

Palisades Fire: Weather Report and Analysis



Unprecedented Failure, Not Unprecedented Conditions: Palisades Fire Proven to Result Not from Climate Change, but from Negligence and Incompetence

This report concludes that the January 7, 2025 Pacific Palisades fire occurred under historically typical, predictable, and manageable weather conditions, contrary to false public claims of unprecedented or unmanageable factors. Analysis of data from 48 weather stations shows wind speeds were well below hurricane thresholds and did not trigger high wind warnings; drought conditions aligned with normal Southern California climate cycles; and multiple agencies issued accurate early fire weather forecasts. These facts directly refute misleading narratives that extreme conditions caused the fire's spread. The only unprecedented aspect was the failure to contain the fire despite ample warnings and manageable conditions.

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Prologue

This analysis and report, written by Michael Kureth, refutes and disproves the false narrative that "hurricane-force" winds justified the failure observed on January 7, 2025. In fact, no weather station within a 20-mile radius of the Palisades Fire recorded hurricane-force winds on that day. Additionally, the majority of weather stations within that range recorded normal wind speeds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., which have been further corroborated by witness videos. By presenting verified weather station data (not just witness statements or assumptions), this report proves that the wind speeds on January 7 do not constitute a valid excuse for failure. To date, no evidence has been presented by any individual or agency showing that wind speeds reached hurricane force at any time on January 7.

Interactive Wind Speed and Gust Map

The interactive map below presents **wind speed and gust data** observed on **January 7, 2025**, during the Palisades Fire. This map visualizes meteorological conditions and Cal Fire's fire data between **10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**, the critical window during which the fire could have been contained.

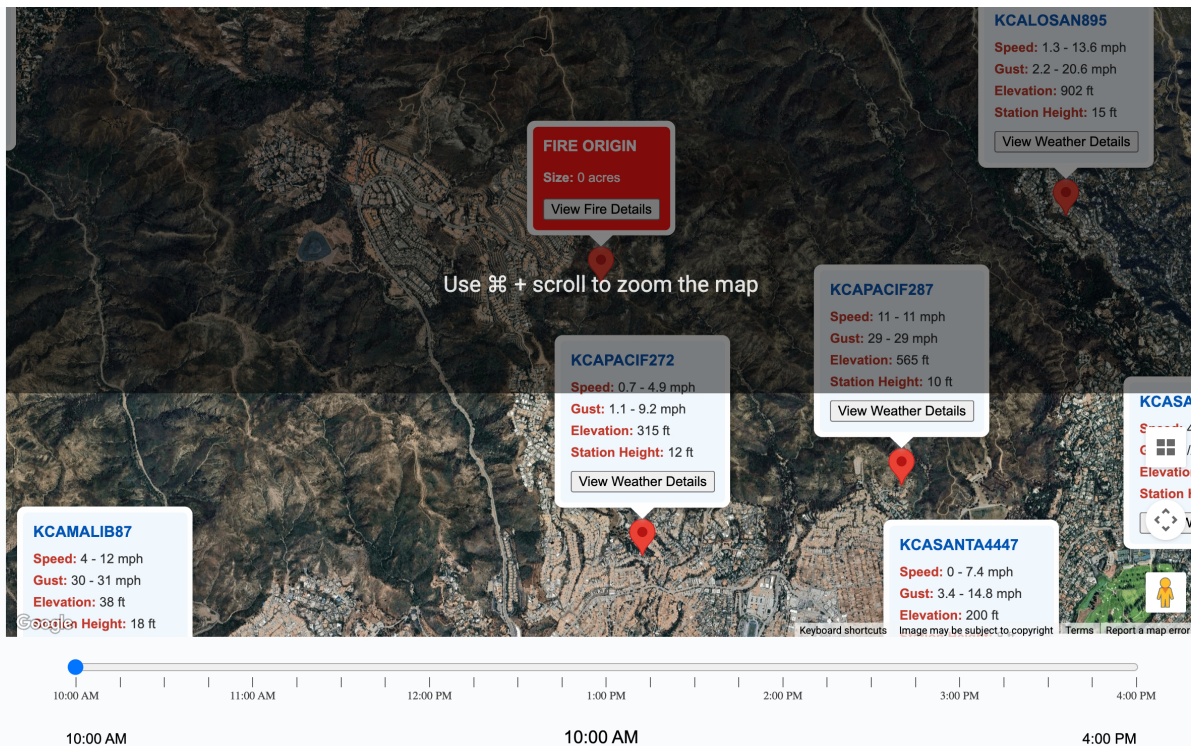
Using the fire's origin point at latitude 34.07022 and longitude -118.54453, **48 nearby weather stations** with wind data were included to provide localized insight into wind speed and gusts through an interactive timeline. **14 stations** that did not report weather data during this period were excluded to maintain accuracy and clarity.

