

# City of Malibu

## Mass Evacuation Plan

August 2020



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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Malibu is vulnerable to a variety of hazards that could require a mass evacuation of part, or all the City, including fire, flooding, landslide and tsunami. The 2018 Woolsey Fire, which caused significant damage and involved the full evacuation of the City, demonstrated the need for a comprehensive and coordinated plan.

This Mass Evacuation Plan was developed through a collaborative, multi-agency process. In August 2019, a multi-agency evacuation exercise was held with representatives from Los Angeles County Fire, Sheriff's, Public Works, Beaches and Harbors Departments, Cal Trans, CHP, Beaches and Harbors, Pepperdine, Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, Santa Monica Police Department, and County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office. As a result of the exercise, three working groups were formed to further develop three aspects of the Evacuation Plan: evacuation strategies, traffic management and communication. Each group developed a plan and these three plans have been consolidated into one plan that will serve as a guide to assist the various agencies during evacuations.

### **Goal:**

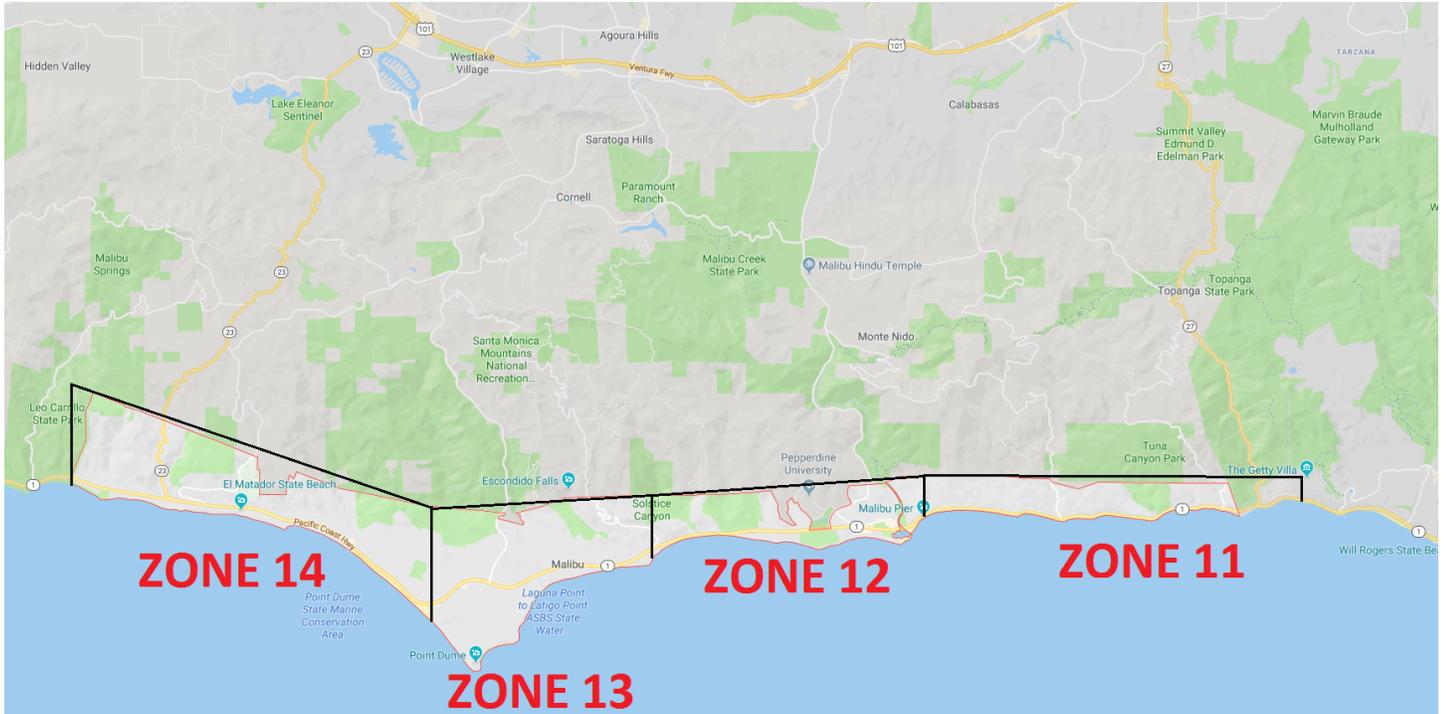
To ensure a safe and effective evacuation of the community during life-threatening emergencies.

