City of Malibu

Mass Evacuation Plan
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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, land slide 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, California Highway Patrol, Beaches and Harbors, Pepperdine, Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, Santa Monica Police Department, Ventura County Sheriff’s Office 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

When the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) Incident Commander (IC) receives evacuation orders from Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) for the City of Malibu, the LASD IC will make decisions based on the following:

1) Whether Fire is requesting a Voluntary or Mandatory Evacuation
   a. **Mandatory Evacuation**: Applies to all people due to an immediate threat to life and property.
   b. **Voluntary Evacuation**: Issued when an incident is not an immediate threat to life and property but has the potential to be if the situation worsens. However, out of an abundance of caution to ensure the preservation of life, residents with large animals and vulnerable populations (elderly, ill, without transportation, etc) shall be subject to a Mandatory Evacuation during this time.

2) Which Malibu Evacuation Zones will be impacted

3) Which Evacuation Routes will be used

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

**Ingress Traffic Control**
Upon notification of an evacuation, LASD will request Caltrans, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Santa Monica PD, and Ventura County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO) 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 / Porterero 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)
CalTrans                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
VCSO                    805-654-2311
Department of Public Works 626-458-4357

Community Notifications
The LASD and the City of Malibu will use all appropriate notification platforms including: Social Media, Alert LA, Malibu’s disaster and emergency alert systems, and WEA.

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

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. In addition, traffic studies indicate that evacuating west on PCH is generally 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
4) Current traffic conditions

**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. Individuals seeking refuge in a Safe Refuge Area will be notified that the Safe Refuge Area is not a ‘permanent shelter’ and they will be required to evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.

Pre-identified Safe Refuge areas include:

Zuma Beach Parking Lot  
30000 Pacific Coast Highway

Topanga State Beach Parking Lot  
18700 Pacific Coast Hwy

Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lot  
17000 Pacific Coast Hwy

Santa Monica Beach Parking Lots  
Pacific Coast Hwy
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 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 on-coming 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Traffic Control Plan</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deploy portable generators to intersections</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notify Contractors to be on standby</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deploy Safety Equipment</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect generators to signal controller</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deploy and or modify changeable message signs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage and activate switch on signal controller - Longer green cycle</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement traffic control devices at intersections</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deploy tow trucks to intersections or key locations</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement traffic control devices to open additional lane on PCH</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Responsible Agency**

| LASD         | ✔️ | ✔️ | ✔️ |
| LACoFD       | ✔️ |     |     |
| CHP          |     | ✔️ | ✔️ | ✔️ |
| City of Malibu | ✔️ | ✔️ |     |
| 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Name: ABC Fire</th>
<th>Responsible Agency: LASD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: XX/XX/XXXX</td>
<td>Time: 05:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Traffic Control Plan Matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersections</th>
<th>Traffic Control Plan</th>
<th>Remarks (Example: Timeframe, Critical Issues, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topanga Canyon Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Rock Dr/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Flores and Rambla Pacifico/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Costa Beach Club/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Canyon Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22310 PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobu/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malibu Beach Inn/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malibu Pier/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Creek Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webb Way/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malibu Canyon Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tyler Dr/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corral Canyon Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Cove Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zumirez Dr/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanan Dume Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathercliff Rd/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busch Dr/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning View Dr/PCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trancas Canyon Rd/PCH</td>
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INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION

Preplanning Phase
When increased fire risk weather is forecasted, LACoFD will notify the City of Malibu via email information about the fire weather forecast and planned augmented staffing. In addition, LACoFD 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 LACoFD or LASD, the City will begin issuing messages using all available and appropriate communication tools. 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)

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 to the public 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 voice or text message to a specific area that is drawn on a map and includes land lines, cell phones and e-mails. If warranted, this system is also capable of sending a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) to a broader area.

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

- Nixle
- Civic Plus (City website)
- Website – Newsflash
- Social media – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (Main and Public Safety accounts)
- Nextdoor
- TV slides and broadcast crawler
- KBUU-FM
Communication from the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff
Once the Incident Public Information Officer (PIO) arrives, further details will be disseminated by that PIO. A media release will be constructed by the PIO, vetted and approved by the Incident Commander, and then distributed to the media. In addition, LACoFD will distribute information to the public via their social media platforms.

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

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 KBUU-FM
- Flyers for in-person distribution
- 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)
- Malibu Bluffs Park
- Las Flores Creek Park

In addition, LACoFD is prepared to place bulletin boards (same as Information Stations) at key safe refuge locations to provide general information to the public which will be 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 parking lots
- Will Rogers State Beach parking lots
- Santa Monica Beach parking lots

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMUNICATION

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.