Excluded stations: KCAAGOUR101, KCACALAB72, KCAENCIN812, KCALOSAN1130, KCAMALIB110, KCAMALIB140, KCAMALIB147, KCAMALIB162, KCAPACIF132, KCAPACIF208, KCAPACIF227, KCAPACIF320, KCAPACIF367, and KCATOPAN31.

Map

Satellite





Summary

Purpose of the Report

This report critically examines the weather conditions surrounding the January 7, 2025 Pacific Palisades fire to assess whether claims of unmanageable, unprecedented, or climate change driven conditions are supported by factual data. Drawing from 48 regional weather stations, historical wind records, drought trends, and official forecasts, the analysis finds that the fire occurred under conditions that were historically consistent, predictable, and well within the thresholds of manageable wildfire behavior. Climate change had no demonstrable impact on this specific event, as both the wind patterns and drought conditions align with long-established Southern California climate cycles. Contrary to public assertions, the fire did not burn under hurricane-force winds, nor did it unfold during a record-breaking drought. By analyzing environmental data, including wind speeds, historical comparisons, drought frequency, and the availability of early warnings, this report aims to provide a data-driven foundation for evaluating the emergency response and policy accountability surrounding the event.

Wind Conditions During Peak Fire Spread Were Manageable

On January 7, 2025, wind conditions near Pacific Palisades were not unprecedented and remained well within manageable limits based on historical data from 48 weather stations across the region. During the critical period of potential containment from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (6 hours), when Cal Fire reported the fire expanding from 10 to 200 acres, weather conditions remained manageable. The highest sustained wind speed was 35.7 mph in Malibu (8.6 miles from the fire origin), with the highest gust reaching 44 mph in the Santa Monica Mountains (14.4 miles away from the fire origin) ([Section 1](#), [Section 3](#)). For context, hurricane-force winds begin at 74 mph, with Category 1 hurricanes ranging from 74 to 95 mph. The recorded winds on January 7 were well below this threshold and do not support false claims that the fire spread under hurricane-strength conditions or that it was unmanageable due to record-breaking wind speeds.

Winds Did Not Reach Historical Extremes

Across the full day, the maximum sustained wind of 40.8 mph and top gust of 60 mph remained below the National Weather Service's criteria for a "High Wind Warning," and were not historically extreme ([Section 2](#), [Section 4](#)). In fact, even the Los Angeles weather station, which historically records weaker wind speeds than the areas of Palisades or Malibu, has documented stronger daily winds at least 87 times since 1947, including actual hurricane events with wind speeds exceeding 70 mph ([Section 4](#)). Moreover, 89% of stations reported sustained maximum winds below 30 mph during the containment window, confirming that conditions were not uniformly severe or unmanageable ([Section 3](#)).

Weather Conditions Were Predicted in Advance

These winds were also forecasted days in advance. Between January 3 and January 7, multiple agencies, including the National Weather Service, Southern California Edison, and the City of Malibu, issued early warnings about strong Santa Ana winds, extreme fire danger, and preemptive power shut-offs ([Section 6](#)). This reinforces that the event was predictable and that emergency preparations had already been initiated.

Drought Conditions Were Normal for the Region

The preceding drought, while ongoing, also followed well-known Southern California climate cycles. The 266-day dry spell before the fire was neither record-breaking nor anomalous, and similar patterns of heavy rainfall followed by prolonged drought have occurred repeatedly in the last decade ([Section 5](#)). The false claim that vegetation growth from prior rainfall made this fire uniquely unmanageable is not supported by the well-documented behavior of Mediterranean ecosystems, especially given that, within just the past decade, the region has experienced both longer droughts and greater rainfall preceding dry periods.

Localized Wind Data Confirms Moderate Conditions

Finally, data from the 34 stations located within 10 miles of the fire origin showed that, during the 6-hour containment period, the average maximum sustained wind speed was just 16.77 mph, with average maximum gusts of 24.82 mph ([Section 7](#)). These stations are part of the 44 most valid sources analyzed in the report. These moderate readings further debunk false claims that weather conditions were extraordinary or that they excused failures in containment efforts.

