

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA24-1

NOVEMBER 2023 LA I-10 STRUCTURE FIRE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

COMMENCING NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Prepared by:  
California Department of Transportation  
Division of Budgets  
Federal Resources Office

## **Introduction**

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to a rapidly spreading fire originating in the airspace under the I-10 structure near the Alameda Street and E 14<sup>th</sup> Street intersection events impacting Los Angeles County, which began on November 11, 2023. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to "summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125." The DSSR also "provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program."

## **Damage Description**

Beginning on November 11, 2023, the fire originated in the airspace under the I-10 structure near the Alameda Street and E 14<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in Los Angeles County, which spread rapidly, impacting Los Angeles County. The fires have caused extensive damage to critical infrastructures and roadside facilities.

The Governor's Proclamation executed on November 11, 2023, for the LA I-10 Structure Fire in Los Angeles County is included in this Damage Survey Summary Report.

The Damage Assessment Form (DAF) due date for this disaster is February 29, 2024. Given the anticipated timeframe of a corresponding Finding of Eligibility and the necessary work to complete the damage assessment, it is anticipated that additional time will be needed. A Damage Assessment Form time extension to March 29, 2024, will be requested as part of the Emergency Relief application.

## **Damage Estimate**

To date, the preliminary estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 for a rapidly spreading fire originating in the airspace under the I-10 structure near the Alameda Street and E 14<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in Los Angeles County is \$10.5 million for State facilities, subject to increase. There are no reported Local damages at this time. In accordance with 23 CFR 668.105(j), the minimum \$700,000 threshold for event eligibility will be applied to the fire event identified under this Disaster.

Additional fire damages are expected to supplement this initial ER Application Letter requesting eligibility for ER funding through the DAF approval process. As state and local agencies assess damages, additional counties may need to be added to this Disaster via Supplemental ER Applications. Additional fires associated with this disaster event will be submitted under separate cover through a Supplemental ER Application Letter to determine eligibility for ER funding, if required.

## **Additional Information**

The following attached information describes the statewide wildfire damage in additional detail:

- Governor's Proclamation (executed on November 11, 2023)
- State damage estimates (to date)
- Sampling of news articles
- Pictures of reported damage

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NOVEMBER 2023 LA I-10 STRUCTURE FIRE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** on November 11, 2023, a massive fire near downtown Los Angeles damaged a portion of the I-10 freeway, a federal aid highway, requiring its temporary closure; and

**WHEREAS** the California Department of Transportation is currently assessing the extent of the damage and has crews ready to begin clean-up and repair work as soon as the first responders determine it is safe to do so; and

**WHEREAS** it is essential to complete repairs as quickly as possible to support the safe reopening of the freeway, given its importance as a transit route for motorists, emergency vehicles, and commercial goods, with an average daily traffic volume of 287,500; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the fire; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by this fire, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by this fire; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the fire.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Los Angeles County due to the fire.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan to complete work to repair and reopen the I-10 freeway as soon as possible. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.



2. The California Department of Transportation shall request, if appropriate, assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs or reconstruction.
3. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to this fire.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive, or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 11th day of November 2023.



  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

  
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D  
Secretary of State

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NOVEMBER 2023 LA I-10 STRUCTURE FIRE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

STATE  
DAMAGE ESTIMATES

# State Damage Estimate CA24-1:

| CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST-Preliminary Major Damage Assessment REPORT |          |                  |                        |          |        |                   |  |  |        |       |          |        |                      |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------------|----------|--------|-------------------|--|--|--------|-------|----------|--------|----------------------|
| Count  | District | Date of Incident | Event Name             | DO (Y/N) | EA #   | Reporting Code(s) | Main Damages   | Work Description   | County | Route | Begin PM | End PM | TOTAL COST TO DATE   |
| 1  | 7        | 11/11/2023       | LA I-10 Structure Fire | Y        | 2XL104 | TBD               | Construct temporary shoring for the Santa Monica Viaduct, Bridge Number (Br. No.) 53-1301      | Construct temporary shoring for the Santa Monica Viaduct (Br. No 53-1301) to provide structural support for the bridge columns damage by the fire.   | LA     | 10    | 17       | 17.7   | \$ 6,500,000         |
| 2  | 7        | 11/11/2023       | LA I-10 Structure Fire | Y        | 2XL004 | TBD               | Perform traffic control, remove the hazardous waste and construct temporary structural shoring | Relieve the District 7 Maintenance Forces from performing traffic control, remove and clean up the burn site of hazardous materials and debris associated with the fire and construct temporary shoring. | LA     | 10    | 17       | 17.7   | \$ 4,000,000         |
|  |          |                  |                        |          |        |                   |  |  |        |       |          |        | <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>   |
|  |          |                  |                        |          |        |                   |  |  |        |       |          |        | <b>\$ 10,500,000</b> |



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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

# Massive fire that closed Interstate 10 in Los Angeles was set intentionally, governor says



By Melissa Alonso, Matt Phillips, Elizabeth Wolfe and Taylor Romine, CNN  
🕒 5 minute read · Updated 10:29 PM EST, Mon November 13, 2023



**(CNN)** — The massive fire that forced the indefinite closure of parts of Interstate 10, a major traffic artery in Los Angeles, was set intentionally, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

A preliminary investigation found there was “malice intent,” Newsom said at a news conference, adding it was “done and set intentionally.”

