

The Arcadia Hot Sheet

February 2025

Highlighting News & Events from Around Town

ArcadiaCA.gov

Behind the Scenes, Arcadia Responds to Windstorm & Wildfires

On January 7, 2025, powerful winds with gusts reaching up to 100 miles per hour tore through Los Angeles County. Winds strong enough to rival a Category 2 hurricane, according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. As the day unfolded, a fire erupted in the Pacific Palisades, and by nightfall, the Eaton Fire swept through the foothills. Here's an inside look at the efforts to protect Arcadia and the region during the windstorm and fires.

Activating the Emergency Operations Center

During the emergency, the City of Arcadia activated its Emergency Operations Center, bringing together representatives from every department to focus solely on responding to the disaster and addressing the community's needs. City staff operated under 12-hour shifts, ensuring 24-hour coverage with two alternating teams.

Wildfires Across Los Angeles County

On the morning of January 7, the Palisades Fire erupted and quickly escalated into a major emergency. In response, the Arcadia Fire Department deployed two fire engines and a battalion chief, totaling nine firefighters, to provide critical support. They remained in the Pacific Palisades for the next two weeks, while 31 Arcadia Fire Department personnel were deployed locally on the Eaton Fire and windstorm response.

Later that evening, a fire much closer to home, the Eaton Fire, ignited and rapidly moved toward Arcadia. Within hours, an Evacuation Order was issued for residents north of Orange Grove Avenue. Notifications were sent by phone, text message, email, social media, and the Watch Duty app, while Arcadia police officers conducted door-to-door visits to ensure residents were informed and evacuated safely. Roadblocks were established to secure the area, and with the support of the National Guard and Arcadia Police, evacuated homes remained protected from theft and vandalism throughout the incident.

Destructive Windstorms

As the winds intensified, Public Works crews were deployed citywide to restore road access and ensure public safety, clearing fallen trees that obstructed roads and addressing hanging branches that posed a threat to infrastructure. Signs were placed at intersections where traffic signals were knocked out, including those along Huntington Drive and Colorado Boulevard. Uprooted trees tore through concrete sidewalks, and palm fronds littered the streets, creating a multi-week cleanup effort. To keep residents informed, all closures were published online, detailing traffic obstructions and the locations of fallen trees.

Path to Recovery

Over the next several days, the Arcadia community came together in an extraordinary display of generosity. With the Evacuation Order and power outages affecting many, over 3,000 individuals gathered at the Community Center and Library to charge devices and make shelter arrangements. Just across the street, Santa Anita Park became one of the largest collection and distribution sites for donations to those impacted by the fire.

In total, hundreds of firefighters from various agencies contributed to the firefighting efforts in Arcadia. While we deeply sympathize with our neighboring cities that were severely impacted, we are incredibly grateful that no homes in Arcadia were damaged. The road to recovery will be long, and past experiences have shown how rain can worsen existing damage. Homes near the hillside in Arcadia face increased vulnerability to debris flow during major rainstorms over the next two years. As we work to mitigate potential risks and support recovery efforts, we appreciate the community's patience and cooperation.



Fallen tree on Santa Anita Avenue



Firefighters monitor hillside fire in Arcadia



Incident Command & Chief Suen (far left) discussing firefighting strategy

Celebrating Lunar New Year

Downtown Arcadia Lunar New Year Festival

Downtown Arcadia will welcome the Lunar New Year with a festival on February 2, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. This year, the event will be a celebration with a purpose, with donations supporting Arcadia teachers, staff, and families who lost their homes in the recent fires. Learn more and donate at DowntownArcadia.org.

Art Exhibit at Gilb Museum

Join the Gilb Museum at this year's Lunar New Year Exhibit to see artwork decorated by members of the community! The exhibit will be open until February 15.

Arboretum's 2nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration

Celebrate Lunar New Year at the LA County Arboretum, on February 15, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Arboretum.org.

Youth Programs

Youth Co-ed Volleyball, Grades 5 - 8

Registration for this fun, non-competitive league begins on February 3 for residents and February 10 for non-residents at www.Arcadia.CA.gov/Youth. League begins on March 24 at Dana Middle School Gym. Cost is \$121.

Kids Night Out

I love you to pizzas! Enjoy a fun night of games crafts, activities, a movie, and pizza. This event will be held at the Arcadia Community Center, on February 14, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Register at www.Arcadia.CA.gov/Youth; cost is \$30.

Teen Summer Volunteer Opportunities at the Arcadia Public Library

Looking for a fun way to spend your summer? Teens (13+) can gain valuable experience by volunteering at Arcadia Public Library! Applications will be available in the Library's Jerry Broadwell Children's Room, as well as on ArcadiaCA.gov/Library, beginning February 24. Applications must be submitted no later than April 5.

Unleash Your Creativity

Preservation Workshop Art

Join museum professionals to learn the best methods to preserve art, on February 8, at 10 a.m. Limited space, register at www.ArcadiaCA.gov/Museum.

Painting with Mocktails

Sip, paint, and unwind! Attend a painting session on February 13, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m., at the Arcadia Public Library. All supplies are provided. Adults only. Register by calling (626) 821-5569 or www.ArcadiaCA.gov/AdultPrograms.

Helpful Programs & Reminders

Income Tax Assistance

AARP offers free tax preparation for low-income individuals ages 50+ at the Arcadia Community Center, Thursdays and Fridays, February 6 - April 11. Call (626) 574-5130 to make an appointment.

Compostpalooza

Learn more about composting and organics recycling, receive giveaways, and more at Compostpalooza on February 15, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Arcadia Public Library Parking Lot.

Health Education Series

Join us on February 26 at 6 p.m. for a free session at Arcadia Public Library where Dr. Ivan Ho will address the question, "My Apple Watch says I have atrial fibrillation, should I be concerned?" and more! Learn more at www.Arcadia.CA.gov/HealthSeries.

Undecking the Halls After the Holidays

As the holiday season has come to an end, temporary decorations and lights are not allowed to be displayed for more than 90 days. Decorations should be removed by March 1. Holiday decorations and lights are not made to withstand the elements for long periods of time. These materials deteriorate and may become hazardous and unsightly. For more information, call (626) 574-5432 or visit www.ArcadiaCA.gov/CodeServices.