



**American
Red Cross**

2018 California Wildfires

One-Month Update | December 2018

Red Cross Response Brings Aid and Comfort Following Devastating Fires

On November 8, Yvonne Tranah was at her Paradise, Calif., home watching some of her great-grandchildren when the phone rang. It was her daughter warning her that a wildfire was headed their way. The situation worsened with terrifying speed: “As we ran out the front door, the fire reached the back door. We barely made it out alive; everything is gone,” Yvonne recalled.

Last month’s devastating wildfires took a tragic toll on families like Yvonne’s, leaving communities scarred and lives forever changed. In Northern California’s Butte County, the Camp Fire incinerated the entire town of Paradise and other small communities nearby, consuming more than 153,000 acres. The fast-moving inferno took at least 85 lives and reduced over 13,900 homes to ash and rubble, making it the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

On the same day, the Woolsey Fire ignited in Southern California, killing three people and prompting the evacuation of more than 295,000 residents. These deadly fires continued another active and destructive wildfire season in California, which also saw thousands affected by this summer’s Carr Fire,

as well as the massive Mendocino Complex fires that burned from late July through early September.

In response to these catastrophic blazes, more than 3,300 American Red Cross volunteers and employees have worked tirelessly to deliver aid and comfort for wildfire survivors. Alongside our nonprofit and government partners, the Red Cross has helped shelter and feed thousands of people who fled their homes—often with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Compassionate disaster workers provided the impacted individuals and families with critical relief supplies and basic health services—as well as emotional and spiritual care. And we’ve helped people reconnect with missing loved ones through reunification services like our Safe and Well website, which had more than 10,000 registrations and just over 2,460 matches in the month since the Camp Fire began.

Among those finding refuge with the Red Cross were Yvonne Tranah and several generations of her family. Yvonne’s granddaughter, Sonya, was grateful for the support. “Everything that we need is here,” she said,

“When I visited California following the tragic Camp Fire, I was inspired by the courage and resilience of so many residents in the face of heartbreaking destruction. I am also incredibly proud of our Red Cross volunteers and staff—many of them coping with losses of their own—who have worked around the clock to provide shelter, relief and comfort for wildfire survivors. Thanks to our donors, the Red Cross has been there for people in need during this devastating wildfire season, and we will continue to stand by affected families as they begin to recover and rebuild their lives.”

Gail McGovern, President and CEO, American Red Cross

“and the most important thing is that we’re all here together in a safe place.”

Providing Ongoing Relief and Recovery Support for Wildfire Survivors

Today, hundreds of people—many of whom lost their homes and have nowhere else to go—remain at Red Cross and community shelters across Northern California while they cope with the stress and uncertainty of the fire’s aftermath. Our workers continue to support displaced residents’ ongoing needs for food, hygiene supplies and other necessities.

Red Cross disaster mental health and spiritual care workers are also working alongside nonprofit and government partners at the Family Support Center to help people who lost loved ones to the Camp Fire. This is a secure place where families can receive emotional and bereavement support, get something to eat or drink, find out the latest information, and connect with available recovery assistance from the Red Cross and our partners.

As people begin to rebuild their lives, the Red Cross is working to get emergency financial assistance into the hands of individuals and families whose homes were most affected. This financial assistance will allow people to make their own decisions and prioritize what their family needs most to start recovering.

For example, these funds can help families replace clothes or food, offset transportation costs, or fulfill any other immediate need. Spending the money locally will



At the Neighborhood Church shelter in Chico, California, Daniel Nieves grieves the loss of friends who perished in the Camp Fire. Red Cross volunteers Pamela Harris and Vicki Eichstaedt listen and offer comfort as Daniel remembers a special friendship. Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

also help support Californian communities as they begin recovering from the enormous economic losses inflicted by the wildfires.

Recovery will be a long and challenging journey for the thousands of individuals and families affected by the destructive 2018 wildfires. In the weeks and months to come, the Red Cross will be working with our disaster response partners, including government agencies, non-profit groups, faith-based organizations, area businesses and others, to coordinate ongoing relief efforts and develop longer-term recovery plans.

Response at a Glance

More than **3,300 American Red Cross volunteers and employees** are part of a massive response to help hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the deadly 2018 wildfires.



Some **257,000 meals and snacks** served with partners



More than **61,700 relief items** distributed



More than **43,500 overnight shelter stays** provided in **74 Red Cross-run shelters**



Nearly **42,500 health, mental health and spiritual care** contacts made



More than **1,800 cases** opened to help over **3,300 people**

—Cumulative figures as of December 8, 2018

California Wildfires Relief and Recovery: Estimated Budget

Generous Red Cross donors are supporting ongoing relief and recovery for people affected by wildfires across California in 2018.

California Wildfires 2018 Estimated Budget ^{1, 2} (in millions)						
as of December 8, 2018 (\$36.2 million raised)						
Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Health and Emotional Support	Immediate Financial Assistance	Individual and Community Recovery	Total	Expense %
Financial assistance, food and other relief items	\$2.0	\$0.1	\$5.3	\$5.3	\$12.7	35.1%
Long-term recovery programs to help meet unmet needs	–	–	–	\$9.7	\$9.7	26.8%
Deployment and maintenance of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$5.7	\$0.3	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$6.3	17.4%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$1.7	–	–	–	\$1.7	4.7%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.5	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.8	2.2%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$0.7	–	–	–	\$0.7	1.9%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.1	–	\$0.5	–	\$0.6	1.7%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.3	–	–	–	\$0.3	0.8%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.1	–	–	–	\$0.1	0.3%
Financial institution vendor fees	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%
Total Program Expenses	\$11.1	\$0.5	\$6.1	\$15.2	\$32.9	91%
Management, general and fundraising ³					\$3.3	9%
Total Estimated Budget					\$36.2	100%

¹Figures are budget estimates and could change as needs change.

²Dollar figures in all tables are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.

³Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support our more than 20,000 employees and approximately 300,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. 91 cents of every dollar received for the 2018 California Wildfires will be spent on our services to people affected by the 2018 California Wildfires.

Thank you!

The American Red Cross must be prepared to respond quickly when disasters occur. From home fires that affect a single family to hurricanes that impact millions, those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us with vital relief when it's needed most. Your donation helps us fulfill this trust.