



McChrystal After-Action Report: Alerts, Warnings and Evacuations

County Actions and Improvements Already Taken or Underway

In the wake of the Palisades and Eaton fires, LA County has proactively taken steps to improve processes and incorporate lessons learned during one of worst disasters in County history. Actions taken so far include:

Fire Detection and Monitoring

- The County Fire Department has incorporated **FireGuard**, a National Guard satellite program, into its electronic incident command management platform.
- The Fire Department has contracted for **satellite-enabled hotspot tracking capability**. (While this technology is not yet able to provide real-time tracking information, the department expects this tool to provide actionable data as the technology matures.)
- The department is contracting to develop an updated Fire Department **Computer Aided Dispatch** system (CAD) that connects with other first-responder systems and relays 911 call information to incident commanders more quickly.
- The Fire Department is also actively exploring:
 - NASA/NOAA-based thermal imaging platforms

Evacuation Tracking and CAD System Modernization

- In April, the Sheriff's Department launched a comprehensive tracking tool called the **Citizen Evacuation Tracker** to provide real-time visibility into who has been evacuated, who needs to be evacuated, and where resources are needed most. This tool is now in use throughout the department.
- The Sheriff's Department is in the process of configuring and testing its **updated Computer Aided Dispatch** system (CAD), which is expected to be implemented at patrol stations later this year or early 2026.
- The Sheriff's Department has updated its Evacuation Emergency Operating Procedures, which is currently moving through the internal approval process.
- The Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Bureau is developing a standardized evacuation training curriculum for all patrol stations. Rollout of this training is scheduled to begin late September through early October. The training will include the CET, Hi-Lo Siren, Genasys Alert system, field communication, unified command, and additional operational considerations.

Alerts and Warnings

- The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has begun sending **Evacuation Warnings** to zones adjacent to **Evacuation Order** zones, at the direction of Incident Command. This process was used most recently during the Canyon, Hawk and King fire incidents and has been incorporated as a standardized best practice to provide residents

in potentially at-risk areas more time to plan for a possible evacuation. Outside of fires, this process was also used over the summer when Southern California was under a tsunami advisory and during the 2025 winter storms.

- OEM has **expanded staff training on the Genasys Alert system**, providing increased staff capacity for sending alerts as well as practical experience using the system to issue Alert and Warning messages during winter storms, wildfires and a recent tsunami event.
- The OEM Incident Command **Agency Representative (A-Rep)** plays a critical role bridging the Incident Commanders to Alert and Warning personnel. OEM is improving and formalizing the A-Rep training program and enhancing equipment and capabilities. These ongoing training sessions are mandatory for all staff. Both Fire and Sheriff leadership personnel have jointly participated in these sessions. Additionally, documentation improvements regarding evacuation decisions have also been initiated.