



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center
323-980-2147

LA COUNTY RESIDENTS IN WOOLSEY FIRE EVACUATION AREA CAUTIONED: DON'T RETURN HOME, YET

Evacuation orders remain in effect due to dangerous conditions

LOS ANGELES (Nov. 11, 2018)—Evacuation orders have not been lifted for the 75,000 Los Angeles County homes within the Woolsey Fire Evacuation Area, County officials warned this morning. Those displaced by the wildfire are strongly advised not to return to the area until first responders declare the area safe for repopulation and lift mandatory evacuation orders.

These orders remain in effect for the cities of Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Hidden Hills, and communities of West Hills, Monte Nido, Gated Oaks and Topanga.

With the Woolsey Fire continuing to burn, and a wind event forecasted for later today, fire officials remain vigilant against flare ups within the 83,275-acre burn area. Resident safety is the number one priority of first responders.

“It may look safe enough to go back and check on your home, but don’t do it,” said Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby. “The potential dangers you may encounter could cost you your life. We will let you know when it’s safe to go home.”

Although it may appear that fire threats have passed in some communities, officials warned that the situation remains unstable and can shift dangerously with changes in wind patterns and other unpredictable factors. When conditions permit, Los Angeles County Public Works officials are currently assessing the evacuation area to determine the condition of road infrastructure and stability of affected hillsides. Local utility agencies are also working to restore service to the area.

(More)

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Dangers within the fire-affected areas include:

- Downed power polls/live power lines
- Live embers that could reignite
- Buckled roads
- Landslides/unstable ground
- Massive amounts of debris
- Embers that could reignite blazes
- Unhealthy air quality
- Poor visibility
- No power or cell phone access

Officials said those seeking to verify the wellbeing of individuals affected by the fire should check the [American Red Cross Safe and Well](#) website page.

For updated information on evacuation centers, animal shelters, road closures and wildfires, visit: lacounty.gov/woolseyfire.

Officials caution members of the public to beware of financial scams related to wildfire recovery support, urging that donations be made to reputable first responder, relief, and animal-aid organizations, such as those listed below:

- **American Red Cross: redcross.org**
- **United Way: unitedwayla.org**
- **Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation: <https://twitter.com/LAFDFoundation>**

The County's first responders continue to work around the clock to contain the fire and respond to emergencies and urgent needs. Multiple County departments are providing response aid, including Sheriff, Fire, Animal Care and Control, Public Health, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Internal Services, Public Works and Office of Emergency Management.

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