

Premier Supply Chain Special Report

Southern California Wildfires

January 9 Update | Explosive Wildfires Sweep Through Los Angeles County

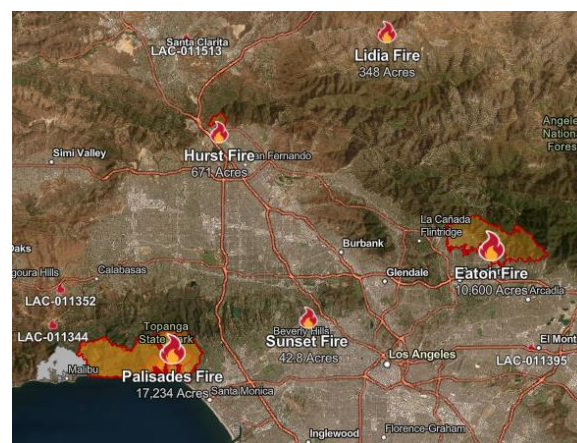
Southern California is battling multiple wildfires, including the Palisades, Eaton, Hurst, Lidia, and Sunset fires, which have collectively burned tens of thousands of acres. High winds and dry conditions have fueled the rapid spread of these fires, forcing the evacuation of over 80,000 residents and causing significant damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. The Palisades fire alone has consumed over 17,000 acres, while the Eaton fire has burned more than 10,000 acres, with red flag warnings in place across Los Angeles and Ventura counties. As firefighters work to contain the blazes, officials warn of continued risks from extreme fire behavior and wind-driven spread.

Key Updates

Fire Outbreaks:

Southern California is grappling with a series of destructive wildfires, including the Palisades Fire, which has burned over 17,000 acres, and the Eaton Fire, adding to a total of more than 29,000 acres affected.

Extreme winds and steep terrain are complicating containment efforts, with red flag warnings in effect across the region. These conditions are fueling unpredictable fire behavior, creating risks for nearby infrastructure.



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

Evacuations:

Over 130,000 residents are under mandatory evacuation orders, with shelters reaching capacity. The displacement of such a significant population has intensified demand for emergency housing, food, and medical care. For healthcare leaders, this raises concerns about the ability to provide timely care to evacuees and maintain continuity of operations in affected areas.

Power Outages:

Preemptive safety shutoffs by Southern California Edison and other providers have left more than 425,000 residents without power. These outages disrupt communications, delay supply chain operations, and pose risks to temperature-sensitive medical supplies and equipment. Hospitals and healthcare facilities should ensure backup power systems are functioning optimally.

Source: <https://poweroutage.us/area/state/california>

Supply Chain Impacts - Logistics Disruptions:

Major transportation routes, including the Pacific Coast Highway, are temporarily closed due to fires or firefighting operations. Applicable freight routes have been rerouted, potentially delaying local shipments and straining supply chain operations in the immediate area. These closures are expected to temporarily impact the delivery of any critical goods to acute care hospitals and alternate sites, including medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, to and from certain areas of Southern California. Map of LA Road Closures via LA Public Works: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/roadclosures/map.cfm>

Supply Chain Impacts - Air Traffic Considerations:

Wildfires in Southern California **have caused significant flight disruptions**, with over 1,200 cancellations and 450 delays reported due to strong winds and smoke. While Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) remains operational, other airports like Hollywood Burbank (BUR) have experienced redirected flights and operational impacts. Airlines have issued travel warnings for the region, urging passengers to monitor flight status closely as conditions evolve.

Supply Chain Impacts - Port Operations:

The [Port of Los Angeles](#), a critical hub for the nation's imports, **currently remains operable** but faces risks from surrounding fire conditions and logistics delays. Any sustained disruptions at the port could have cascading effects on the supply of goods nationwide.

[Response Efforts](#)

Government Actions:

The Biden-Harris Administration is [supporting](#) California's response with federal resources, while Governor Gavin Newsom's state of emergency declaration enables the mobilization of additional personnel and funding. FEMA has provided Fire Management Assistance Grants to reimburse fire suppression costs, easing the financial burden on local agencies.

Healthcare Implications:

Healthcare leaders in the impacted area must prepare for increased patient loads at emergency facilities due to respiratory illnesses from smoke exposure and other fire-related injuries. Close coordination with supply chain, local, state, and federal partners can help maintain critical inventories of oxygen, medications, and other essential supplies during this crisis.

[GPO Member Resources:](#)

- Premier's Disaster Preparedness and Response team will continue to monitor the situation and post supplier updates, healthcare impacts and latest developments our [California Wildfires resource page](#).
- GPO members can email DisasterResponse@Premierinc.com for additional questions or resources.