



PUBLIC-RECORD DOSSIER

EATON FIRE

2025 · Los Angeles County

About this dossier

This is a single-document compilation of the public record on the Eaton Fire: what happened, where the litigation stands, what has been paid, and how the story has been reported. Every figure and date names the court, agency, or company that published it, and the date that source carries.

What this is, and is not. This document reports the public record as of the date it was compiled. It describes the fire, the cases, and published figures across groups of people. It does not assess any individual's situation, predict any outcome, or state whether any person can take legal action. Only a licensed California attorney can evaluate an individual's circumstances. Deadlines and case status change; verify against the sources named here.

The fire at a glance

Year	2025
Region	Los Angeles County
Counties	Los Angeles
Communities	Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Kinneloa Mesa, East Pasadena
Acres burned	14,021
Structures destroyed	9,419
Structures damaged	1,076
Lives lost	19
Cause	Confirmed
Responsible party	Southern California Edison equipment

Driven by hurricane-force Santa Ana winds, the fire spread rapidly into Altadena and surrounding foothill communities, prompting large-scale evacuation orders across the area. It became one of the most destructive wildfires in California history by structures lost.

Cause

The cause is officially determined. On August 4, 2026 the Los Angeles County Fire Department released the origin and cause investigation it conducted jointly with CAL FIRE (case 25CALAC-009087). Its conclusion: the Eaton Fire was caused by electrical arcing on an out-of-service Southern California Edison transmission tower carrying the idle Mesa-Sylmar circuit. The arcing ejected hot metal particles that fell into the dry vegetation below the towers and ignited it. Investigators fixed the electrical event at approximately 6:11 p.m. on January 7, 2025, and the fuel bed ignited roughly twelve seconds later. Lightning, campfire, and arson were each considered and excluded.

Official cause determination

The finding. The Eaton Fire was caused by electrical arcing events on the out-of-service Southern California Edison Mesa-Sylmar circuit tower. The arcing occurred at the southwest conductor paddle and ejected hot metal particles into the receptive fuel bed of dry vegetation below the towers, causing ignition.

Determined by	Los Angeles County Fire Department Arson Fire Investigation Unit, jointly with CAL FIRE
Case number	25CALAC-009087
Lead investigator	Rick Yartz, Fire Captain and Investigator, LACoFD
Methodology	National Wildfire Coordinating Group FI-210
Electrical event	6:11 p.m., January 7, 2025
Seconds to ignition	Approximately 12
Initial report signed	May 22, 2025
Supplemental report signed	July 22, 2026
Publicly released	August 4, 2026

Causes considered and excluded

Lightning, Campfire, Arson or incendiary act. Each was named in the report and eliminated on evidence, not by omission.

The released documents

- Eaton Fire Investigation Report (initial, redacted, 55 pages), Los Angeles County Fire Department and CAL FIRE, May 22, 2025
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214310_EatonArsonInvestigationReportFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf
- Eaton Fire Investigation Supplemental Report (redacted), Los Angeles County Fire Department and CAL FIRE, July 22, 2026
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214311_EatonSupplementalFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf
- LACoFD press release, investigative reports on the cause of the Eaton Fire, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, August 4, 2026
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214306_EatonPressRelease08-04-26.pdf
- County of Los Angeles After Action Review, document library, County of Los Angeles, August 4, 2026
<https://lacounty.gov/aar>

Both released documents are redacted. The County of Los Angeles states this is because the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has an ongoing review of the evidence, and to protect the privacy of individuals. The two documents do not report identical casualty and damage figures; this dossier uses the later supplemental report. A full page by page reading is published at <https://cawildfirelawsuits.com/fires/eaton-fire-2025/official-cause/>

An origin and cause determination establishes how a fire started. It is an investigative finding, not a court judgment on legal liability.

Litigation status

Litigation filed. Status as of August 5, 2026, per [County of Los Angeles Fire Department](#).

Following the Eaton Fire, numerous lawsuits were filed naming Southern California Edison and related entities. The cases are consolidated for pretrial purposes before the Los Angeles Superior Court, lead case Gursey v. Southern California Edison, No. 25STCV00731, assigned to the Hon. Laura A. Seigle in Department 17. Case Management Order 11 and Amended Case Management Order 13 set the first bellwether trial for January 25, 2027. On August 4, 2026 the Los Angeles County Fire Department and CAL FIRE released their origin and cause investigation, concluding that electrical arcing on an out-of-service SCE transmission tower caused the fire. A fire agency origin and cause determination is an investigative finding, not a court judgment, and the question of legal liability remains before the court. The Los Angeles County District Attorney has a separate ongoing review of the evidence, which is the stated reason large portions of both released reports are redacted.

