



January 15, 2025
Virtual Neighborhood Meeting Recap

Attendees:
(alphabetically)

Tifani Acosta
Malek Adel
Diane Alancraig
Steve Auer
Angela Bellias
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Bruce Bermudez
Pamela Clay Jason Cottis
Brandi D'Amore
Pati Dubroff
Jodi Ehrlich
Mike Ford
Jennifer Friedman
Debra Gainor
Terri Genger
Nicholas Herman

Jan Hohenstein
Kalli Hollister
Wendy Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Warren Jason
Susan Jason
Pamela Kalmus
Schelley Kiah
Kwock Koe
Yennie Lee
Ginger Lincoln
Carol Merrill Mirsky
Cynthia Martinez
Anthony Meindl
Ben Muller
Diana Oganasyan
Marcello Picone

Lois Rosby
Jack Rosenfeld
Al Septian
Sharis Saketkhoo
Merle Singer
Frank Shotwell
Andy Swanton
Jacqui Tager
Sister Renee Vidyaprana
Holly Werner-Thomas
Anji Williams
Kelly Ziegler

Carly (no last name)
Prema (no last name)
Vicky (no last name)

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Where We Are Today

Temperatures, Humidity & Winds

The combination of warm temperatures, low humidity and extreme winds make for high wildfire danger. Last week we saw the tragic results of those conditions. Thankfully the humidity today was up 33%, the winds have calmed and temperatures are cooler. For the next several days winds should be light and variable (3 – 5 mph).

Red Flag Restrictions

LAFD sent out a notice that they will be lifting the Red Flag restrictions starting tomorrow (Thursday, January 16) at 8am.

Leaf Blower Ban

LA County Health Department has put a temporary leaf blower ban in place because of the highly hazardous ash accumulation from area wildfires. *That means NO BLOWERS* – so please let your regular gardeners / landscapers know. Blowers stir up the toxic dust and ash and cause harmful conditions. This ban will be in place until they determine that conditions have sufficiently improved.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

Today's AQI was 22 – which is considered “good” after excessively high AQI days earlier in the week that is good news. We had levels over 150 AQI in our area just days ago.

To check the AQI visit: <https://aqicn.org/city/los-angeles/>

The chart attached shows levels and health concerns. Masks are recommended outside, especially for sensitive groups.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

Recent Water Main Break on San Marco Drive

Tuesday about 6:15 pm a LADWP water main broke. Residents called 9-1-1 and the fire department responded quickly, but it took over an hour for LADWP to arrive and another 20 minutes for them to figure out how to shut it off. Two cars were flooded and stranded on Cahuenga. A motorcyclist was taken away in an ambulance. Several homes were damaged on San Marco Drive.

Wildfires Status

To view the most current status go to the website: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents> According to CAL FIRE, as of this afternoon, here is the status of the area fires.

Palisades Fire (Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Topanga)

Start Date: January 7, 2025

Containment: 19%

23,713 acres burned

1,280 structures destroyed, 204 damaged so far

Fatalities: 9 confirmed deaths so far

Eaton Fire (Altadena)

Start Date: January 7, 2025

Containment: 45%

14,117 acres burned

4,627 structures destroyed 486 damaged, so far

Fatalities: 16 confirmed deaths so far

Hurst Fire (north of us, I-5 and 210 freeway)

Start Date: January 7, 2025

Containment: 97%

799 acres burned

Auto Fire (Ventura)

Start Date: January 13, 2025

Containment: 50%

61 acres burned

Mountain Fire (San Bernardino)

Start Date: January 15, 2025

Containment: 0%

30 acres burned

The Sunset Fire (Hollywood Hills)

Start Date: January 8, 2025

Containment: 100%

43 acres burned

III. How To Help

Donate to Organizations

There are many worthy organizations that need your financial support so they can provide for victims of this disaster. If you have others, let us know. Here's a list to get started:

GoFundMe centralized hub for verified fundraising pages related to the wildfires

<https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/wildfire-relief/california>