### **Objectives:**

- Clarify roles and responsibilities of participating agencies
- Identify evacuation and traffic management strategies
- Establish communication protocols

## EVACUATION ZONES

To maximize the efficiency of any evacuation and to minimize congestion, the City of Malibu has been divided into four evacuation zones. These zones provide clearly defined evacuation areas that can be activated quickly. They can also be used to implement phased evacuations.



### **Zone 11**

Sunset Blvd to Malibu Pier

### **Zone 12**

Latigo Canyon Rd to Malibu Pier

### **Zone 13**

Busch Dr to Latigo Canyon Rd

### **Zone 14**

Ventura County Line to Busch Dr

## INITIAL ACTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Initial actions will depend on what type of action the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Incident Commander (IC) receives from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The three standardized evacuation terms include the following:

- Evacuation Order: Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
- Evacuation Warning: Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- Shelter in Place: Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

### **LASD Personnel Deployment**

The LASD IC will immediately request LASD Response Teams from the Department Operation Center (DOC) and deploy personnel based on the evacuation strategy that is being implemented.

### Ingress Traffic Control

Upon notification of an evacuation, LASD will request Caltrans, CHP, LAPD, Santa Monica PD, and VSO to close some, or all, of the following routes INTO the City of Malibu to immediately reduce traffic congestions inside the affected evacuation areas.

- 1) EB PCH / County Line
- 2) WB PCH / Sunset Blvd
- 3) SB Kanan Rd / Agoura Rd
- 4) SB Las Virgenes Rd / Mulholland Hwy
- 5) SB Topanga Canyon Rd / Mulholland Hwy
- 6) SB Westlake Blvd / Portrero Rd

### Response Organization Notifications

The LASD IC shall notify the following entities for implementation of this evacuation plan.

City of Malibu	310-456-2489 (Public Works)
Cal Trans	323-259-2353
CHP	818-888-0980
LAPD - West LA	310-444-0702
LASD - LHS	818-878-1808
LASD - DOC	323-267-2533
Santa Monica PD	310-395-9931
Ventura County Sheriff's Department	805-654-2311
Department of Public Works	626-458-4357

## **Community Notifications**

The City of Malibu will issue emergency alerts immediately upon notification of an evacuation and will use all appropriate notification platforms including the City's disaster and emergency alert systems, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and Social Media.

Affected residents will be notified of the following:

- 1) Which evacuation route(s) will be used
- 2) Which Safe Refuge Areas are available (if appropriate)
- 3) Shelter locations (outside of evacuation area)
- 4) Large animal shelters (outside of evacuation area)

## EVACUATION ROUTES

These are the five main evacuation routes to be utilized:

- 1) NB Pacific Coast Hwy (to Oxnard)
- 2) Kanan Rd
- 3) Malibu Canyon Rd
- 4) Topanga Canyon Rd(only as needed)
- 5) SB Pacific Coast Hwy (to LA / I-10)

Due to roadway conditions and existing population, every effort shall be made to avoid routing evacuation traffic onto Topanga Canyon Rd, and all other options should be exhausted first. A recent traffic study indicated that evacuating West on PCH was preferable due to the higher capacity for traffic.

The LASD IC will determine which evacuation route shall be utilized, based on the following:

- 1) Incident location
- 2) Incident conditions (weather, wind, road conditions)
- 3) Which Zone(s) need to be evacuated

## SAFE REFUGE AREAS

Safe Refuge Areas are temporary staging areas in a mandatory evacuation. They may also be used to help move traffic off the road to speed up the movement of people out of the immediate danger area. Residents seeking refuge in a Safe Refuge Area will be notified that the Safe Refuge Area is not a 'hard or permanent shelter' and in the event, the evacuation order involves the Safe Refuge Area, those residents will be required to evacuate.

Pre-identified Safe Refuge areas include:

Zuma Beach Parking Lot  
30000 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu, CA 90265

Topanga State Beach Parking Lot  
18700 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Malibu, CA 90265

Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lot  
17000 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Santa Monica Beach Parking Lots  
Pacific Coast Hwy  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

## EVACUATION TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS

Below is a description of the various types of traffic controls that may be used when an evacuation order has been issued within the City of Malibu.

**A** Traffic Control Plan “A” includes the deployment of portable generators to intersections. The portable generators will be placed near the traffic signals on Pacific Coast Highway and will provide temporary power in the event of a power outage. The generators will be deployed to a lockable cage. Emergency equipment will be placed in the lockable cage. This plan will be implemented when SCE issues a Public Safety Power Shutdown or other events that may lead to power outages.

**Responsible Agency** – City of Malibu and Caltrans

**B** Traffic Control Plan “B” includes connecting the portable generators to the signal controller(s) and modify the changeable message signs to provide the community with further instructions. This plan will be implemented when power at the key intersections is lost and traffic is likely to be backed up.

