



07 Jan 2025 01:05 UTC



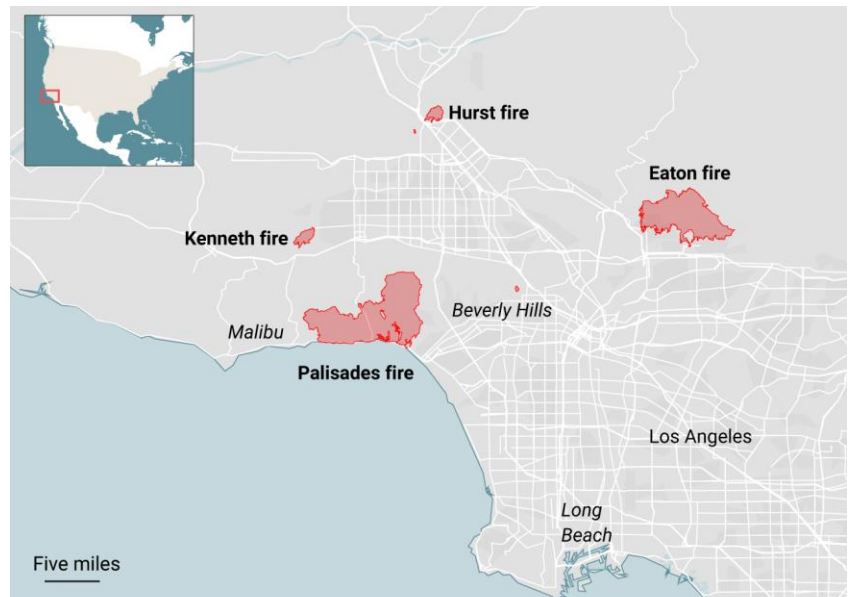
150,000 people affected



12,000 buildings destroyed



24 fatalities



Graphic by The Times and Sunday Times. Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (As of Jan 13, 8am)

ASSESSMENT

The wildfires in Los Angeles began on 7th January 2025 and have caused significant devastation. Since then, they have spread rapidly, largely due to strong winds and dry conditions.

As of now, the fires have claimed at least **24 lives**, with many people still missing. Over **150,000 people** have had to evacuate their homes. More than **12,000 buildings** have been destroyed, and entire neighbourhoods have been wiped out.

The fires, particularly the Palisades and Eaton blazes, have scorched over **35,000 acres of land**. The economic damage is expected to be massive, with costs potentially reaching up to **\$150 billion**, making it one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history.

The dry weather, coupled with powerful Santa Ana winds, has made the fires spread faster. The fires have also caused widespread power cuts, leaving over 64,000 people without electricity. Air quality has worsened, with many residents being told to stay indoors for their health.

Efforts to contain the fires are ongoing, with teams from other countries offering help. However, the situation remains critical, and there's concern that the fires could continue to worsen in the coming days.

Thousands of firefighters both local, federal and international are working to contain the blazes, protect life and property. Evacuation orders have been issued and emergency shelters have been set up across the state. These shelters provide temporary accommodation, food, and medical assistance.

The fires have caused dangerous levels of air pollution, with many areas experiencing hazardous air quality. Local health authorities have issued warnings, and residents have been advised to stay indoors where possible to avoid inhaling smoke and particulates.

A GDACS score of 1.5 indicates a moderate-level wildfire, significant enough to warrant urgent attention and intervention but not as catastrophic as more severe disasters.

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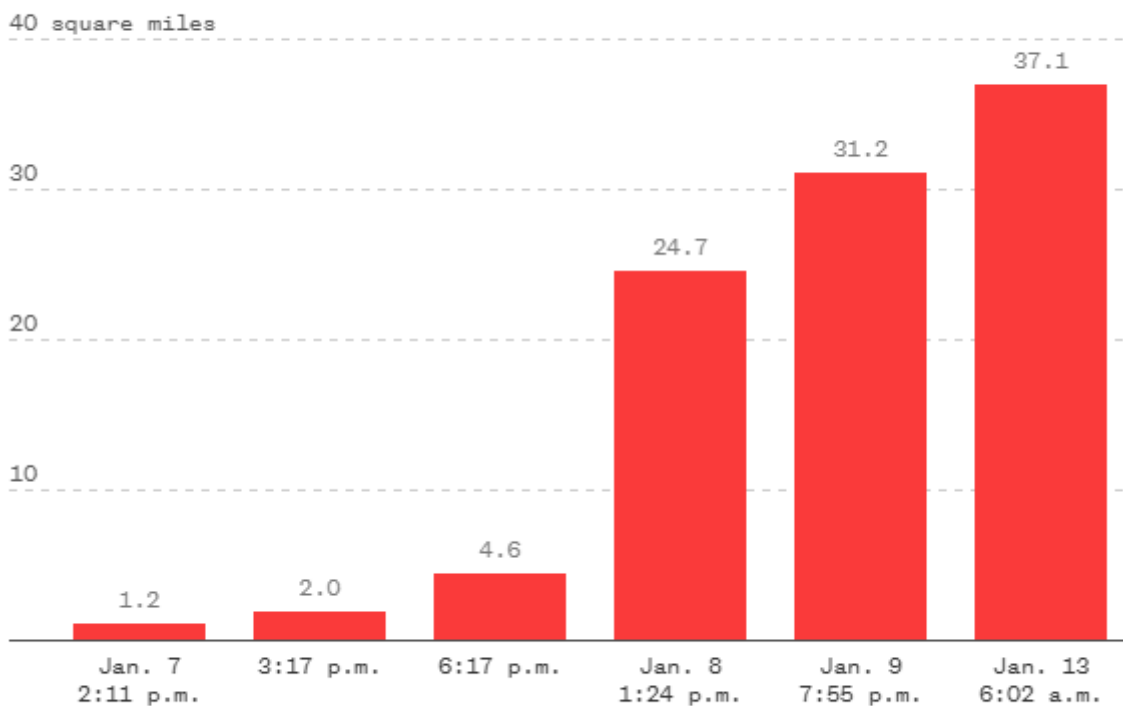


As of 13th January 2025, the wildfires in Los Angeles County remain a critical concern. The Palisades Fire, which has burned approximately 23,713 acres, is 14% contained.

The Eaton Fire has burned around 14,117 acres and is 27% contained.

Palisades Fire burn area

Cal Fire data shows how the fire size exponentially increased since Tuesday.



Notes: All times Pacific.

Source: [Cal Fire](#)

Graphic: Jiachuan Wu / NBC News

Sources:

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