American Red Cross

https://www.redcross.org/local/california/los-angeles/about-us/our-work/california-wildfires-response-january-2025.html?srltid=AfmBOorsFYTG8Q5vPSw57B-58Mz_yj3jC5hes59Q5ruGec3pja5gx_8P

Salvation Army

<https://social.salvationarmy.org/southern-california/wildfires-in-los-angeles/>

World Central Kitchen

<https://wck.org/relief/california-fires-jan25>

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles

<https://www.habitatla.org/>

California Community Foundation – Wildfire Recovery

<https://www.calfund.org/>

Showing Appreciation for First Responders

We have reached out to LAPD Hollywood Division Commander, Captain Craig Heredia and LAFD West Bureau Operations HQ to ask them how the community can show our support.

While they very much appreciate the kindness and generosity from the community, they asked that we NOT drop off food / things to the fire or police stations. They don't have the personnel on hand to manage an influx of donated stuff.

Fire Fighters and Police Officers (LAPD and LA County Sheriff's) are working tirelessly. But, many people may not realize that first responders have also lost their homes. Donating to funds set up to help officers and fire fighters who have suffered from the fires is a direct way to help.

To Donate to LAFD: <https://supportlafd.kindful.com/?campaign=1040812>

To Donate to LAPD Employees: <https://losangelespolicefoundation-bloom.kindful.com/?campaign=1344816>

IV. FIREWISE

Frank Shotwell shared information about a program called FIREWISE. It is a program organized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It is a free, voluntary program that helps communities reduce the risk of wildfires, encourages neighbors to work together to take action to make their homes and neighborhoods fire resistant. Once a community has gone thru the steps and has been designated as a FIREWISE site, it can help reduce insurance rates. It also sends a message to the fire department that we are working in partnership with them. For our whole Hollywood Dell neighborhood (1,100 residences) it would mean a commitment of annual hours / money spent.

Frank has volunteered to head up a committee. Anyone who would like to work with him, please let us know.

To read more about FIREWISE: <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/firewise-usa>

V. Neighborhood Watch

Neighbors Looking Out for Each Other...

Franklin Ivar Park Arson Incident

Saturday, January 11, 2025 at approximately 6 pm residents noticed a man lighting a bunch of dried leaves and branches on fire in Franklin Ivar Park. They interrupted him and doused the fire but he disappeared before LAPD arrived. One of them was able to snap a photo of him lighting the fire. HDCA contacted Senior Lead Officer Heather Mata who was not working in the area that night (LAPD has been deployed all over LA for wildfire duties) but she shared the image with the Hollywood Watch Commander who distributed it to all the officers working in Hollywood that night.

Encampment On the Hillside Above San Marco Drive

Several residents reached out that the man (who has previous convictions for arson) that has been encamped on and off on the hillside above San Marco Drive (below the Cross) was back and had open flames in his camp. HDCA alerted the Hollywood Bowl Management, and LA County because that is their property, and LAPD to get him arrested for lighting fires during a red flag alert, and trespassing. He was taken into custody by LA County Sheriff's at 12:30 pm on Monday, January 13th.

Temporary Private Security Patrol

With the weather forecast for another high wind event Monday – Wednesday of this week, and multiple reports of people lighting fires in our area, a group of over 40 neighbors organized and hired a private security company to patrol their streets 6 pm – 6 am on those 3 days. If this is something you and your neighbors might be interested in, please reach out to HDCA Secretary and Neighborhood Watch Chair, Jan Hohenstein: jan@hollywooddell.com

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Watch

If you don't have a neighborhood watch for your "block" please consider volunteering. Contact jan@hollywooddell.com for details. This emergency has shown how important knowing your immediate neighbors and having each other's contact information is.

VI. Update From Officials

Diana Oganessian, Assistant Field Deputy
LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office (5th District)
Email: DOganessian@bos.lacounty.gov

The Eaton Fire (Altadena) falls within Supervisor Barger's District. She has introduced a motion to declare a state of emergency to begin the rebuilding and recovery process.

