



Affected by a wildfire in the foothills of Pasadena that prompted a mandatory evacuation for thousands of residents, a community member surveys the damage.

More than one week after the first fire began on January 7, the Los Angeles area continues to be ravaged by ongoing fires, fueled by dry conditions and strong winds. As three active fires continue to burn around Los Angeles County, more than 40,000 acres have burned, more than 12,300 structures have been destroyed, at least 150,000 residents have been displaced and at least 25 deaths have been confirmed so far. Los Angeles continues to remain vulnerable to fire threat, given the dry conditions and strong winds. As the fires continue to rage, the threat of severely polluted air, poor access to essential supplies like water, food and hygiene items, uncertainty and enormous mental and emotional stress are affecting impacted residents across Los Angeles County.

Though more than 8,000 firefighters from the US, Canada and Mexico have been deployed and several fires are now fully contained, new fires are still emerging and the original Palisades, Eaton and Hurst Fires continue to burn. The Palisades and Eaton fires, which already are considered the first and second most-destructive fires in Southern California's history, are only 21% and 45% contained.¹

With strong Santa Ana winds fanning the fires and carrying ash and dust, residents across southern California are at an increasingly high risk of respiratory concerns and complications, particularly for the elderly, children and those with underlying respiratory or chronic conditions such as asthma or COPD.² Additionally, because of the hazardous weather conditions, power has been preventatively shut off for many communities. Water systems also have been compromised, with affected areas under a "do not drink" water notice. These conditions have increased the widespread need for critical items such as water and hygiene products, and many local organizations and community health centers have requested masks, air purifiers, nebulizers, CPAP machines and other items for both affected community members and staff.

FAST FACTS

- More than 40,000 acres of land and at least 12,300 structures have burned across Los Angeles County since the first fire ignited on Tuesday, January 7. At least 25 deaths have been confirmed, with that number likely to rise.
- The wildfires and strong winds have created hazardous conditions for residents across the region, with severely polluted air, contaminated water and power outages threatening safety and health amid ongoing evacuations and displacements.
- There is an extensive need for mental health support as community members grapple with sudden and extreme loss and uncertainty.

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; and
 - 2,000 face masks to the USC Street Medicine Team, as well as other local partners and government offices.
- Our medical and mental health teams remain on standby to work with the Red Cross and other first responder partners to provide direct health services and additional critical support.
- International Medical Corps continues to coordinate 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.

¹ <https://www.fire.ca.gov/>

² <https://www.cnn.com/weather/live-news/fires-los-angeles-california-01-16-25/index.html?t=1737033665318>

Los Angeles County and City have enacted a robust response to provide direct support to increased number of shelters, community members and residents who have been suddenly displaced. However, with the high volume of people who have either lost their home or remain evacuated, the need for medical and mental health support is urgent. Entire communities have been destroyed, leaving residents with a sense of uncertainty and deep loss; it is still unclear how long it will be before people can return home, if at all. Though the immediate impact of the devastation is still being assessed, the long-term medical and mental health needs of the community are anticipated to be significant.

International Medical Corps' Response

Headquartered in Los Angeles, International Medical Corps deployed an Emergency Response Team on Wednesday, January 8, and is operating closely with state, county and local responders—including the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), the LA Mayor's office and Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC)—on coordination and response 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 the Pasadena Convention Center shelter and at the Santa Anita Park Way Community Distribution Center. Our teams also delivered 2,000 masks to local partners and government offices, as well as the USC Street Medicine Team, which provides essential medical care to unhoused people who have been affected. International Medical Corps is working to deliver additional urgent supplies to local partners, including N95 masks and hygiene items such as hygiene and wound-care kits, baby wipes, diapers, flushable wipes, washcloths and bath towels.

To meet the heightened critical need for mental health support during this protracted crisis, International Medical Corps is providing mental health staff and other resources for first responders, to holistically address the community's ongoing needs. We are coordinating closely with the Red Cross and other partners to embed mental health support teams at resource centers, distribution centers and community re-entry points where community members will return to the burn areas to survey the damage to personal property. International Medical Corps' mental health teams will work alongside partners and authorities to provide crisis counseling, psychological first aid and support to affected residents as needed.

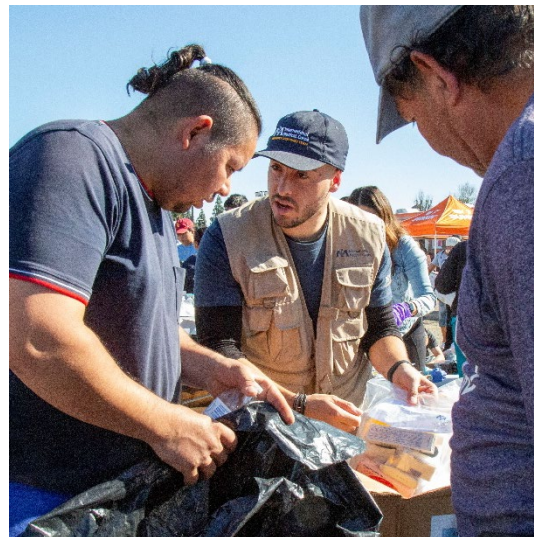
In coordination with CCALAC, International Medical Corps is directly supporting community health centers (which provide services to low-income and other vulnerable community members) as they serve patients suffering with symptoms related to the smoke and increased toxicity in the air. We also are helping these health centers with their own needs—for example, providing staff members with housing vouchers for healthcare staff—to maintain operations. The health centers have expressed urgent need for items such as masks, air purifiers, nebulizers and hygiene kits for both the community and staff. International Medical Corps has also offered medical surge support, grants to support staff housing needs and other resources to community health centers as needed, with medical teams on standby, as local staff may be impacted by the fires. We also have offered to procure additional medications and recovery supplies, as well as funds to offset patient copays to help low-income populations who have been affected to continue to access healthcare.

