



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Wildfire Plan – Academic Year 2020-21

Addendum to the Wildfire Hazard Plan in the Campus Emergency Operations Plan

In recent years, the CSU Channel Islands campus in Camarillo has been threatened repeatedly by wildfires in the region. These threats have prompted the activation of the University's Wildfire Hazard Plan and some have forced the full evacuation of the campus and the University Glen community. When the Ventura County Fire Department issues an evacuation order, the University will activate the Campus Evacuation Plan and facilitate the orderly evacuation of all individuals from the campus and the University Glen community. However, there could be regional conditions present (traffic congestion, road closures, proximity of fire, etc.) which could alter the plan because evacuating the campus has become inadvisable and/or unsafe. In those circumstances, it might be safer for individuals to shelter-in-place as opposed to evacuating.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all academic programming in the Fall 2020 semester is virtual, and the population of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus is relatively nonexistent. Furthermore, the on-campus residential student population has been reduced to approximately 1/8 of its normal population. To facilitate physical distancing for greater safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, CSUCI limited occupancy to one student per living unit, which if full, would accommodate 330 students; the actual occupancy in Fall 2020 was just under 200 students. Thus, any residential student infected or exposed to COVID-19 has the ability to self-isolate or quarantine within their own space in the residence halls.

As we enter wildfire season in California, the COVID-19 pandemic has created difficulties for emergency planning purposes, specifically in the ability to identify shelter locations and facilities for communities that are evacuated due to wildfire. The need for physical distancing has made it nearly impossible to plan for mass sheltering.

During the 2020-21 academic year, based on the unique challenges presented by COVID-19 at this time, the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) has recommended the following in the event of a wildfire that might result in an evacuation order for the CSUCI campus:

- Students, faculty, staff, visitors, and University Glen residents evacuate the campus, if safe and reasonable to do so, with Town Center student housing residents to be temporarily relocated to residences on the main campus; and,
- Residential students on the main campus be allowed to shelter-in-place inside their own living spaces in the residence halls.

VCFD believes that sheltering residential students in place in the residence halls will be safer than evacuating them because of the following unique characteristics present:



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- The location of the residence halls in relation to the area topography and wildfire fuel load;
- Housing arrangements with social and physical distancing measures already in place;
- Immediate access to staff support, food services, and PPE.

Additional considerations:

- The University works closely and cooperatively with the VCFD on emergency planning and response.
- VCFD reviews the University's emergency plans and provides recommendations on the safest courses of action during a wildfire event.
- VCFD works in unified command with the University and maintains a strong presence on campus during a fire.
- Brush is cleared annually to no less than 100 feet from all campus buildings.

University procedures in the event of a wildfire evacuation order:

- Emergency notification and instructions will be sent to the campus community by means of loudspeakers and CSUCI Alert, as appropriate.
- Campus Evacuation Plan will be activated to assist in the orderly evacuation of the main campus and University Glen community, as appropriate.
- Maintain physical distancing and face covering requirements.
- If it is unsafe to evacuate, emergency personnel will give instructions to shelter in place.
- Residential students living in Town Center should be relocated to Anacapa, Santa Cruz, or Santa Rosa Village, if possible.
- HRE residential staff and RA's will be considered essential staff and will remain on campus to support students sheltering in place. HRE staff and RA's will be the main points of contact for information and instructions for residential students.
- The HVAC systems should be shut down in the residence halls.
- N95 masks and other needed PPE should be made available for residential students and essential staff.
- The University will provide food, water and additional emergency supplies to residential students and essential staff.
- CSUCI officials will continue to provide updated information and instructions as the situation changes.
- Once the emergency orders are lifted, the CSUCI community will receive further information and instructions via loudspeakers and CSUCI Alert, as appropriate.