In conclusion, the fire on January 7, 2020, occurred under weather and climate conditions that were not only historically common but also widely forecasted and manageable. Neither wind speeds nor drought conditions were extreme or record-breaking, and no evidence supports the notion that climate change played a direct role in this event. Instead, the only aspect of this fire that can be considered truly unprecedented was the failure to contain it, despite the availability of early warnings, known fire behavior patterns, and decades of historical precedent. Misrepresenting the fire as a product of uncontrollable or climate-driven forces undermines the accountability of fire management agencies and public safety planning, especially when the data makes clear that this was a foreseeable and manageable emergency.

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- Section 2: Wind Conditions Throughout the Day of January 7, 2025
- Section 3: Wind Conditions During Period of Potential Containment (10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- Section 4: Historical Context for Wind Speeds
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- Section 6: Forecasts and Fire Risk Warnings
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Cal Fire's reporting on January 7, 2025, indicates that the fire was initially considered manageable during the hours between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., a period characterized by moderate, historically typical wind conditions. This timeframe is central to evaluating fire management decisions and weather influences, as it encompasses the window in which the fire grew from what was reported as a small, controllable incident to a significantly larger event.

It is important to note that accurate fire size data was not available until the Fire Integrated Real-time Intelligence System (FIRIS) flight recorded its first measurements at 2:11 p.m. on January 7. Prior to that time, Cal Fire relied on estimates.

- **10:30 a.m.:** Cal Fire initially reported the fire at 10 acres.
- **11:06 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.:** Four updates stated the fire remained at 10 acres.
- **11:31 a.m. to 2:31 p.m.:** Fourteen reports cited the fire at 200 acres.

Both the 10-acre and 200-acre figures were guesses, not based on aerial measurements.

- **2:11 p.m.:** FIRIS documented the fire at 771.57 acres.
- **3:17 p.m.:** FIRIS measured the fire at 1,261.52 acres.

These verified measurements confirm the fire was already far larger than Cal Fire's reported figures during the early hours, yet conditions remained moderate, with the highest sustained wind speed in Malibu recorded at 35.7 mph, well below thresholds typically linked to uncontrollable fire behavior.

- **3:34 p.m. to 10:20 p.m.:** Cal Fire issued 20 reports maintaining 1,262 acres.
- **January 8, 12:29 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.:** Eight updates placed the fire at 2,921 acres.
- **January 8, 11:45 a.m.:** Cal Fire reported growth to 11,802 acres.

This analysis centers on the 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. window on January 7, 2025, because it represents the critical period when the fire remained within manageable limits under normal weather conditions. Assertions that the fire was immediately uncontrollable or driven by “unprecedented” winds are not supported by any weather station record.

By contrast, the most significant growth occurred later, with Cal Fire reporting a jump from 2,921 acres to 11,802 acres on the morning of January 8, more than 24 hours after ignition, while containment remained at 0%. This distinction makes it clear why the early containment window should be considered separately from the broader timeline, as it shows both the opportunities for control and the actual influence of weather conditions on initial fire behavior.

[illegible]

Jan 7, 20...	10 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source
Jan 7, 20...	10 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source
Jan 7, 20...	10 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source
Jan 7, 20...	200 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source
Jan 7, 20...	200 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source
Jan 7, 20...	200 acres	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Source

HIGHCHARTS

Data is provided by <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2025/1/7/palisades-fire>

Section 2: Wind Conditions Throughout the Day of January 7, 2025

A review of data from **all 44 weather stations within roughly a 20-mile radius of the fire** shows that winds on January 7 never approached “extreme” levels.

- **Daily peak sustained wind:** 40.8 mph at 10:45 p.m. PST, recorded at Station **KCAMALIB52 (Malibu, 8.6 miles from the fire)**.
 - Since archived records begin in 1947, there have been **26 separate days** with sustained winds ≥ 40.8 mph at the same or neighboring stations, so the January 7 maximum is well within the historical range.
- **Peak gust:** 60 mph (same station, 10:50 p.m.).
 - For context, *hurricane-force* winds start at 74 mph wind speed (Category 1: 74–95 mph). The strongest gust (not meeting the minimum requirement of wind speeds) on January 7 was **14 mph below** that threshold.
- **Typical station readings:**
 - 35 of 44 stations (≈ 80 %) never rose above **30 mph** sustained all day.
 - The Los Angeles International Airport station (**KLAX**) topped out at **29 mph** sustained at 8:00 p.m.; there have been **453 days** with equal or stronger winds at KLAX since 1947.