An investigation is still ongoing and the governor did not say whether there were any suspects or leads on who may have set the blaze.

Mayor Karen Bass described the closure of the interstate as a “crisis” for a city already notorious for its traffic woes. She urged travelers to prepare for delays and plan alternative routes while the interstate remains shut down in both directions near Alameda Street in the city’s busy downtown area.

Ahead of the Monday morning commute, a citywide alert was sent to residents’ cell phones warning the freeway “will be closed indefinitely” and to “expect significant traffic.”

The closure has “been adding about 10 minutes from my day and then it’s just more anxiety and stress than the normal morning,” commuter Diana Enriquez told CNN affiliate KABC.

Another commuter, Tony Behrstock, described the effect of the closure as “horrible.”

“I’m miserable,” he told KABC.

## The Washington Post

# Fire that closed I-10 freeway in Los Angeles was arson, Newsom says

Officials vowed an aggressive response after a blaze shut down a key section of the busy California thoroughfare



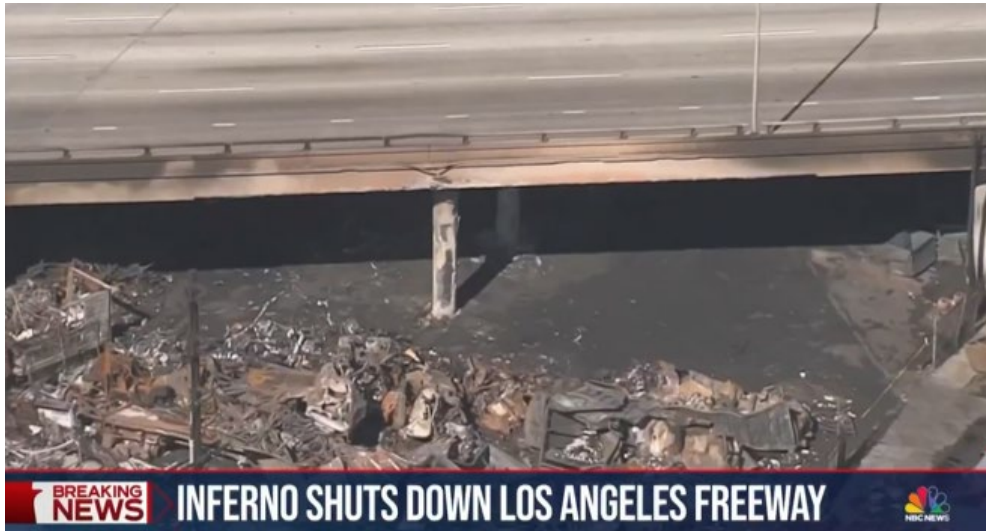
California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that findings from a preliminary investigation show a blaze that shut down a key section of Interstate 10 in Los Angeles was caused by arson. He appealed for the public's help as authorities seek the perpetrator or perpetrators.

Fire investigators “made a preliminary determination there was malice intent,” Newsom (D) said. Investigators said they are confident in their assessment, but declined to offer details about what led to that conclusion, citing the need to maintain the integrity of the ongoing criminal investigation.

Drivers in Los Angeles faced detours and disrupted commutes Monday as local, state and federal officials vowed an aggressive response to the closure. Officials gave no estimate for the highway's reopening, saying many results from structural tests are pending.

## Stretch of Los Angeles freeway damaged in fire won't have to be torn down

Core samples after the fire that raged beneath I-10 near downtown came back more positive than expected. It could reopen to traffic in three to five weeks.



LOS ANGELES – A 450-foot section of important Interstate 10 near downtown Los Angeles that was damaged in a raging fire will not have to be torn down and replaced, officials said Tuesday.

The fire that erupted early Saturday under the 10 freeway, as it is known locally, has been [preliminarily determined to have been caused by arson](#) – although who set it remains unknown.

“We will not need to demolish and replace the I-10,” California Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a news conference.

The fire – which broke out Saturday shortly after midnight in an area where vehicles, pallets and other materials had been stored underneath the interstate deck – damaged 100 support columns, nine or 10 of them severely, Newsom said.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHS





This Photograph Shows: Fire underneath the Santa Monica Viaduct in DTLA. Firefighters were putting out the fire in the early morning.



This Photograph Shows: (Left) View from above looking down at the fire and burning wood pallets. (Center) Photo of a spalled bridge column with rebars exposed. (Right) Photo of spalled concrete from bridge column.



This Photograph Shows: Series of early morning photos (~7 AM). (Left and Center) Damaged and spalled bridge columns; rebar is exposed. (Right) Bottom of superstructure burned and spalled.

### 07-LA-10 – STRUCTURE FIRE DAMAGES



This Photograph Shows: Fire underneath the Santa Monica Viaduct in DTLA. Firefighters were putting out the fire in the early morning.



This Photograph Shows: View looking up at the spalled concrete on the bridge column and underside of the bridge superstructure.



This Photograph Shows: Aerial photo of temporary shoring to support bridge columns. Equipment continues to remove hazardous waste/fire debris from the job site.

### **07-LA-10 – STRUCTURE FIRE DAMAGES**