**Responsible Agency** – City of Malibu and Caltrans

**C** Traffic Control Plan “C” includes modifying the signal timing to allow longer green time at key intersections. A switch will be installed within the locked Police panel at the signal cabinet. The switch has the ability to freeze any signal phase to give preferential green time to any road. Only the LASD, CHP, Santa Monica PD, and VSO may use the switch. The switch is intended to keep the officer out of the intersection and operate the traffic signals manually. The officer must stay at the intersection to ensure citizens don’t run the non-priority movement. This traffic plan will be implemented if the LASD determines that traffic is backing up on Pacific Coast Highway and causing delays.

**Responsible Agency** – LASD, CHP, Santa Monica PD and VSO

**D** Traffic Control Plan “D” includes installing traffic control measures at key intersections. This will allow vehicles to access PCH from the canyon or side roads utilizing a dedicated lane (e.g. two-way left-turn lane). Implementing this plan will not require the utilization of the police traffic signal switch changing the preferential green time for canyon or side roads. This approach will require officers to conduct field traffic control measures to temporarily stop oncoming traffic on PCH for implementation. This traffic control plan will be implemented if the LASD determines that traffic has begun backing up on canyon or side roads. Individual traffic control plans for each of the key intersections have been established to guide with the installation of the traffic control measures. A stockpile of traffic control devices would be placed near the intersection for deployment.

**Responsible Agency** – LASD, CHP, Santa Monica PD, and VSO

**E** Traffic Control Plan “E” includes installing additional traffic control measures to increase the number of travel lanes by creating one-way traffic on PCH. This measure, also known as contraflow, is to be implemented only as a last resort due to the time and resources needed to implement.

**Responsible Agency** – LASD, CHP, Santa Monica PD and VSO

## LOGISTICS AND RESPONSIBLE AGENCY MATRIX

The matrix below indicates the equipment needed and agency responsible for implementing each Traffic Control Plan listed on the previous page.

Logistics	Traffic Control Plan						Remarks
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
Deploy portable generators to intersections	X						
Notify Contractors to be on standby	X						
Deploy Safety Equipment	X						
Connect generators to signal controller		X					
Deploy and or modify changeable message signs		X					
Engage and activate switch on signal controller - Longer green cycle			X				
Implement traffic control devices at intersections				X			
Deploy tow trucks to intersections or key locations				X			
Implement traffic control devices to open additional lane on PCH					X		
<b>Responsible Agency</b>							
LASD			X	X	X		
LACFD							
CHP			X	X	X		
City of Malibu	X	X					
Caltrans	X						
LACDPW	X						
VSO							
Santa Monica PD							

## EVACUATION TRAFFIC CONTROL MATRIX FORM

The Traffic Control Plan Matrix form will be used to identify the specific traffic control plan/s to be implemented. During an incident, each responding agency shall send a completed form to all stakeholders to indicate what plan is being used at each impacted intersection. The completed matrix below is an example. It identifies the selected intersections and the appropriate traffic control plan described in Section 3. (Blank form is in the Appendix.)

# EXAMPLE

Incident Name: ABC Fire Responsible Agency: LASD

Date: XX/XX/XXXX Time: 05:00

### Traffic Control Plan Matrix

Intersections	Traffic Control Plan						Remarks (Example: Timeframe, Critical Issues, etc.)
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
Topanga Canyon Rd/PCH			X	X			(09:00-17:00, Shift Change, CHP/Caltrans Coord.)
Big Rock Dr/PCH							
Las Flores and Rambla Pacifico/PCH							
La Costa Beach Club/PCH			X				
Carbon Canyon Rd/PCH							
22310 PCH							
Nobu/PCH							
Malibu Beach Inn/PCH			X				
Malibu Pier/PCH							
Cross Creek Rd/PCH							
Webb Way/PCH			X	X			
Malibu Canyon Rd/PCH			X	X			(09:00 – 17:00, Shift Change, Caltrans Coord.)
John Tyler Dr/PCH							
Corral Canyon Rd/PCH							
Paradise Cove Rd/PCH							
Zumirez Dr/PCH							
KananDume Rd/PCH			X	X			(09:00 – 17:00, Shift Change, Caltrans Coord.)
Heathercliff Rd/PCH							
Busch Dr/PCH							
Morning View Dr/PCH							
Trancas Canyon Rd/PCH							

## **INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION**

### **Preplanning Phase**

When increased fire risk weather is forecasted, LAFD will notify the City of Malibu via email information about the fire weather forecast and planned augmented staffing. In addition, LAFD will conduct an 11:00 am Conference Call to review critical information with impacted cities.

