



Afterburn Documentary, LLC
Brad Highland, Producer



Afterburn Documentary



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New Documentary *Afterburn* Exposes Psychological Toll of Eaton & Palisades Wildfires

North Hollywood, CA, July 28, 2025

When the Eaton and Palisades fires erupted in January, 2025, director Logan Thomas Peterson grabbed his camera and got as close to the evacuation zones as authorities would allow, capturing harrowing footage of the effort to fight the fires and support the displaced people and animals. Now, after six months of interviewing survivors and experts, *Afterburn: The Psychological Fallout of the L.A. Wildfires* has wrapped principal photography and entered an ambitious post-production timeline to meet key film festival submission deadlines.

Peterson's personal interest in psychology, coupled with the trauma he witnessed first-hand while documenting the fire response and recovery, inspired him to keep the film's focus centered on mental health. "An older gentleman approached me while I was filming in Santa Monica and asked to look through my camera lens," he says. "He thought he might spot his house along the PCH. I watched him realize, in real time, that it was gone. That moment stayed with me. I want the audience to feel moments like that."

In addition to first-hand accounts from survivors from Altadena and Pacific Palisades, *Afterburn* features a wide range of expert voices. Renowned disaster psychologist Dr. George Everly (Johns Hopkins University) gives a rare on-camera interview on the importance of psychological first aid. Dr. David Eisenman (UCLA) speaks about the intersection of climate change and mental health. Animal behaviorist and *My Cat from Hell* host Jackson Galaxy provides insight into how pets are affected by disasters and how the L.A. community stepped up to support displaced animals. Tracy Lovric of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains offers practical guidance for fire prevention and property resilience.

(more)

Afterburn Documentary, LLC - New Documentary Announcement

Afterburn is fiscally sponsored by the nonprofit Grateful Film Fund. A crowdfunding campaign is currently underway to support post-production. Regular updates and campaign info are available on the film's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages. Watch the teaser trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Mg2MqA2nw>.

About the Team

Brad Highland and Logan Thomas Peterson, Midwest transplants now based in Southern California, have worked as assistant directors across film, television, and commercial media. *Afterburn* is their first feature documentary as a producing/directing team. With this film, they aim to advocate for stronger disaster response systems and a more resilient future for Southern Californians. By elevating survivors' voices and frustrations, *Afterburn* challenges audiences to confront the trauma that lingers long after the news cameras are gone.

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