Key figures on the public record

FIGURE	VALUE AND SOURCE
Insurance paid, residential	\$7,388,086,010 <i>CA Dept of Insurance, March 3, 2026</i>
SCE program: offered to date	Over \$743 million <i>Southern California Edison, July 16, 2026</i>
SCE program: claim submission date	November 30, 2026 <i>Southern California Edison, July 16, 2026</i>
First bellwether trial	January 25, 2027 <i>LA Superior Court, CMO 11 / Amended CMO 13, May 29, 2026</i>
Lead case	Gursey v. SCE, No. 25STCV00731 (Judge Seigle, Dept. 17) <i>LA Superior Court, CMO 1, March 17, 2025</i>
Official cause determination released	August 4, 2026 <i>LACoFD press release, August 4, 2026</i>
Investigation case number	25CALAC-009087 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE investigation report, August 4, 2026</i>
Time of the electrical event	Approximately 6:11 p.m., January 7, 2025 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE investigation report, August 4, 2026</i>
Seconds from falling material to ignition	Approximately 12 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE investigation report, August 4, 2026</i>
Initial investigation report signed	May 22, 2025 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE investigation report, August 4, 2026</i>
Supplemental report signed	July 22, 2026 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, August 4, 2026</i>
Lives lost	19 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, July 22, 2026</i>

FIGURE	VALUE AND SOURCE
Structures destroyed	9,419 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, July 22, 2026</i>
Structures damaged	1,076 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, July 22, 2026</i>
Acres burned	14,021 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, July 22, 2026</i>
Firefighter injuries	9 <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE supplemental report, July 22, 2026</i>
Ranking in California history	Fifth deadliest, second most destructive <i>LACoFD and CAL FIRE investigation report, August 4, 2026</i>

Insured losses (residential property)

Amount paid to date	\$7,388,086,010
Claims filed	22,890
Claims with payment	22,367

Source: California Department of Insurance, residential property, as of March 3, 2026. Commercial and auto claims are additional. See the site's insured-losses page for the full breakdown.

Federal disaster assistance

Declaration	DR-4856-CA, California Wildfires and Straight-Line Winds
Individual Assistance	Authorized
Declared	January 8, 2025

Same declaration as Palisades; Eaton Fire is in Los Angeles County, which has Individual Assistance under DR-4856-CA.

Court and regulatory record

- Robertson & Associates, Eaton Fire case page, Robertson & Associates, LLP
<https://arobertsonlaw.com/eaton-fire/>

- California Public Utilities Commission, utility wildfire proceedings, California Public Utilities Commission <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/wildfires>
- Complaint: County of Los Angeles v. Southern California Edison (Eaton Fire), PDF, via LA County Counsel <https://counsel.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Eaton-Fire-LA-County-SCE-Complaint.pdf>
- Cross-Complaint: Southern California Edison v. County of Los Angeles, et al. (Eaton Fire), PDF, via Reuters <https://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/mopabzaoova/01162026eaton1.pdf>
- Eaton Fire Investigation Report (initial, redacted), LACoFD Arson Fire Investigation Unit and CAL FIRE (Case 25CALAC-009087) https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214310_EatonArsonInvestigationReportFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf
- Eaton Fire Investigation Supplemental Report (redacted), LACoFD Arson Fire Investigation Unit and CAL FIRE (Case 25CALAC-009087) https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214311_EatonSupplementalFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf

Timeline of public coverage

Independent reporting related to this fire and its litigation, most recent first. Each item links to the original public source.

August 4, 2026 Edison equipment caused deadly Eaton Fire, LA County Fire investigators conclude
LAist · <https://laist.com/news/climate-environment/edison-eaton-fire-cause-la-county-fire-report>

August 4, 2026 Southern California Edison equipment blamed for 2025 Eaton fire in Los Angeles
CNN · <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/08/04/us/california-eaton-wildfire>

August 4, 2026 California Eaton Fire in Altadena sparked by SoCal Edison electric tower, Los Angeles County report finds
CBS Los Angeles · <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/california-eaton-fire-report-socal-edison-electric-tower/>

August 4, 2026 2025 Eaton Fire in Altadena was caused by SoCal Edison electrical tower, LA County Fire Department says
ABC7 Los Angeles · <https://abc7.com/post/socal-edison-equipment-blamed-2025-eaton-fire-investigation-la-county-department-says/19625172/>

August 4, 2026 LA County Fire Department releases report on cause of Eaton Fire
NBC Los Angeles · <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california-wildfires/la-county-fire-department-eaton-fire-cause/3925470/>

August 4, 2026 Cause of deadly Eaton Fire revealed in official LA County Fire report
FOX 11 Los Angeles · <https://www.foxla.com/news/eaton-fire-la-county-fire-blames-sce-equipment>

August 4, 2026 LACoFD issues reports on cause of 2025 Eaton Fire
SCVNews · <https://scvnews.com/lacofd-issues-reports-on-cause-of-2025-eaton-fire/>

