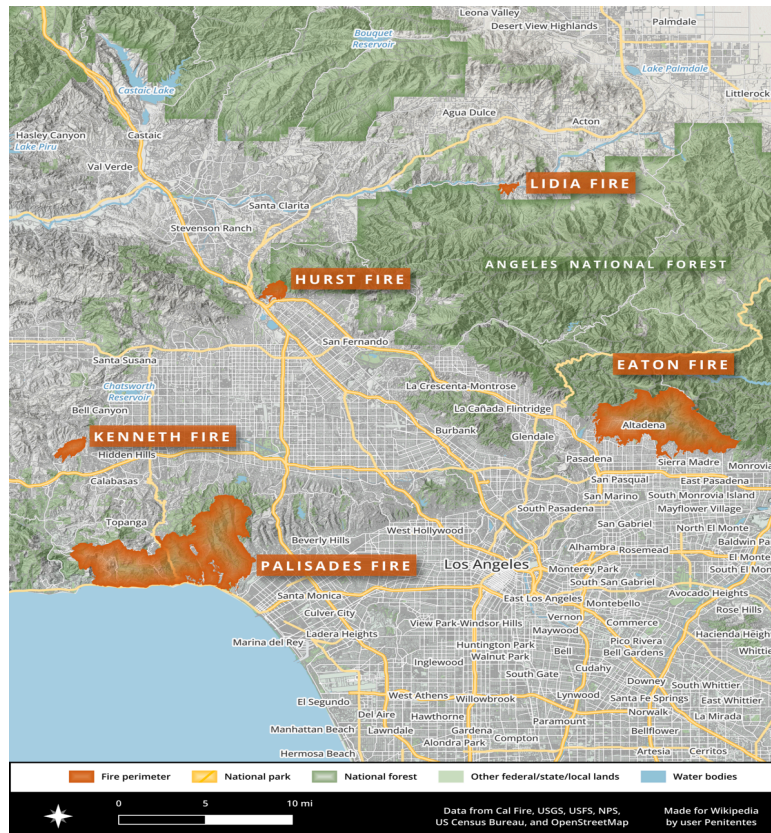


Billion Dollar Disasters of 2025

1.) 2025 California Wildfires



The January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles marked one of the most devastating fire events in California's history, with the Eaton and Palisades Fires causing significant loss of life and property.

 **Overview of the January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires**

Beginning on January 7, 2025, a series of wildfires, including the Eaton and Palisades Fires, swept through Los Angeles County. Fueled by severe drought conditions and powerful Santa Ana winds, these fires led to the destruction of over 16,000 structures and claimed at least 30 lives.

Causes and Contributing Factors

- **Climate Conditions:** Back-to-back wet winters had increased vegetation growth, which, during the subsequent drought, became dry fuel for fires.
- **Santa Ana Winds:** These strong, dry winds, reaching speeds up to 100 mph, significantly accelerated the fires' spread.
- **Urban Expansion:** The growth of communities into the wildland-urban interface areas increased the risk and impact of wildfires.



Impact on Communities

Eaton Fire

- **Fatalities:** 18
- **Structures Destroyed:** Over 9,000
- **Evacuations:** More than 100,000 residents
- **Cause:** Under investigation; potential link to Southern California Edison power lines.

Palisades Fire

- **Fatalities:** 12
- **Structures Destroyed:** Approximately 6,800
- **Evacuations:** Over 105,000 residents
- **Notable Loss:** Destruction of the historic Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

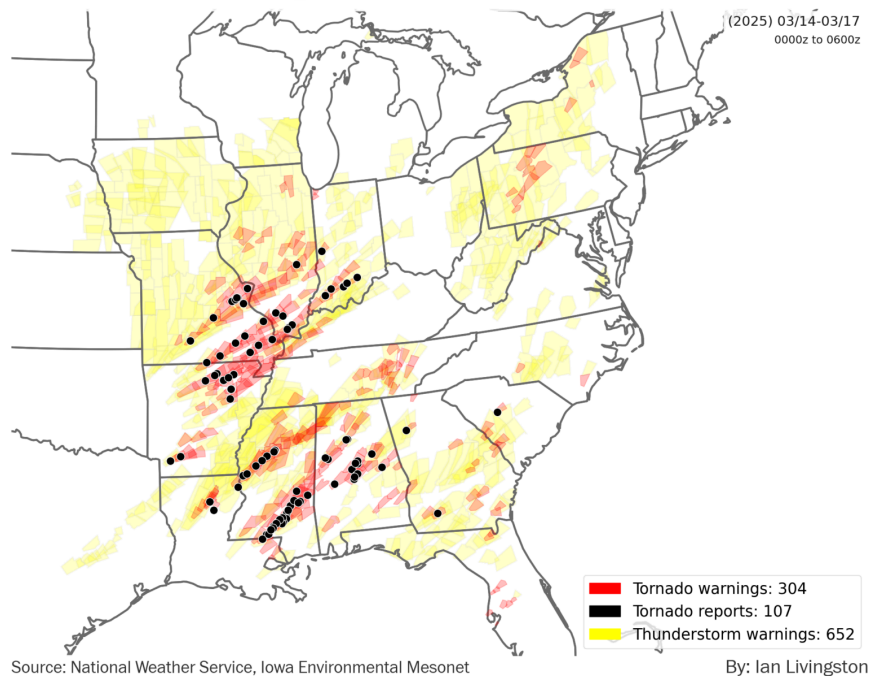
Aftermath

Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$2.5 billion relief package into law to expedite firestorm response and recovery efforts. This funding supports emergency protective measures, evacuations, sheltering for survivors, debris removal, cleanup, and rebuilding of fire-damaged

school facilities. According to the Los Angeles Times, the 2025 California wildfires are estimated to have resulted in a total economic loss of between \$250 billion and \$275 billion.

2.) *Historic March 2025 Tornado Outbreak*

Tornado warnings and reports March 14-16



Overview of the March 2025 Historic Tornado Outbreak

In March 2025, the United States experienced a historic and devastating severe weather event, marked by a massive tornado outbreak from March 13 to 16. This outbreak was the largest ever recorded in March, with 117 confirmed tornadoes, including several rated EF4 with winds up to 190 mph

Quick Overview

The severe weather was triggered by an unusually strong low-pressure system that trekked from the West Coast into the Midwest. Fueled by bountiful moisture and heat from the Gulf, this led to a widespread swath of instability. The Storm Prediction Center issued a rare high-risk outlook two days in advance for portions of the Deep South — only the third such issuance in history for a Day 2 forecast.

Several violent, long-track tornadoes were confirmed, including two EF4 tornadoes. One tore through Diaz, Arkansas, with estimated winds up to 190 mph, while another devastated area of Franklin, Arkansas. Missouri saw multiple deadly tornadoes as well, including an EF3.

Key Impacts & Aftermath

- **Casualties and Damage:** The outbreak resulted in at least 43 fatalities and over 247 injuries across eight states, including Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. **The total estimated damages exceeded \$6.25 billion.**
- **Notable Tornadoes:** A significant EF4 tornado struck Diaz, Arkansas, causing extensive damage. In Winterboro, Alabama, an EF2 tornado caused a school bus to land on the roof of a high school gymnasium, which was completely destroyed.
- **Wildfires and Dust Storms:** In addition to tornadoes, the storm system triggered wildfires in Oklahoma, burning over 200,000 acres and damaging hundreds of structures. Dust storms in Kansas led to major vehicle collisions, resulting in eight fatalities.