**See Anomalies section below. Four of the 48 stations were excluded due to anomalies: one station consistently reported wind speeds approximately twice as high as neighboring stations and was classified as an outlier, while three others reported wind speeds of zero throughout the day, indicating likely sensor malfunction or data loss.*

Pacific Palisades Fire: Highest Wind Speed Analysis by Station Proximity to Fire Origin (January 7, 2025)					
Station	Highest Recorded Wind Speed		Highest Recorded Wind Gust		Distance from Fire Origin
	Wind Speed Time	Wind Speed High	Wind Gust Time	Wind Gust High	
KCAMALIB108	5:45 AM	21.9 mph	8:45 AM	30.9 mph	14.3 miles
KCATOPAN55	8:15 AM	26.8 mph	8:45 PM	52.8 mph	3.3 miles
KCACALAB70	9:00 AM	28.1 mph	9:00 AM	39.3 mph	6.0 miles
KCATOPAN28	9:15 AM	14.3 mph	8:00 PM	22.8 mph	3.9 miles
KCATOPAN68	9:30 AM	10.5 mph	6:45 PM	19.5 mph	2.5 miles
KCAMALIB114	10:00 AM	39.0 mph	10:00 AM	39.0 mph	19.1 miles
KCAMALIB166	10:15 AM	23.5 mph	10:15 AM	36.9 mph	16.9 miles
KCATOPAN62	11:15 AM	6.9 mph	11:15 AM	9.8 mph	4.3 miles

HIGHCHARTS

Weather Data is provided by <https://weather.com>

Section 3: Wind Conditions During Period of Potential Containment (10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Cal Fire reported the fire's growth from 10 acres to 200 acres during this six-hour interval, yet winds remained moderate and stable:

- **Highest sustained wind: 35.7 mph at 12:15 p.m.** from Station **KCAMALIB52 (Malibu, 8.6 miles from fire)**.
 - Historical check: there have been **87 days** since 1947 with sustained winds ≥ 35.7 mph, underscoring that such speeds are routine for the area.
- **Highest gust: 42.9 mph** at 11:55 a.m. from **KCAMALIB158**, a station at White Cloud Ranch in Santa Monica Mountains (14.4 miles from fire).
- **Regional consistency:**

- 40 of 44 stations (≈ 91 %) recorded sustained winds ≤ 30 mph throughout the window, with little directional variability.
- No station registered gusts that met or exceeded the National Weather Service “High Wind Warning” threshold (sustained ≥ 40 mph and gusts ≥ 58 mph).

Taken together, these observations confirm that fire-line conditions were **well below hurricane force and comfortably within the historical norms for Southern California winter wind events**. Claims that the Palisades Fire was driven by unprecedented or unmanageable winds are not supported by the meteorological record.

Pacific Palisades Fire: Wind Conditions During Potential Containment Window (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)					
Station	Highest Recorded Wind Speed		Highest Recorded Wind Gust		Distance from Fire Origin
	Wind Speed Time	Wind Speed High	Wind Gust Time	Wind Gust High	
KCAWOODL8	10:30 AM	28.0 mph	10:45 AM	29.0 mph	5.2 miles
KCACALAB70	10:45 AM	20.5 mph	10:45 AM	31.3 mph	6.0 miles
KCALOSAN872	10:45 AM	31.0 mph	2:45 PM	37.0 mph	9.1 miles
KCAMALIB151	10:45 AM	10.1 mph	10:30 AM	20.4 mph	14.7 miles
KCAMALIB87	10:45 AM	21.0 mph	3:30 PM	29.0 mph	3.2 miles
KCAMALIB114	11:00 AM	33.0 mph	11:00 AM	33.0 mph	19.1 miles
KCAMALIB166	11:00 AM	18.3 mph	10:45 AM	29.5 mph	16.9 miles
KCAMALIB61	11:00 AM	24.6 mph	10:30 AM	34.2 mph	19.3 miles
Weather Data is provided by https://weather.com					

Wind During Potential Containment [Download](#)

Section 4: Historical Context for Wind Speeds

Wind conditions on January 7, 2025, during the Palisades Fire, were **within historical norms** and do not support claims of **extreme or unprecedented weather**. Analysis from **44 nearby weather stations** shows that, during the **critical containment window between 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**, the highest recorded wind speed came from Station KCAMALIB52 in Malibu. At 12:15 p.m., this station recorded **sustained winds of 35.7 mph**. Based on historical data dating back to 1947, there have been **87 days with wind speeds equal to or exceeding this value**, demonstrating that such conditions are not rare.

