

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JAIME E. MOORE
FIRE CHIEF

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BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 26-008

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON PALISADES INCIDENT AFTER-ACTION
REVIEW REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 19, Section 2450, the Board of Fire Commissioners directed the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) to conduct an After-Action Review Report (AARR) of the Palisades Incident. The AARR examined the first 36 hours of the incident to evaluate response operations, utilization of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), tactical and command decision-making, resource deployment, support functions, training needs, and procedural improvement opportunities.

The review produced 42 recommendations designed to strengthen the Department's wildfire preparedness and operational capability. This report summarizes current implementation progress, highlights notable accomplishments across all focus areas, and identifies next priorities to be completed. As of this reporting period, LAFD has completed 74 percent of all recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Review and file this report.

DISCUSSION

The Palisades AARR recommendations were organized into six strategic focus areas for implementation:

1. Policy and procedural modifications
2. Training and job aids
3. Technological enhancements
4. Interagency coordination
5. Community engagement and preparedness
6. Member health and safety

As of this report, LAFD has completed 74 percent of all recommendations. Notable accomplishments are organized by the six strategic focus areas and are detailed below:

1. POLICY AND PROCEDURAL MODIFICATIONS

All policy and procedural recommendations have been addressed. Key initiatives include:

- Updated the All-Hazard Inclement Weather Augmented Staffing and Pre-Deployment Decision Matrix
Establishes standardized triggers for staffing recall, resource augmentation, and pre-deployment during predicted critical weather conditions, intended to promote consistent and proactive readiness.
- Updated Recall Policy
Formalized processes enabling Department-wide staffing activation to support augmented deployments based on anticipated critical fire weather or larger scale incidents with multiple operational periods.

To ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives, the Department will conduct a comprehensive 2026 policy review to assess the relevance, consistency, and operational applicability of directives.

2. TRAINING AND JOB AIDS

Additional training curricula and operational reference tools were significantly expanded to reinforce command proficiency during wind-driven vegetation fires:

- Officer and Chief Officer Continuing Education Programs (OCEP / COCEP)
Focused instruction on tactical operations, command and control, evacuation coordination, SEMS alignment, and wind-driven vegetation fire response. Training was delivered progressively at company, bureau, and department-levels to reinforce standardized core competencies.
- Significant Vegetation Fire Job Aid
Provides structured, field-usable guidance for complex initial attacks and extended incident management, including evacuations, expanded resource ordering, and integration of Incident Management Teams.
- Incident Command Post and Staging location for Expanding Incidents Job Aid
Establishing an effective Incident Command Post (ICP) and Staging area(s) for an expanding incident is critical to operational efficiency and should be a priority for all Incident Commanders. This reference tool provides Incident Commanders with pre-established locations that can support large-scale incident types.
- Genasys Protect Map Integration
All evacuation mapping products were synchronized with Genasys Protect overlays. Training was delivered jointly with LAPD, improving situational awareness, evacuation decision-making, and public communication.

The Department's next priority will be the integration of the new Type VI engines into the fleet. The Department will prioritize tactical-level training on the operation of these apparatus, as well as command-level training focused on their effective deployment and utilization.

3. TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Targeted investments were made to enhance communications interoperability, situational awareness, and dispatch effectiveness:

- Metro Fire Communications (MFC) VHF System Implementation
Provides resilient regional communications, improving interagency coordination between dispatch centers and field units.
- Formal Adoption of Genasys Protect
Expanded public-alert mass notification capability as a force multiplier to existing platforms, improving evacuation messaging speed and accuracy.
- CAD Dispatch Algorithm Enhancements
Automated response recommendations now align with critical fire weather protocols to ensure robust initial attack force packages during critical fire weather.

The Department's next technological enhancement priorities include installing an additional weather monitoring station at Mount Lee to improve localized weather observations and forecasting for the Hollywood/Metro area. In addition, the Department is currently evaluating the Tablet Command platform—a digital incident management and situational awareness tool widely used by regional fire service agencies—as part of an active trial period.

4. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Expanded collaboration and strengthened unified response capabilities across partner agencies:

- Transfer of Five Cal OES Type VI Engines
Added specialized wildland resources to LAFD's fleet valued at approximately \$1.2 million, with no General Fund impact, increasing Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) suppression capability.
- Joint EOC and DOC Functional Exercises
Conducted with EMD and allied City agencies to evaluate operational integration and individual competency.
- Collaborative ICS and Evacuation Training
Delivered alongside LAPD division and bureau command staff to improve coordinated evacuation planning, field operations, and law enforcement ICS integration. This interagency training will remain an annual priority with regular review for efficacy.

- Interagency Policy Development
Partnered with EMD and LAPD to refine mass notification workflows utilizing Genasys Protect and Everbridge systems.

The Department's next priority is the formalization and institutionalization of interagency coordination protocols through standardized joint training, unified command exercises, and integrated communications planning with City, County, State, and Federal partners. This effort should emphasize operational interoperability, scalable command alignment, and timely resource integration during complex, multi-jurisdictional incidents.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS

Outreach efforts were expanded to enhance community resilience and life safety:

- Conducted Wildfire Safety Fairs in WUI communities (Council Districts 4, 5, 7, 11, and 13).
- Facilitated certification of 24 CA Fire Safe Councils and 73 NFPA Firewise Communities in WUI communities in partnership with MySafe:LA.
- Battalion Chiefs maintain recurring Neighborhood Council and HOA engagement focused on wildfire education, evacuation readiness, and the Ready, Set, Go preparedness program.

The Department's next priorities involve civilian evacuation exercise and training by partnering with the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to facilitate an annual, county-wide evacuation mass-notification exercise. Additionally, the Department is partnering with MySafe:LA to provide evacuation training to WUI communities in each geographic bureau.

6. MEMBER HEALTH & SAFETY

Health and safety recommendations focused on post-incident medical examinations and improved PPE(s) for members.

- Post-Incident Medical Monitoring Protocols
The Department encouraged all asymptomatic members to receive post-exposure medical examinations, including the Annual Comprehensive Medical Exam, Cedars-Sinai Firefighter Health Program and EMBARC Health Study, Galleri Multi-Cancer Early Detection test, and body scans. Implemented to support early identification and management of fireground exposure and post-incident medical conditions.
- Department-Wide PPE Enhancements
In partnership with the LA Fire Foundation, Eye Safety Systems goggles and Hot Shield respiratory protection were secured and distributed to all members.

The Department's next priority is to provide comprehensive medical examinations for members while on duty to increase participation. The Department is currently

coordinating this implementation with the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City and the Chief Officers Association.

CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles City Fire Department has made substantial and measurable progress in addressing the 42 recommendations identified in the Palisades Incident After-Action Review, achieving a 74 percent completion rate across all six strategic focus areas. Through comprehensive policy reform, enhanced training programs, targeted technological investments, strengthened interagency coordination, increased community engagement, and a continued commitment to firefighter health and safety, the Department has demonstrably strengthened its preparedness posture for future large-scale emergencies and wildland incidents.

These improvements represent not only compliance with regulatory requirements but a deliberate investment in operational excellence, responder safety, and community resilience. The institutional changes implemented to date provide an effective foundation for sustained organizational improvement, while ongoing initiatives will guide continued implementation of the remaining recommendations to fully realize the objectives of the After-Action Review. The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration with allied partners, and transparency with the Board of Fire Commissioners and the communities we serve.

This progress underscores LAFD's dedication to transforming lessons learned into actionable outcomes that enhance readiness, improve incident response capabilities, and support the safety of our members and the public.

Board Report prepared by Sloane L. Joseph, Battalion Chief, Executive Officer, Emergency Operations.