Our teams are continuing to coordinate closely with agencies and organizations throughout the region—including the Incident Command Post, Mayor's office, CDPH, EMSA, the Red Cross, CCALAC, and other local, county and national first responders—to see how we can fill gaps in medical and mental health services and how we can support local response initiatives. Our priority is to deliver healthcare to those who need it most, and we are committed to working in the region for as long as it takes to help communities recover.

International Medical Corps in the US and Territories

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.

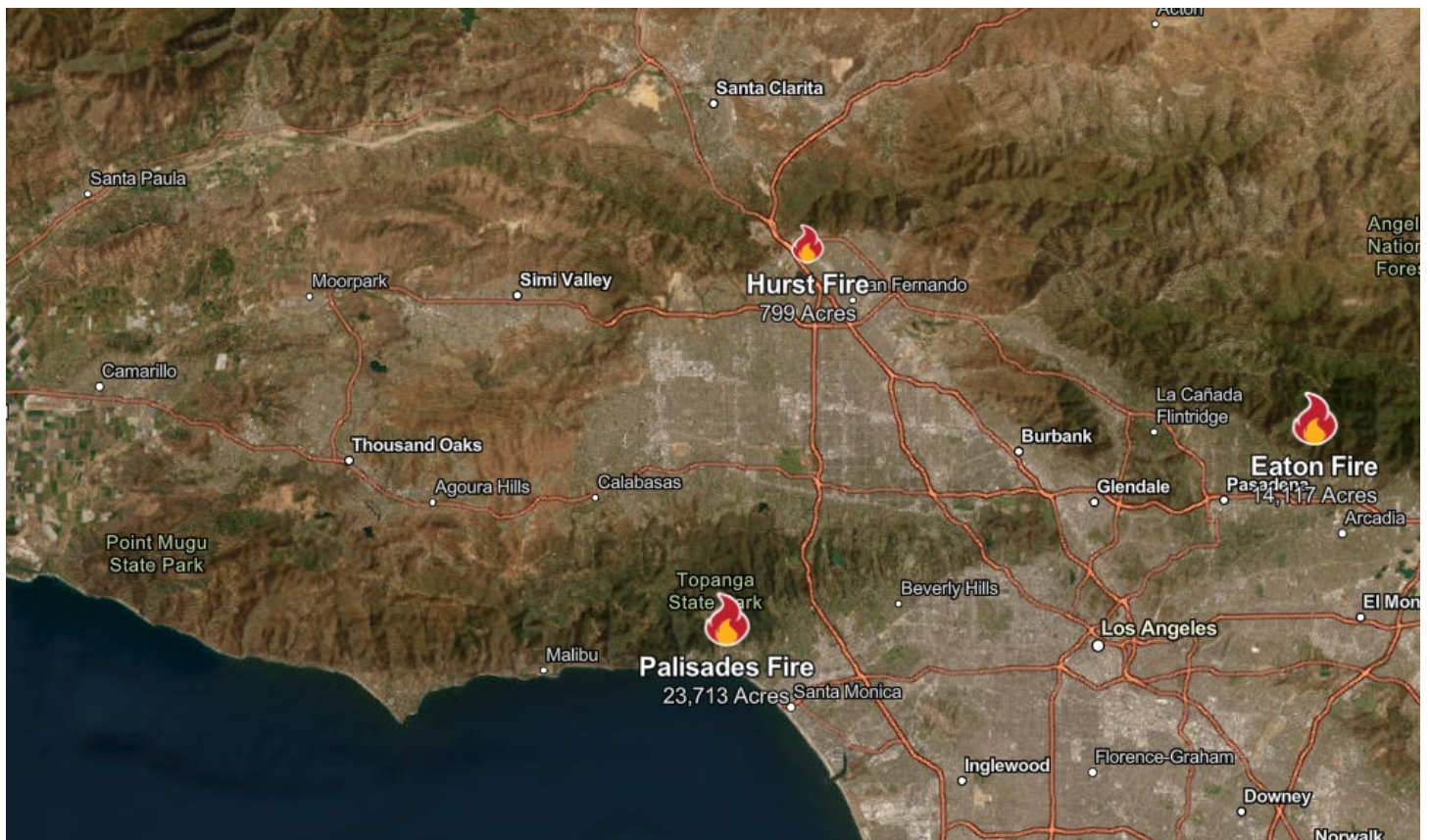


An International Medical Corps staff member distributes wound-care and hygiene kits at the pop-up donation center at Santa Anita Park, near the Eaton fire.

International Medical Corps has collaborated since 2020 with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Services, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and local partner organizations.

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 Thursday, January 16, 10:35 a.m. EST