Over the course of the entire day, the highest wind speed again came from the same Malibu station, **peaking at 40.8 mph at 10:45 p.m.** Even this daily maximum is not historically significant; there have been **26 days since 1947 with equal or higher wind speeds**.

Additionally, Station KLAX, located at Los Angeles International Airport, recorded a **maximum sustained wind speed of 29 mph at 8:00 p.m.** on the same day. Since 1947, there have been **453 days with equal or greater wind speeds** than this KLAX measurement.

For context, **hurricane-force winds begin at 74 mph**, with Category 1 hurricanes ranging from 74 to 95 mph. The wind speeds recorded on January 7, 2025, **fell far below these thresholds** and were consistent with **typical seasonal wind events** in the region. There is **no meteorological basis** for the assertion that the fire's growth occurred under **hurricane-strength or historically extreme wind conditions**.

Pacific Palisades Fire: Historical Context for Wind Speeds	
Date	Wind Speed Max
Jan 28, 1947	28 mph
Nov 5, 1947	30 mph
Dec 29, 1947	28 mph
Apr 3, 1947	39 mph
Nov 17, 1948	30 mph
Nov 26, 1948	36 mph
Feb 5, 1948	32 mph
Feb 10, 1948	29 mph
Weather Data is provided by https://weather.com	
	

Historic Wind Speeds [Download](#)

Section 5: Historical Context for Drought Occurrences

Drought conditions leading up to the Palisades Fire were neither exceptional nor record-breaking when compared to recent regional patterns. Based on 11 years of available precipitation data beginning March 26, 2014, multi-month droughts are common in the Los Angeles region, and the patterns of substantial rainfall followed by extended dry periods are well-documented.

The drought most cited in media reports began on April 16, 2024, and ended after the fire on January 26, 2025, lasting 285 days with only 0.16 inches of rain. However, the 180 days prior to the drought saw 19.44 inches of rainfall. While some attribute increased fire risk to vegetation growth from this rain, similar patterns have occurred frequently. For example, from March 31 to August 20, 2023, only 0.65 inches of rain fell over 142 days, following a 180-day period with 23.18 inches of precipitation. These sequences of high rainfall followed by drought are typical in Southern California’s Mediterranean climate and not inherently exceptional.

As of the day of the fire on January 7, 2025, the drought had lasted only 266 days, shorter than the 275-day drought ending January 9, 2018. Other comparable events include a 260-day drought ending December 27, 2020, and a 257-day drought ending November 20, 2019. The rainfall prior to the 2025 Palisades Fire drought also does not represent a record high, with higher totals documented in prior years.

Given the relatively short 11-year dataset, more extreme droughts likely occurred before records were made available for the region. Within this limited timeframe, however, neither the length nor the conditions of the drought preceding the Palisades Fire stand out as unusual. Assertions that the fire was driven by unprecedented drought or vegetation growth are not supported by the available data.

Pacific Palisades Fire: Historical Context for Drought Occurrences								
Drought Period				Precipitation between Drought Periods				180 Days Before
Start Date	End Date	Total Days	Total Precipitation	Start Date	End Date	Total Days	Total Precipitation	
Jan 12, 2015	Jul 18, 2015	187 days	1.5 inches	Nov 13, 2014	Jan 12, 2015	60 days	6.3 inches	6.7 inches
Jul 20, 2015	Sep 14, 2015	56 days	0.0 inches	Jul 19, 2015	Jul 20, 2015	1 days	0.3 inches	1.8 inches
Sep 17, 2015	Dec 19, 2015	93 days	0.3 inches	Sep 15, 2015	Sep 17, 2015	2 days	1.8 inches	2.7 inches
Jan 8, 2016	Feb 17, 2016	40 days	0.2 inches	Dec 20, 2015	Jan 8, 2016	19 days	3.6 inches	6.1 inches
Mar 13, 2016	May 7, 2016	55 days	0.4 inches	Feb 18, 2016	Mar 13, 2016	24 days	2.1 inches	8.1 inches
May 9, 2016	Nov 20, 2016	195 days	0.4 inches	May 8, 2016	May 9, 2016	1 days	0.6 inches	7.1 inches
Nov 22, 2016	Dec 15, 2016	23 days	0.4 inches	Nov 21, 2016	Nov 22, 2016	1 days	0.8 inches	1.1 inches
Weather Data is provided by https://weather.com								

