



LOS ANGELES COUNTY Sheriff's Dets. Jeff Lohmann, left, and David Gaisford view the area where the Eaton fire was first spotted in Altadena on Jan. 16. During the blaze, deputies worked through the night on streets lighted by the menacing glow of approaching flames.

Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Rain on the way, but will it end fire season?

An atmospheric river storm could deliver much-needed moisture to SoCal.

BY RONG-GONG LIN II AND GRACE TOOHEY

After an extraordinarily dry start to the year, three atmospheric river storms are expected to hit California over the next week — with one of them potentially bringing much-needed moisture to the still-withered Southland while packing a more powerful and prolonged punch up north.

The latest forecasting models are predicting rain totals will generally not exceed 1½ inches for much of Los Angeles County, though some areas could see considerably less. Such a soaking would benefit vegetation parched by a historically dry start to the water year and has the potential to finally end one of Southern California's most destructive wild-fire seasons.

This storm coupled with the last — which dropped a half an inch to 1½ inches of rain across the L.A. Basin last weekend — could near a total above 2 inches for the season. Experts say it will [See Rain, A8]

COLUMN ONE

As deputies evacuated Altadena's residents, their station faced peril

While team raced in the dark amid the flames, the thought of fleeing was constant

BY KERI BLAKINGER

From the living room of her Riverside County home, Raquel Sandoval watched as her 8-year-old daughter flipped through the TV channels before bed, pausing on the news.

It was wall-to-wall coverage of the Palisades fire that had broken out earlier in the day. At the bottom of the screen, Sandoval spotted a line of text about a fire in Eaton Canyon, two miles east of the historic sheriff's station in the middle of downtown Altadena.

In the 26 years she'd spent working for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Sandoval — a morning shift sergeant — had seen plenty of disasters threaten the communities she policed: earthquakes,

floods and, of course, wildfires. She knew the routine, and knew this would be a long week.

But when she finally set her alarm for 3 a.m. and went to bed, Sandoval still had no idea how bad the blaze was — or how bad it would become.

By the time she woke up, half of Altadena was gone.

Overnight, the fire had grown to 1,000 acres — though it would later spread to more than 14,000 and kill at least 17 people, becoming the second most destructive wildfire in state history. The nature center, the golf course and the assisted living facility nestled at the foot of the canyon had already been destroyed, along with schools, parks and entire neighborhoods.

Deputies had worked through the night, on streets [See Station, A7]



LOHMANN and Gaisford patrol past the Altadena Community Church, one of many familiar landmarks that deputies passed during their shifts and that were destroyed in the Eaton fire.

FCC demands CBS News footage

Request for Harris' '60 Minutes' segment comes amid talks to settle Trump lawsuit.

BY MEG JAMES AND STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

CBS and its "60 Minutes" have long stood as shining beacons of broadcast news.

The Sunday night newsmagazine, with its ubiquitous ticking clock, earned a reputation for not backing down from a fight. For a half-century, the show established the standard for TV investigative reporting with its no-holds-barred questioning of U.S. presidents and others in power.

But a different clock is [See CBS News, A6]

Extra county crews were on duty, then scrambled to Eaton fire

BY REBECCA ELLIS AND GRACE TOOHEY

L.A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone woke up in his San Fernando Valley home Jan. 7 to a swimming pool filled with leaves and

roof shingles.

Marrone's chief deputy, Jon O'Brien, told his boss that his Sierra Madre house felt like it was "going to get blown off the foundation."

Around 6:30 a.m., the two men consulted Windy, a forecast app popular with surf-

ers and sailors, and made a "seat of the pants" call, Marrone recalled.

None of the 900 firefighters on duty would be going home. At 8 a.m., the next shift would join them.

That meant the county had about 1,800 firefighters

available when a fire erupted in Pacific Palisades a few hours later — nearly double the manpower of the city Fire Department, which decided not to keep firefighters on for a second shift that morning.

"I think we viewed the

risk differently" than L.A. city fire officials, Marrone said in an interview.

Marrone's firefighters poured into Pacific Palisades that morning to assist the city, which had been caught flatfooted after [See Altadena, A8]



PEOPLE line up at a street vendor's taco stand in Fontana in 2023. "The street vending community is shaking" from fear of being deported, one vendor said.

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

Trump sows fear in informal economy

Street vendors, caregivers, builders, many others worry about being deported.

BY MARISA GERBER AND MELISSA GOMEZ

As Mario Ramos pushes his ice cream cart through the city, worries course through his mind.

A street vendor in Los Angeles for 20 years, Ramos now carries with him a small red card outlining his constitutional rights in case immi-

gration officers approach him as part of President Trump's vow to carry out mass deportations. He scours the news for information on enforcement operations and has even cut back the hours he spends on the streets to limit his exposure.

"The street vending community is shaking," Ramos said. "This is the era of fear for us."

Ramos, 52, who is in the U.S. illegally, is among the hundreds of thousands of immigrants in the region who lack official work authorization and instead find [See Deportation, A10]

Rubio set to visit Latin America

Secretary of State has to balance aggressive Trump policies with region's willingness to cooperate. **WORLD, A3**

Artists shine at benefit concert

Some of music's biggest names unite at the Kia Forum to aid the Southland's fire victims. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 68/47. **B8**



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