July 16, 2026	SoCal Edison pays Eaton Fire victims more than \$314 million through compensation program CBS Los Angeles · https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/socal-edison-pays-eaton-fire-victims-more-than-314-million-through-compensation-program/
July 8, 2026	Edison Gets Mixed Rulings on Bid to Spread Blame for LA Wildfire Bloomberg · https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-07-08/edison-gets-mixed-rulings-on-bid-to-spread-blame-for-la-wildfire
June 29, 2026	Homeowners accuse insurers of underpaying smoke damage claims 18 months after Eaton and Palisades fires ABC7 Los Angeles · https://abc7.com/post/homeowners-accuse-insurers-underpaying-smoke-damage-claims-18-months-eaton-palisades-fires/19381770/
June 11, 2026	New surveillance video shows what could be the start of the Eaton Fire, attorneys say ABC7 Los Angeles · https://abc7.com/post/new-surveillance-video-shows-flashes-origin-eaton-fire-attorneys-say/19265902/
January 17, 2026	SoCal Edison sues LA County and agencies over Eaton Fire responsibility NBC4 Los Angeles · https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/socal-edison-sues-la-county-eaton-fire/3833083/
January 16, 2026	SoCal Edison sues Los Angeles County, others over Eaton Fire CBS News Los Angeles · https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/socal-edison-sues-los-angeles-county-others-over-eaton-fire/
September 4, 2025	DOJ files multimillion-dollar lawsuits against SoCal Edison over Eaton and Fairview fires ABC7 Los Angeles · https://abc7.com/post/doj-files-multimillion-dollar-lawsuits-socal-edison-deadly-eaton-fairview-fires/17740745/
March 22, 2025	Pasadena Unified School District sues Southern California Edison over Eaton Fire KTLA 5 · https://ktla.com/news/local-news/pasadena-unified-school-district-sues-southern-california-edison-for-damages-from-eaton-fire/
March 6, 2025	LA County, Pasadena and Sierra Madre file lawsuits against SoCal Edison ABC7 Los Angeles · https://abc7.com/post/los-angeles-county-files-lawsuit-socal-edison-eaton-fire-cities-pasadena-sierra-madre-suing-sce/15980705/
March 5, 2025	LA County files lawsuit against SoCal Edison over Eaton Fire NBC4 Los Angeles · https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/la-county-lawsuit-socal-edison-eaton-fire-altadena/3646903/
March 5, 2025	LA County, city of Pasadena sue SoCal Edison over Eaton Fire damages CBS News Los Angeles · https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/los-angeles-county-pasadena-lawsuits-southern-california-edison-eaton-fire/
March 5, 2025	Los Angeles County sues Southern California Edison over Eaton Fire KTLA 5 · https://ktla.com/news/local-news/l-a-county-sues-southern-california-edison-over-eaton-fire/

January 14, 2025 Altadena residents file lawsuit against SoCal Edison over Eaton Fire

NBC4 Los Angeles · <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/altadena-eaton-fire-los-angeles-socal-edison-lawsuit/3604274/>

January 14, 2025 First lawsuits filed against Southern California Edison over Eaton Fire

ABC7 Los Angeles · <https://abc7.com/post/california-wildfires-2-lawsuits-filed-southern-edison-eaton-fire-pasadena-altadena/15796131/>

January 14, 2025 SoCal Edison faces lawsuit alleging Eaton Fire was sparked by its equipment

CBS News Los Angeles · <https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/socal-edison-faces-lawsuit-alleging-eaton-fire-was-sparked-by-its-equipment/>

January 13, 2025 Lawsuits allege SoCal Edison equipment sparked Eaton Fire

KTLA 5 · <https://ktla.com/news/california/wildfires/lawsuits-allege-socal-edison-equipment-sparked-eaton-fire/>

Sources

1. CAL FIRE Incident Statistics, Top 20 Most Destructive California Wildfires, CAL FIRE
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/our-impact/statistics>
2. CAL FIRE Incidents archive, CAL FIRE
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>
3. Eaton Fire Investigation Report, case 25CALAC-009087 (redacted), Los Angeles County Fire Department and CAL FIRE
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214310_EatonArsonInvestigationReportFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf
4. Eaton Fire Investigation Supplemental Report (redacted), Los Angeles County Fire Department and CAL FIRE
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214311_EatonSupplementalFinal8.3.26redacted.pdf
5. LACoFD press release on the Eaton Fire cause reports, August 4, 2026, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1214306_EatonPressRelease08-04-26.pdf
6. County of Los Angeles After Action Review document library, County of Los Angeles
<https://lacounty.gov/aar>

Facts in this dossier are drawn from the public sources listed here and throughout, and are rewritten in original words. Where a figure is disputed or unreconciled by its own source, this document says so rather than choosing one.

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<https://cawildfirelawsuits.com/fires/eaton-fire-2025/>