### **Initial Phase of an Incident**

Initial notification of an emergency Incident in Malibu will be made to the City Manager by phone call or text by either the Incident Commander or the Community Services Liaison. For widespread incidents that affect multiple cities, a group text will be sent advising of the incident.

### **During the Incident**

Further details of the incident will be sent via the Incident Commander or Community Services Liaison via text or by personal cell contact. All information will have been vetted by the Incident Commander and held to be factual and credible until otherwise indicated.

## **COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC**

### **Communication from the City of Malibu**

Upon official notification of an evacuation by LAFD or LASD, the City will begin issuing messages using all available and appropriate communication tools. The City will only post incident information that has been approved by the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident. However, the City will post emergency and incident information that is directly under the City's purview. Updated information will be sent as it is received.

Neighborhoods that are under a mandatory evacuation order will receive targeted messages using the City's Disaster Notification System. This system can send a message to a specific area that is drawn on a map and includes landlines, cell phones and e-mails. If warranted, this system is also capable of sending a Wireless Emergency Alert to a broader area.

Messages regarding the evacuation will also be sent out through the City's other communication channels including:

- Nixle
- Civic Plus
- Website – Newsflash
- Social media – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (Main and Public Safety accounts)
- Nextdoor
- TV slides
- TV broadcast crawler

### **Communication from the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff**

Once the Incident Public Information Officer arrives, further details will be disseminated by that Public Information Officer. A Media Release will be constructed by the PIO, vetted and approved by the Incident Commander, and then distributed to City representatives to be shared with the public. In addition, LAFD will distribute information to the public via Social Media Platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, and other local media outlets.

Hourly updates will be provided on the LA County Division VII and Lost Hills Sheriff's Facebook and Twitter page for any incident that affects cities within the Santa Monica Area. This information will come from the Official PIO account and vetted through the Incident Command.

## **REGIONAL COORDINATION**

During an emergency of any level, the City will be in contact and coordination with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, County Public Works, Caltrans, utilities, or any other partner agency that is responding or relevant to the incident.

During a regional emergency declared by the county, state, or federal government, the City will coordinate with the County Office of Emergency Management to ensure unified messaging about incident. In order to ensure unified messaging, the City will only post-incident emergency information that has been approved by the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident. The City may still post-emergency and incident information that is directly under the City's purview.

## **COMMUNICATION WHEN POWER IS OUT**

In the event there is a loss of power and/or cell services, the City will implement the following strategies for distributing information:

- Printed materials to distribute to Emergency Information Stations
- Phone hotline
- Radio PSA for KBU
- Flyers for in-person distribution
- Posters
- Press releases to the media
- Loudspeakers in vehicles

The City will deploy Information Stations (large wooden sandwich boards) to post information when other means of communication are impaired. While the location of the Stations will depend on the situation and where it is needed, pre-identified locations include:

- The entrance to Zuma Beach (near Westward)
- Bluff's Park
- Las Flores Park

In addition, LAFD is prepared to place "Trapline" boards (same as Information Stations) at key safe refuge locations to provide general information to the public and updated every 2-3 hours or when deemed appropriate dependent on the incident progression. Pre-identified locations include:

- Zuma Beach Parking Lot
- Topanga State Beach Park Lots
- Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lots
- Santa Monica Beach Parking Lots

## **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Non-English-Speaking Population**

Spanish is the second most common language spoken in Malibu. Therefore, the City will issue emergency alerts, evacuation notifications and other emergency information in English and Spanish.

### **Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Population**

The City will make every reasonable attempt to locate and assist people with access and functional needs during an emergency. The City will coordinate with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Team members, volunteers with Meals on Wheels, Sheriff's Volunteers on Patrol (VOPs) and other community-based organizations, non-profits and faith groups to conduct wellness checks.

## EVACUATION AND ROAD CLOSURE TERMINOLOGY

<b>Evacuation Order:</b>	Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
<b>Evacuation Warning:</b>	Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
<b>Shelter in Place:</b>	Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
<b>Evacuation Order(s) Lifted:</b>	The formal announcement of lifting evacuations in an area currently under evacuation.
<b>Hard Closure:</b>	Closed to all traffic except fire and law enforcement.
<b>Soft Closure:</b>	Closed to all traffic except Fire, law enforcement and critical incident resources (i.e. Caltrans, city/county roads etc. or those needed to repair or restore infrastructure).
<b>Resident Only Closure:</b>	Soft closure with the additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.