Historic Drought Occurrences [Download](#)

Section 6: Forecasts and Fire Risk Warnings

Media outlets have falsely claimed that the winds driving the Palisades Fire were “unforeseen.” In fact, between January 3 and January 7, 2025, the National Weather Service, Southern California Edison, and the City of Malibu issued at least five public alerts warning of an imminent Santa Ana wind event and “extreme” fire-weather conditions. Although the strongest sustained winds and gusts ultimately fell short of the 60- to 90-mph values mentioned in those forecasts, the advance warnings, covering power shut-offs, road closures, and Red Flag conditions, made it clear that elevated fire danger was anticipated well before the first flames appeared.

Timeline of Advance Warnings

Date & Time (PST)	Issuing Agency	Key Message
Fri Jan 3 – 6:55 a.m.	NWS – Area Forecast Discussion	Noted scenarios “ranging from a widespread damaging windstorm and extreme fire-weather risk to weaker offshore flow” for Tue–Thu (Jan 7–9).
Sat Jan 4 – 8:00 p.m.	SCE – PSPS Watch	Announced 363,196 customers (including all of Malibu) were at risk of planned shut-offs starting as early as Tue Jan 7 because of forecast winds.
Sun Jan 5 – 4:55 a.m.	City of Malibu – Alert	Cited NWS projections of 60–80 mph coastal gusts and 90 mph mountain gusts; repeated SCE blackout warning for Tue–Wed.
Mon Jan 6 – 12:00 p.m.	City of Malibu – Red Flag Warning	Declared “widespread, extremely dangerous fire conditions” from 4 a.m. Tue Jan 7 to 6 p.m. Thu Jan 9; urged residents to prepare for fires, evacuations, road closures (Topanga Cyn), and PSPS.

Tue Jan 7 – 9:00 a.m.	SCE – Power Shut-Off Initiated	712,769 customers notified; 363,196 de-energized. PSPS activated ahead of peak winds
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Key take-aways

- Each alert explicitly linked strong Santa Ana winds (forecast up to 80–90 mph in exposed areas) with extreme fire danger.
- Residents, utilities, and fire agencies had 72–96 hours of notice that critical fire-weather conditions would begin the morning of January 7.
- The power shut-off program, road closures, and activation plans for Malibu’s Emergency Operations Center were in place before the first smoke column was reported.

Consequently, claims that the wind event, and by extension the fire behavior, was “unforeseen” are contradicted by the documented sequence of official warnings issued days in advance.

Section 7: Weather Station Data and Anomalies

The analysis for this report draws on data from **44 of 62 regional weather stations**, with 3 stations excluded due to anomalies that rendered their readings unreliable along with 14 additional which recorded no weather data for the day. All stations are provided and documented for further review with their address, zip code, and distance from the fire origin.

If these outlier stations were included in the analysis, the result would be a lower wind speed average due to these stations recording 0 mph wind speeds.

Anomalies Omitted

- **KCALOSAN842, KCASANTA4733, KCASANTA630:** These three stations reported zero wind and gust values throughout January 7, 2025, including during the critical fire spread period. Their inactivity suggests offline or non-functional status during data collection.
- **KCAAGOUR101, KCACALAB72, KCAENCIN812, KCALOSAN1130, KCAMALIB110, KCAMALIB140, KCAMALIB147, KCAMALIB162, KCAPACIF132, KCAPACIF208, KCAPACIF227, KCAPACIF320, KCAPACIF367, KCATOPAN31:** There fourteen stations reported no weather activity on January 7, 2025.

Wind Conditions During the Manageable Window

While data from all 44 valid stations were reviewed, **special attention should be given to the 34 stations located within 10 miles of the fire origin** to assess conditions during the most critical window, from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, when Cal Fire still reported the blaze as manageable.

Across these 34 stations, the **average maximum sustained wind speed** during this timeframe was **16.77 mph**, and the **average maximum wind gust** was **24.82 mph**. The average maximum values are calculated by the mean of each station’s highest recorded wind speed and gust between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on January 7, 2025. Average maximum should not be confused with the daily average which equates to only 6.2 mph average wind speed and 10.2 mph average wind gust for the 34 weather stations located within 10 miles of the fire origin. Maximum average is calculated from the maximum values throughout the time period.

These values fall well within the range of normal seasonal variation and provide clear evidence that, during the early hours of the fire, weather conditions were moderate and did not reflect the extreme or uncontrollable forces some later claimed.

