

The background image shows a wildfire scene with a bright orange sun in the upper left, a dark smoke-filled sky, and a building that is partially obscured by flames and smoke. In the foreground, there is a large pile of rubble and debris. A dark rectangular overlay is positioned in the center-left of the image, containing the text.

**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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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