



LOS ANGELES
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Community Brigade Pilot Program Outreach Summary

The Community Brigade pilot program is a trailblazing partnership designed to help bridge the resource gap between professional first response agencies and local communities during disaster events. The mission is to create a lasting cultural change, strengthen the resilience of communities and empower them to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Volunteers will be trained in fire behavior, communications, home hardening, and operational procedures. Acting as trusted resource multipliers with local knowledge, they will enhance the support available to responding agencies during wildfires and other disasters.

After being vetted, trained, and certified, each volunteer is issued personal protection equipment (PPE), a pre-programmed VHF radio, and Los Angeles County Fire/Sheriff's Department Volunteer Program ID's. Certified Volunteers will be classified as LA County Volunteer Disaster Service Workers when participating in specified training and response efforts.

The pilot program starts in/adjacent to 7 high-risk pilot communities in the Santa Monica Mountains: Point Dume, Malibu West, Corral Canyon, Big Rock, Topanga Canyon, Hidden Hills, and County Line.

Program Objectives:

- Minimize loss and accelerate recovery through encouraging proactive preparedness and mitigation measures, enhanced situational awareness, and coordinated response capabilities.
- Build trust between agencies and the communities they serve.
- Expand the availability of resources and local knowledge (act as a force multiplier).
- Create lasting and sustainable cultural change through community engagement.
- *Work within the existing command structure of LA Co. Fire/Sheriff to achieve the operational objectives during a disaster.*

Training Requirements for Volunteers - One time, 60hrs. in person and/or online:

- ICS 100 + 700 (Incident Command System and Nat'l Incident Management System)
- S-190 (Wildland Fire Behavior), S-130/RT-130 (Firefighter Training), L-180 (Human Factors in the Wildland) + S-290 (for Community Brigade team leaders)
- Communication Protocols (radio, command, safety, situational awareness)
- Community Interface Training - social, cultural, stress management, negotiation.
- Field training with local LACoFire stations (interfacing and meeting to create shorthand to bridge the community/agency gap)

If you are interested in volunteering for the Community Brigade program, please visit our website at www.CommunityBrigade.org, fill out the form, and we will be in touch with you shortly with more details and next steps.