



January 15, 2025

Dear FJUHS Staff,

Our hearts are with the communities impacted by the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, Altadena, Sylmar, Hollywood Hills, and surrounding areas. We extend our deepest sympathies to those who have been displaced, those working courageously to protect lives and property, and those grieving unimaginable losses.

Although these fires have not directly impacted Orange County, red flag warnings remain in effect across Southern California, including parts of our region. High winds and low humidity create conditions that significantly elevate the risk of new fires and the spread of existing ones. Locally, we remain committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families as we navigate the challenges posed by wildfire-related air quality. Our District closely monitors air quality using reliable resources, and all decisions are guided by California Department of Education recommendations to safeguard our school community.

For high school athletics, we are strictly following the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section's air quality guidelines to ensure student-athletes' safety during times of wildfire or high pollution. Decisions about athletic programs will continue to be based on the Air Quality Index (AQI), with adjustments made as needed to protect health and safety.

As we continue to prioritize safety and preparedness, below are some proactive steps you can take during this challenging time:

### **Stay Informed**

- Monitor local news and weather reports for updates.
- Sign up for emergency alerts from local authorities.
- Check the [National Weather Service](#) fire weather forecast for current conditions.

### **Prepare for Wildfires and High Winds**

- Clear flammable vegetation and debris from around homes or school sites.
- Secure outdoor items to prevent them from becoming hazards in high winds.
- Have flashlights and extra batteries readily available in case of power outages.

### **Avoid Fire-Starting Activities**

- During periods of high winds or low humidity, avoid activities that could ignite a fire, such as using outdoor power tools, welding equipment, or starting open flames like campfires or barbecues. Even small sparks can lead to devastating fires in these conditions.

### **Create and Review Evacuation Plans**

- Confirm evacuation routes and assemble a go-bag with essential items, including medications and important documents.
- Keep vehicles fueled and ready for potential evacuations.

### **Responding to Emergencies**

- Follow evacuation orders promptly if issued.
- Stay connected with local authorities, family, and staff during evacuations.
- Be prepared for heavy traffic and smoky conditions; wear protective clothing and masks if necessary.

In line with these precautions, outdoor activities will remain limited. Our school sites and programs will communicate timely updates as conditions evolve.

We appreciate your understanding and partnership as we prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school site administration.

Please see the community resources below:

[Community Fire Resources](#)

[Wildfire Safety](#)

[Ready.gov/wildfires](https://www.ready.gov/wildfires)

Sincerely,



Steve McLaughlin, Ed.D.  
Superintendent