

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

The Claremont Colleges Response to Wildfire Preparedness

January 14, 2025

As strong winds continue to drive wildfires across vast areas of Los Angeles County, our thoughts are with everyone impacted by this devastating tragedy. With the spring semester beginning next week, we recognize the heightened level of concern amongst community members, especially those unfamiliar with Southern California's geography. While The Claremont Colleges are located approximately 30 to 60 miles east of the Eaton and Palisades fires current evacuation zones and our campuses are not in immediate danger, our connection to these communities is strong. Many of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni call these areas home, and some have lost homes, are displaced, or are experiencing other hardships.

In these challenging times, our community stands united, emphasizing the safety and well-being of every member. We are committed to maintaining a high level of preparedness, providing essential resources, and ensuring transparent communication.

Here are some key measures we have implemented to address the situation:

1. **Support for Impacted Individuals:** We have mobilized resources to assist employees and students who have suffered due to the wildfires—whether through loss of homes, displacement, or other hardships. Our priority is to ensure that every member of our community receives the support they need during these challenging times.
2. **Timely Communications:** Campus Safety sends mass text and email notifications via Everbridge. This notification system delivers timely warnings, emergency alerts, and community messages to keep the community informed. Should campus operations be impacted, Campus Safety will communicate updates regarding important information, closures or relocations, and any immediate instructions. Please ensure your contact details are current by contacting your respective campus Everbridge Administrator. All students, faculty, and staff may subscribe to receive these notifications. Students may add additional recipients, such as parents or caregivers.
3. **Emergency Preparedness:** We have enhanced our emergency preparedness plans, which include regular updates to evacuation procedures, comprehensive drills, and robust communication strategies to keep everyone informed. Notably, we are investigating additional communication methods to ensure continuity in the event of lost cell service or power. Our consortial evacuation plan is available

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THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

for review on our [Campus Safety website](#). Please select the “Evacuation Plan” link. This page includes other information on emergency preparedness and resources. Please note that each campus also has an emergency preparedness plan. In an emergency, the director of Campus Safety will activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will provide centralized coordination, resource distribution, and communications across all campuses. The EOC will liaise with local and state emergency services and coordinate logistics for evacuation, sheltering, and recovery operations.

4. **Power Stability:** Recognizing the importance of maintaining power during emergencies, we have enhanced our electrical substation over the past few years. The campus substation has emergency generators to provide full power across the TCC campus in case of a utility agency-initiated outage. Additionally, some campuses have secured backup power solutions through agreements with generator providers and procured additional generators to support essential services across campuses.
5. **Health and Safety Resources:** To protect our community from smoke-related health risks, campuses are increasing their supply of N-95 masks; [Student Health Services](#) maintains a supply for the campus community. Some campuses are also enhancing air filtration systems within campus buildings.
6. **Essential Supplies:** Many campuses have updated inventories and replenished necessary supplies, including food and water, to effectively support "shelter-in-place" scenarios.
7. **Transportation for Evacuation:** Some campuses have finalized agreements with local transit authorities, and others are finalizing them to ensure that transportation is readily available for evacuating the campus if necessary.
8. **Ongoing Communication:** We are committed to keeping you informed with regular updates. Please look for these communications, which will provide further details and resources as they become available. Campus websites also provide detailed information about their campus community.
 - Campus Specific Emergency Information:
 - [Pomona College](#)
 - [Claremont Graduate University](#)
 - [Scripps College](#)
 - [Claremont Mckenna College](#)
 - [Harvey Mudd College](#)
 - [Pitzer College](#)
 - [Keck Graduate Institute](#)

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Stay Informed

We encourage everyone to stay informed through the use of reliable sources. Please consult these resources for timely updates and information.

- [City of Claremont](#): Emergency management information
- [Watch Duty App](#): Receive real-time wildfire incident updates and live reports.
- [Official Los Angeles County Emergency Notifications](#): Register to receive emergency notifications.
- [South Coast Air Quality Management District \(AQMD\)](#): Stay informed about air quality conditions and health recommendations.
- [National Weather Service Los Angeles \(NWS\)](#): Access accurate weather forecasts and alerts.

Your safety is our utmost priority, and we are continuing to monitor the situation closely and update our plans as necessary. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance or information through our designated channels. Together, we can navigate these challenges and maintain the well-being of our campus community.

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