



LA Fires - Community Meeting Notes

Disaster Recovery Centers in LA: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20250114/fema-disaster-recovery-centers-opening-los-angeles-county>

▪ **UCLA Research Park West**

10850 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Hours of operation – **Daily: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

▪ **Pasadena City College Community Education Center**

3035 East Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106
Hours of operation – **Daily: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Clean-up/Debris Removal

Information on a coordinated debris removal program and details on when/how “sifting” will be allowed should be coming soon, but the city/county are currently working with the state to finalize what their plan will be. And since the fires are still burning, a debris removal program will not commence until the fire is extinguished, vendor process completed, contracts are signed, and homeowners sign the Right of Entry form to join the coordinated debris removal program.

Insurance

[Don't Pay Before You Plan: Insurance Payouts](#)
[Disaster Response Flyer for Homeowners_Spanish](#)
[Disaster Response Flyer for Homeowners_English](#)

Community Engagement

- [Join the Megafire Response Collective here](#) – This is a community built by fire survivors for fire survivors. You are welcome to join if you are filing an insurance policy on a property you rented or owned. If you have a FEMA number from the LA fire, you are welcome to apply.
- **Slack Community:** Develop a centralized communication platform for ongoing support.
- **Neighborhood Liaisons:** Identify leaders for each neighborhood or block to streamline communication and resources.
- **Block Captains:** [Block Captain Handout](#)

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Immediate Actions for Survivors

1. **Find Housing:** Secure temporary or long-term housing as a priority.
2. **FEMA Registration:** Apply for FEMA assistance
3. **Long-Term Recovery Groups:** Register with your local group.
4. **Document Everything:**
 - Create a dedicated email and bank account for disaster-related matters.
 - Save records in a secure Google Drive or similar platform.
 - Keep detailed notes of all communications, including names, direct lines, and timestamps.
5. **Know Your Rights:** Educate yourself on consumer protections.

Supporting Survivors from a Distance

- It can be helpful to check in. It can be comforting to know that others are thinking about you and want to lend their support during a difficult time. An example: “I’m so sorry for what has happened to your community. There aren’t really words to describe how sad this is. Can I send your family a meal tonight? I’m here for you and will keep checking in. No pressure to respond.”
- Offer concrete ways of helping like lodging, gift cards, meals, childcare.
- Give them grace. They may not be able to respond for a number of reasons.
- Refrain from phrases that minimize or invalidate their experience, like “At least you’re alive,” or “Everything happens for a reason.” Just because someone didn’t lose their home, doesn’t mean they aren’t hurting. The entire community is still enduring a stressful and likely traumatic event.
- Resources:
 - [AP News](#)
 - [California State Licensing Board Disaster Help](#)

Supporting Children

- Resources for parents:
 - [Parent Guidelines](#)
 - [Helping Young Children Heal](#)
 - [Navigating California Wildfires](#)
- Be mindful of potential triggers such as candles, flashing lights, and certain sounds.
- Explore resources like [Project: Camp](#).

Mental Health Tips

- Release productivity expectations during crises.
- Limit news exposure to necessary updates.
- Minimize smoke exposure and find comfort activities.

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- Acknowledge emotions and avoid comparative suffering.
- Hold onto hope—disasters can lead to innovation and stronger communities.

Donations

- Prioritize gift cards and cash.
- Avoid donating items unless specifically requested.

Other resources:

- [Article on Smoke Damage](#)
- [United Policyholders](#)
- [Samaritans Purse](#) is an organization that helps you sift through your debris before they scrape
- [Children with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have experienced trauma](#)
- [Wildfire Prepared Home](#)
- [CALOES](#): Resources for Californians Impacted by Los Angeles Fires

After the Fire USA Resources:

- <https://www.youtube.com/@afterthefireusa>
- [How To Disaster Podcast](#)
- [LA Fire Resources on our website](#)
- Follow us on social platforms:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Instagram](#)

Email info@afterthefireusa.org with any questions!