LA County has opened a Disaster Recovery Center at Pasadena City College.
3035 East Foothill Blvd., Pasadena CA 91106
Operating daily from 9am – 8pm

People can get help applying for federal assistance, speak to reps from state and federal agencies and there are multiple relief organizations like the Red Cross on hand to help with disaster-related needs.

Anyone who would like to volunteer should go to: LAWORKS.com/2025fires

There will be people on hand at LA County Libraries to assist as well.

Supervisor Barger's website has many additional resources: <https://lacounty.gov/emergency/>

VII. Misc. Questions, Answers and Comments...

Jan asked any of the new people at the meeting to give her their information via the chat.

Q: *Can we get someone to come to one of our in-person meetings to talk about insurance? I am afraid to contact my insurance company for clarification because I'm worried it might trigger them to raise my rates or drop me!*

A: We will reach out to Beachwood Canyon Association. They had a meeting a few months ago on this topic and may be able to help us with this.

Q: *There seems to be a lot of brush (aka fuel) everywhere. What can I expect from my neighbors to take care of this? Also the area around the Lake Hollywood Reservoir...*

A: The Reservoir is LADWP property. Report it to LADWP and make sure to cc our rep in our LA City Council District 4 office.

LADWP online "report a problem" page: <https://www.ladwp.com/account/report-problem>

LA City Council District 4 Rep
Jonathan "J" Anderson
Email: jonathan.anderson@lacity.org
Phone (213) 573-3226

A: Having your immediate neighbors organized in a watch group should help you share concerns. If you have communicated your concerns (they haven't done proper brush clearing on their property) and they aren't being addressed, you can report a hazard online with the Los Angeles Fire Dept.: <https://lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush/report-hazard>

Q: *Have we considered using goats to clear hillsides of brush?*

A: A few people in the Dell have looked into it in the past, but were told they didn't have enough land to do it, but let's look into it.

Whats App

Debra Gainor suggested getting a group going using What's App for communication for block captains. The night of the Sunset Fire, it was helpful to know which neighbors were evacuating and which ones were staying. Schelley chimed in and suggested that we consider doing it for the entire Dell.

<https://www.whatsapp.com/about>

Apartment Project On Cahuenga Blvd.

Diane Alanraig mentioned that the LA City has approved a large, project on Cahuenga just north of the 101 freeway.

Project Location: 2100 Cahuenga Blvd. (addresses include 2042, 2044, 2048, 2048 ½ and 2100)

Link for the Planning Dept. Files on this Project:

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/casenumbr/ADM-2024-1833-DB-VHCA-ED1>

This project is for a 5-story, 182 units (72,880 sq ft) 100% affordable apartment building. It falls under the ED I order. ED I is Mayor Bass' Executive Directive to expedite the processing of shelters and 100% affordable housing projects in the City of Los Angeles.

To read about it: <https://planning.lacity.gov/project-review/executive-directive-1>

Note: ED I was recently updated (July 1, 2024). The updates included safeguards for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. **But, this project was approved BEFORE the July 2024 update.**

VII. Upcoming Events / Announcements

Wednesday February 12, 2025 (7PM)
Murray Hill Condominiums Function Room
1900 Vine Street
Hollywood Dell Civic Association IN PERSON meeting (Annual HDCA Board Elections)

Make Sure You Are Getting Emergency Alerts:

Watch Duty

Watch Duty is a non-profit, non-[artisan, and non-government organization focused on disseminating public safety information in real-time from verified sources. Operated by active and retired firefighters, dispatchers, first responders and reporters who collaborate in real-time, gather information from official sources, radio communications to distill just facts. If there is a threat to life or property they will notify you via the app.

<https://www.watchduty.org/>

NotifyLA

This is the Emergency Alert System for the City of Los Angeles

It is a mass notification system used to provide emergency information regarding necessary protective actions, such as evacuation orders, to Los Angeles residents, businesses and visitors. The alerts are sent via recorded telephone messages, text messages and emails in the event of emergencies.

To sign up, go to:

<https://emergency.lacity.gov/notifyla>

LAFD (Los Angeles Fire Dept.) Alerts

<https://lafd.org/alerts>