Medical Corps staff distributes wound and hygiene kits at the evacuation center in Pasadena.

International Medical Corps has been an emergency responder in the United States and Caribbean since 2005, when we partnered with local community clinics overwhelmed by Hurricane Katrina. In the US, International Medical Corps works with national, state and local partners and agencies to deploy emergency response teams in response to disasters and address the significant challenges that face domestic healthcare services.

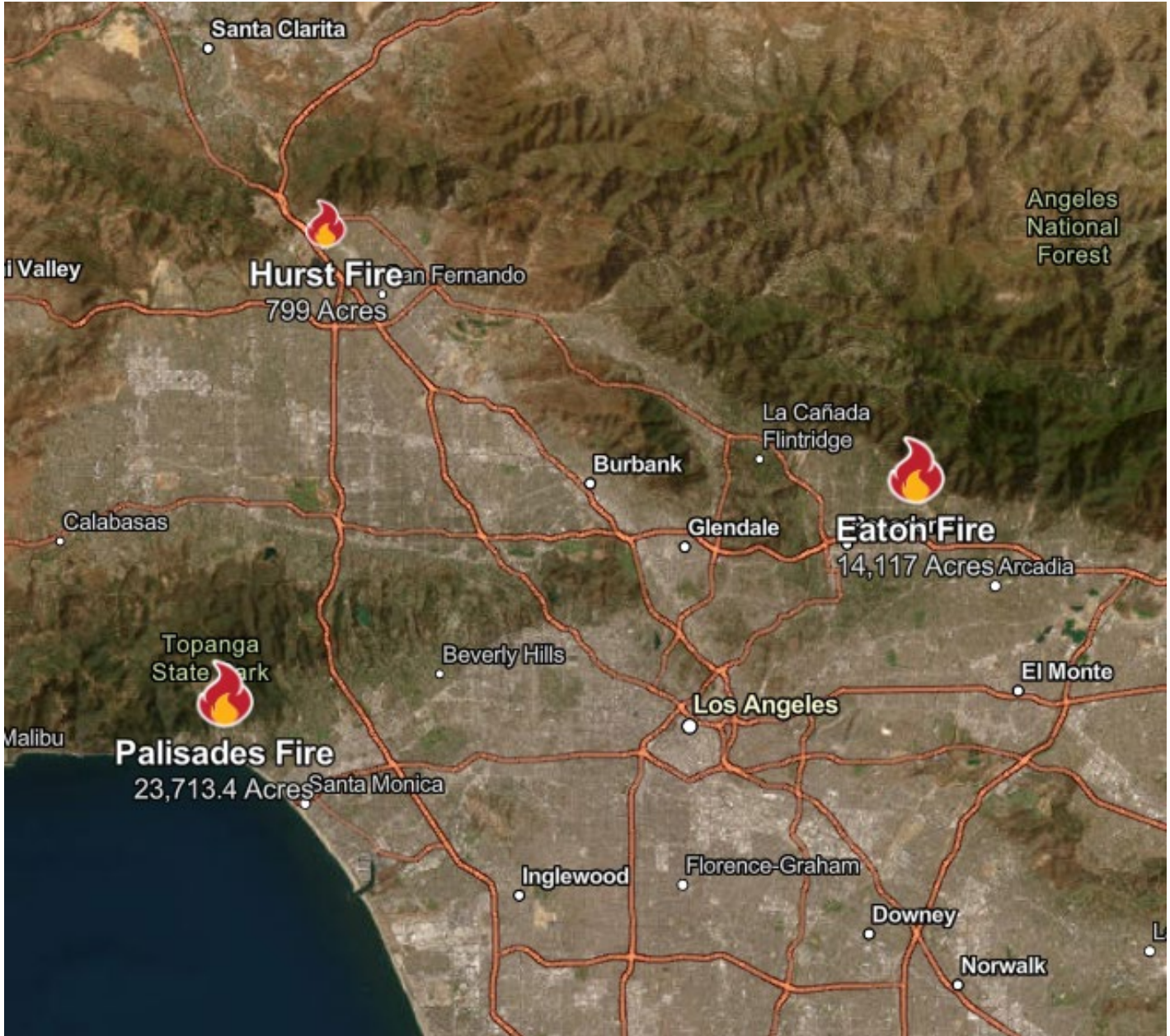
In the last seven years, International Medical Corps has engaged and supported a partner network of more than 275 hospitals, clinics, health and health-related facilities, and non-profit organizations across 18 states and territories in the United States, delivering health resources, services and training to more than 6 million patients and providers. International Medical Corps has collaborated with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Services (LACDPH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and local partner organizations since 2020.

In 2020 and 2021, International Medical Corps implemented a robust response to the COVID-19 outbreak nationwide. In the greater Los Angeles area, we deployed emergency medical field units and equipment to seven LA-area safety-net hospitals, delivered training and personal protective equipment to 51 LA-area long-term eldercare facilities and 176

LA-area health workers, managed a vaccination site at Kedren Community Health Center in south LA that delivered 140,000 vaccinations, and distributed 305 pieces of medical equipment and more than 2 million pieces of personal protective equipment to LA-area hospitals, health facilities and emergency medical services.

In 2021, International Medical Corps conducted a multi-component project in California's Central Valley to build the capacity of vulnerable populations in wildfire-impacted communities to better withstand and recover from wildfires. We conducted training in Medical Needs Sheltering for more than 230 first responders, completed wildfire-risk assessment reports for two health facilities, procured and delivered strategic readiness items and assets for wildfire response and recovery, and conducted training in the Climate Change and Health Hazard Assessment Tool for 100 participants across the United States.

January 2025 Los Angeles Fire Map



<https://www.fire.ca.gov/Home>

as of Monday, January 13 7:30 a.m. EST