Section 8: LACoFD 69 Bravo – Station KCATOPAN8 (No Hurricane)

On January 7, 2025, the only weather station that recorded wind speeds even remotely approaching hurricane-force levels was LACoFD 69 Bravo – Station KCATOPAN8. All other nearby stations reported average wind speeds at roughly half the intensity of those measured at this Los Angeles County Fire Department operated station. As previously noted, KCATOPAN8 is located approximately 3.94 miles from the origin of the Palisades Fire and sits at an elevation of 2,438 feet, with its wind sensor mounted 20 feet above ground.

During the fire containment window (10:30 AM to 4:00 PM), the highest sustained wind speed recorded by KCATOPAN8 was 50.4 MPH at 3:39 PM. All other sustained winds during that period were below 50 MPH.

The single highest sustained wind reading, 76 MPH, was recorded at 7:44 PM. However, this peak was not sustained over time. Just minutes earlier, the wind speed was 46 MPH, and five minutes later, it had fallen to 61.6 MPH. This brief spike does not meet the criteria for hurricane-force winds, which are defined as sustained speeds of 75 MPH or greater (Category 1). A momentary surge sandwiched between significantly lower values cannot be considered hurricane-force by any meteorological standard.

It is also important to note that by 7:44 PM, most of the Palisades had already been destroyed. The Los Angeles County Fire Department had abandoned the community at least four hours earlier, leaving residents without protection as the fire advanced. Therefore, citing the 7:44 PM wind reading as justification for operational decisions made much earlier in the day is both misleading and inconsistent with the facts on the ground.

No weather station within 20 miles of the Palisades Fire recorded sustained hurricane-force winds on January 7, 2025. This is a fact back by all data records. A hurricane trophy cannot be given to the wind just for showing up for the day. And it is not a valid excuse.

Complete weather data for the Palisades Fire from Station KCATOPAN8 is provided below.

KCATOPAN8–2025-01-06 [Download](#)

KCATOPAN8–2025-01-07 [Download](#)

- KCATOPAN8-2025-01-08Download
- KCATOPAN8-2025-01-09Download
- KCATOPAN8-2025-01-10Download
- KCATOPAN8-2025-01-11Download

Section 9: Fire Environment Management System (FEMS) Stations (No Hurricane)

To strengthen the robustness of the wind data analysis, five additional professionally managed weather stations from the **Fire Environment Management System (FEMS)** have been incorporated. FEMS is a specialized wildland fire application that integrates weather and fuel data to support operational readiness and risk assessment. It includes weather observations from **Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)** and fuel moisture measurements from the **Field Sample Database (FSD)** (formerly the National Fuel Moisture Database).

The following five RAWS stations were selected based on proximity to the January 7, 2025 fire ignition area. The data collected reinforces the conclusion that, while the event involved significant wind activity consistent with Santa Ana conditions, it did **not** reach hurricane-force levels (defined as sustained winds ≥ 74 MPH).

Station	ID	Max Wind	Max Gust	Elevation (ft)	Distance from Fire Origin
Leo Carrillo, CA	CLEO (45447)	27 MPH at 10AM	55 MPH at 11PM	1,575	5.8 miles
Malibu Canyon, CA	CMCN (45452)	18 MPH at 11AM	54 MPH at 9PM	1,260	8.4 miles
Malibu Hills, CA	CMAL (45433)	52 MPH at 11PM	84 MPH at 11PM	610	9.1 miles
Beverly Hills, CA	CBEV (45442)	30 MPH at 8PM	71 MPH at 8PM	1,707	12.8 miles
Cheeseboro, CA	CCHB (45313)	38 MPH at 11AM	69 MPH at 10PM	50	22.5 miles

While some stations, particularly CMAL and CBEV, recorded **gusts in the 70–80 MPH range**, **none** reported sustained winds approaching hurricane strength. The highest sustained wind recorded among this set was **52 MPH** at CMAL at 11:00 PM.

This supplemental data confirms that although wind conditions were elevated and conducive to fire spread, especially at higher elevations, they remained within the historical norms of Santa Ana events in the region.

Full FEMS data for the duration of the Palisades Fire for each station is available below:

- CBEVDownload
- CCHBDownload
- CLEODownload
- CMALDownload
- CMCNDownload

Additional analysis based on the FEMS stations is available in the [Palisades Fire: Burn Risk Report and Analysis](#).

