

February 2025

Below, you'll find a table of contents featuring the top stories of the month. If you're interested, simply click the link to read the full article.

- [A Message from Mayor Cao](#)
- [January 2025 Emergency Communications Survey](#)
- [Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map](#)
- [Arcadia Town Center Mixed Use Development](#)
- [Burglary Crew Thwarted by Arcadia Police](#)

A Message from Mayor Cao

Dear Arcadia Community,

The past few weeks were challenging to all of us, but they have also shown the strength, resilience, and generosity that define Arcadia. As we begin the road to recovery, I want to take a moment to reflect on how we came together in the face of crisis and the work that still lies ahead.

On January 7, 2025, powerful winds reaching 100 miles per hour tore through Los Angeles County. That same day, a fire erupted in the Pacific Palisades, and by nightfall, the Eaton Fire was rapidly moving toward Arcadia.

In response, the City of Arcadia took immediate action. The Emergency Operations Center was activated, bringing together representatives from every department to focus on disaster response and community safety. City staff worked in 12-hour shifts to ensure around-the-clock support for residents. Across Los Angeles County, the Arcadia Fire Department deployed two fire engines and a battalion chief, totaling nine firefighters, to assist in the Pacific Palisades for two weeks. Meanwhile, 31 Arcadia Fire personnel battled the Eaton Fire and helped manage windstorm recovery efforts here at home. With an Evacuation Order in place, roadblocks were put in place, and thanks to the National Guard and Arcadia Police, evacuated homes remained protected from theft and vandalism.



Beyond the fire, the windstorm caused widespread damage. Public Works crews worked tirelessly to clear roads, remove fallen trees, and secure hazardous debris. Intersections where traffic signals were knocked out, including those along Huntington Drive and Colorado Boulevard, were quickly marked with temporary signage. Uprooted trees damaged sidewalks, and debris littered our streets, creating a multi-week cleanup effort. Since January 7, Public Works crews have been working tirelessly to clear debris. I want to thank them for their dedication and appreciate the community's patience as the cleanup continues. A newly published [Windstorm Cleanup Progress Map](#) displays the ongoing cleanup efforts.

Through it all, I was moved by the way Arcadia came together. With evacuations and power outages affecting many, more than 3,000 individuals gathered at the Community Center and Library to charge their devices and make arrangements for their families. Across the street, Santa Anita Park became one of the largest collection and distribution sites for donations, a testament to the kindness and generosity of our community.

While our neighboring cities suffered significant losses, I am incredibly grateful that no homes in Arcadia were damaged. However, our work is not done. Past experience has shown that rain can worsen existing damage, and homes near the hillside remain at risk of debris flow during major storms over the next two years. In preparation of the anticipated rainy season, the Public Works Services Department have placed water-walls and/or k-rails on the hillside of the homes to prevent debris and mudflow. To further help mitigate these risks, the City continues to provide free sandbags for residents at Fire Station 107.

Recovery takes time, but I have no doubt that Arcadia will emerge stronger than ever. I want to personally thank each of you for your patience, resilience, and commitment to our community. It is because of you that Arcadia remains a City we are all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Cao, Mayor of Arcadia

January 2025 Emergency Communications Survey

With the January windstorms and Eaton Fire, the City of Arcadia utilized multiple communication channels to keep residents informed. To enhance our efforts, we want to understand how you receive emergency updates. Please take a moment to [complete this survey and share your feedback](#).

Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map

As we've seen in recent years, fire season is now a year-round concern. With Arcadia's abundance of trees, natural spaces, and beautiful homes, particularly those near the foothills, wildfire preparedness remains a top priority. Being prepared is essential, and one important tool is the [Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map](#), which helps identify high-risk areas.



[CAL FIRE](#), the state agency responsible for wildfire prevention, is currently updating these maps as part of its legal mandate to classify fire hazard severity across California.

Currently, they are in the process of updating fire hazard severity maps, including recommendations for Arcadia. The last update to Arcadia's local fire hazard severity map was in 2011, and the new maps are scheduled to be released soon. Once published, the City will be required to review and adopt the updated map or make necessary amendments.

Currently, areas above Orange Grove Avenue and Sycamore Avenue are designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, meaning homeowners in these areas must follow specific safety requirements, including:

- Defensible Space Inspections – Homes sold in this zone must provide proof of compliance.
- 100-Foot Defensible Space – Vegetation must be properly cleared, and fire-resistant plants maintained.
- Home Hardening Measures – New construction and remodels must meet fire-resistant building standards.

As we await the updated maps, residents are encouraged to stay proactive in wildfire preparedness. Ensuring compliance with these safety measures will help protect our community and homes from the increasing threat of wildfires.

Photo Courtesy Jamie Nicolson

Arcadia Town Center Mixed-Use Development

On January 14, 2025, the Planning Commission approved the Arcadia Town Center, a new five-story mixed-use development in downtown Arcadia. At this time, the project has been appealed and will be reviewed by the City Council.

Located at 5-19 W. Huntington Drive and 25-75 N. Santa Anita Avenue, the 2.19-acre site will consolidate five separate parcels,

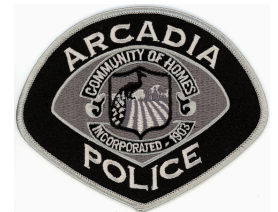
creating a hub of residential and commercial activity. This project will feature 181 condominium units, 13,130 square feet of ground-floor commercial space, and 378 parking spaces and designed with a modern, contemporary aesthetic. Residents will enjoy premium amenities, including a swimming pool, recreation center, fitness center, and two clubhouses. Meanwhile, the commercial spaces along Huntington Drive and Santa Anita Avenue will feature four public plazas and outdoor seating areas.

[Click here to stay up to date on the status of the Arcadia Town Center Mixed-Use Development.](#)



Burglary Crew Thwarted by Arcadia Police

Residential burglaries are becoming increasingly sophisticated with organized crews, with some even traveling from outside the United States to target homes in the region. Due to the growing scale of these crimes, a regional burglary and robbery taskforce was established to combat and prevent these offenses more effectively.



On January 23, Arcadia Police were alerted to a burglary involving a known crew. Through strategic preparation and strong partnerships with neighboring agencies, officers successfully intervened. Officers staged themselves near Stanford Drive and Hampton Road, where two suspects entered a home while a third waited in a getaway car. As the suspects returned to the vehicle, officers swiftly apprehended two of them, while the third fled on foot into a nearby neighborhood.

Thanks to the vigilance of a local homeowner who spotted the suspect on their home security system entering an unlocked storage area, officers were able to locate and arrest the third individual without incident. With air support from the regional taskforce, assistance from Monrovia Police, and K9 units from West Covina, all three suspects were taken into custody.

The suspects have been charged with felonies for first-degree residential burglary and attempted burglary with a person present. Arcadia Police thank the community for their continued support and encourage residents to stay alert—if you see something, say something!

Share Your Feedback

Your feedback is valued! Share your thoughts on the news featured in this newsletter by filling out the form below.

Name*

Email

Share Your Feedback*

I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)