



PRESS RELEASE

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Officials Warn Evacuated Residents: Don't Return Home Yet

Evacuation orders remain in effect due to dangerous conditions

LOS ANGELES (Sat., Nov. 10, 2018) – Los Angeles County officials today warned residents displaced by the Woolsey wildfire not to return to their homes in the evacuation zones until first responders clear access and the evacuation orders are lifted. While we understand other counties may be planning to re-populate, Los Angeles County officials have not lifted the evacuation orders. At this time, there are approximately 250,000 people who have been evacuated within the Los Angeles affected area.

“Under no circumstances should residents evacuated as a result of the fire return to their homes until fire officials and law enforcement determine that it is safe to do so,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who represents the communities in the fire-affected areas. “It is not safe now. We understand how awful it feels to be uncertain about the status of your homes, your most precious belongings, and your pets. But it is simply too dangerous to return at this time.”

Residents’ 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.

In addition, dangerous conditions still exist in neighborhoods affected by the fire that has scorched some 70,000 acres. Dangers in fire-affected areas include:

(More)

OFFICIALS WARN EVACUATED RESIDENTS: DON'T RETURN HOME YET

- Downed power polls/live power lines
- Live embers that could reignite blazes
- Buckled roads
- Landslides/unstable ground
- Massive amounts of debris
- 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.

Officials also caution members of the public to beware of financial scams related to wildfire recovery support. Officials urge 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>

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

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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