

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a wildfire. The sky is filled with orange and yellow hues from the setting sun or fire. In the foreground, there are charred remains of what appears to be a wooden structure or fence. Several palm trees stand tall against the backdrop of smoke and fire. The overall atmosphere is one of destruction and natural disaster.

NEWS

‘It was entirely unrecognizable’: The Princeton students affected by Los Angeles wildfires



Teddy Rountree-Shtulman '28 is from Pasadena, Calif., and was forced to **evacuate** on Jan. 7 with his family and three cats for two nights due to the **Eaton fire**.

“It was mainly scary because, due to the winds, there [were] **no firefighters** that could use their planes to put out the large amounts of the fire,” Rountree-Shtulman told the ‘Prince.’



Princeton students living in the greater Los Angeles area received an initial email on Jan. 12, 2025 from Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students Mellisa Thompson. Students also received a more personalized email from their residential college's assistant dean for students the following day.



“It was entirely unrecognizable. Driving down my street, it was disorienting, you had no idea where you were. You had no idea what anything was.”

“I think the hardest part is grieving the loss of the community ... the people that I come home and hang out with over Thanksgiving break and summer break.”

Hailey Hubbard ’26



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Short Code: DFf2BX2CbC3
Comments Count: 0
Likes Count: 319
Owner Full Name: The Daily Princetonian
Owner Username: dailyprincetonian
Caption: On Jan. 7, two major fires the Palisades and the Eaton fires broke out in Los Angeles County, killing at least 28 people, destroying more than 12,000 structures, and forcing over 150,000 Californians to evacuate. Among those affected were Princeton students from the greater Los Angeles area, many of whom lost homes, faced evacuation orders, and grappled with the devastation to their neighborhoods while preparing to return to campus for the spring semester.
Tap the link in our bio for the full story. Reporting from Devon Rudolph. Post design by Jake Miller. Photo credit: Hailey Hubbard 26
Alt Text: Image of burning house behind a semi transparent black box with white text. Top text, in orange: NEWS Bottom text, in white: It was entirely unrecognizable: The Princeton students affected by Los Angeles wildfires