Appendix A: Weather Stations

Pacific Palisades Fire: Weather Stations and Details						
Station Information			Distance from Key Points			Anomaly
Station	Name	Address	Fire Origin	KCATOPAN	KLAX	
KCAAGOUR101	Lobo View Estate	Agoura Hills, CA 9...	~ 15.44 miles	~ 13.10 miles	~ 26.65 miles	
KCABEVER36	Benedict Canyon/...	Beverly Hills, CA 9...	~ 7.69 miles	~ 9.80 miles	~ 12.35 miles	
KCACALAB70	BRYANTWX	Calabasas, CA 91...	~ 6.05 miles	~ 4.12 miles	~ 18.78 miles	
KCACALAB72	Mulholland Hwy	Calabasas, CA 91...	~ 7.62 miles	~ 5.29 miles	~ 19.41 miles	
KCAENCIN812	Chocolate Rain	Encino, CA 91316,...	~ 5.12 miles	~ 6.72 miles	~ 14.27 miles	
KCALOSAN1017	Deerbrook	Los Angeles, CA 9...	~ 4.31 miles	~ 6.64 miles	~ 10.18 miles	

KCALOSAN1130	Delfino	Los Angeles, CA 9...	~ 7.62 miles	~ 9.95 miles	~ 7.73 miles
KCALOSAN1201	Michael's Mar Vist	Los Angeles, CA 9...	~ 7.88 miles	~ 10.12 miles	~ 6.17 miles

HIGHCHARTS

January 7, 2025 weather data is available to download for each station.

Distance from Fire:
The weather station distance in miles from the origin of the fire.

Distance from KCATOPAN8:
The weather station distance from 69 Bravo Helistop where high winds were reported.

Distance from KLAX:
The weather station distance from the LAX station with records dating back to 1947.

Anomaly:
Excluded from reports due to descriptions above.

Appendix B: Wind Calculations

For all reports and data, we consistently use maximum values. Specifically, for each 15-minute interval, the greatest “Wind Gust High” value observed during that time is selected to represent the interval. This approach significantly streamlines the organization of data gathered from numerous sources.

Please note that the ‘Gust’ displayed on the source page corresponds to the ‘Wind Gust Avg’ from the weather.com API call. While the API provides more detailed information, including ‘Wind Gust High,’ ‘Wind Gust Low,’ and ‘Wind Gust Avg,’ only ‘Gust’ is visible on the source page. However, the complete dataset is accessible through the page’s source code and directly via the weather.com API.

Source page example shown:
<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCAMALIB158/table/2025-01-07/2025-01-07/daily>

Daily Wind Gust Analysis

In the raw data seen below, the highest values are identified within each 15 minute interval.

Time	Wind Gust High (mph)	Wind Gust Low (mph)	Wind Gust Avg (mph)
09:54 AM	44.5	17.9	33.2
09:59 AM	44.5	17.9	34.4
10:04 AM	41.6	25.3	35.7
10:09 AM	40.0	26.6	34.6
10:14 AM	35.6	23.7	29.7
10:19 AM	23.7	7.4	16.5
10:24 AM	34.0	11.9	24.2
10:29 AM	25.3	8.9	15.0
10:34 AM	32.7	16.3	29.0
10:39 AM	20.8	11.9	17.2
10:42 AM	35.6	19.2	29.9

Maximum High Wind Gust Recorded

As seen in the table below, the highest values from each time period closest to the 15 minute interval are used for analysis.

Time	Wind Gust High (mph)
10:00 AM	44.5
10:15 AM	40.0
10:30 AM	34.0
10:45 AM	35.6

Revisions

September 24, 2025

- Revised "Section 1: Cal Fire Reporting Timeline and Wind Conditions" to distinguish Fire Integrated Real-time Intelligence System (FIRIS) accurate acre data from estimates recorded by Cal Fire

July 18, 2025

- Added "Section 8: LACoFD 69 Bravo – Station KCATOPAN8 (No Hurricane)"
- Added "Section 9: Fire Environment Management System (FEMS) Stations (No Hurricane)"

June 3, 2025

- Prepended "Wind" to title to make clear this is the first of many reports

June 1, 2025

- Corrected all weather station names
- Corrected all weather station lat and lng
- Recalculated distances based on correct lat and lng
- Updated report for all station mile distances

May 30, 2025

- Added height to stations for "Interactive Wind Speed and Gust Map"

May 28, 2025

- Included "Interactive Wind Speed and Gust Map"

May 25, 2025

- Initial report launch

Credit



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