

State and Federal Partners Respond to the California Wildfires

Release Date: November 17, 2018

While nearly ten thousand firefighters continue to battle three major wildfires in California, state and federal agencies are strategically co-located and working around the clock to coordinate resources, provide assistance to survivors and help local communities begin the long road of recovery.

The State's Emergency Operations Center near Sacramento continues working a 24/7 response and recovery operation with hundreds of emergency managers, subject matter experts and representatives from dozens of state and federal agencies. It's moved massive amounts of supplies to logistical support centers established in affected communities to support relief efforts.

On November 8, Governor Edmund G. Brown issued an [executive order](#) to cut red tape and help streamline wildfire recovery efforts in communities across the state. States of emergency were declared in [Los Angeles](#), [Ventura](#) and [Butte](#) counties late last week due to these fires, and California [secured direct federal assistance](#) to further support the impacted communities – within 24 hours of making the [request](#). Federal [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#) benefits were also made available for workers who lost jobs or had their work hours substantially reduced as a result of the wildfires.

Sunday, November 11, Governor Brown [requested](#) a major disaster declaration and joined leaders of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, California Highway Patrol and California National Guard to provide an update on firefighting efforts [at the State Operations Center](#) in Mather, which has been activated to its highest level and is coordinating with local, state and federal emergency response officials to address emergency management needs. The next day, the governor announced that the state had [secured a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration](#) to bolster the ongoing emergency response and help residents recover from fires burning in Butte, Los Angeles and Ventura counties.



FEMA

Page 1 of 8

Then on November 14, the governor surveyed the damage [in Butte County](#), met with residents impacted by the Camp Fire and held a briefing [at the Incident Command Post in Chico](#) with state, local and federal officials; they included Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, FEMA Administrator Brock Long and leaders of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, California Highway Patrol and California National Guard.

As emergency response continues on all three fires, recovery efforts are well underway, and will likely continue for months to come. Below are the latest recovery efforts local, state and federal agencies have provided wildfire survivors of the Camp, Hill and Woolsey wildfires.

STATE RESPONSE

Cal OES

California's statewide Emergency Operations Center and its Regional Emergency Operations Centers have been working around the clock since these wildfires began. There are hundreds of agency representatives working on a wide range of issues including shelter operations, debris removal, impact to schools, fire and law enforcement mutual aid, disaster assistance and long term recovery needs.

CAL FIRE

Approximately 8,400 firefighters covering 980 fire engines, 106 dozers, 155 hand crews, 99 water tenders, 40 helicopters and numerous firefighting air tankers from throughout the state, along with numerous out-of-state resources, are now battling two large wildfires in California. These two wind-driven fires have burned more than 246,362 acres and destroyed an estimated 13,099 structures.

Although wildfires can be immeasurable, the danger is not over after the flames are put out. Structural damage, road instability, damaged trees and power lines are just some of the dangers that exist after a wildfire. To learn more on preparing to evacuate, click [here](#). En Español, clic [aquí](#).

Fires of Interest:

Camp Fire, Butte County ([more info...](#))



FEMA

Page 2 of 8

Paradise, Pulga, Concow and Magalia

- 148,000 acres, 55% contained
- Evacuations and most road closures remain in effect. Highway 32 corridor is open.
- Estimated 12,263 structures destroyed. Most destructive and deadliest fire in California recorded history
- CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 4 (Russell) assigned

Woolsey Fire, Ventura County ([more info...](#))

South of Simi Valley

- 98,362 acres, 82% contained
- Estimated 836 structures destroyed
- Repopulation of the area has begun and road closures in certain areas are being lifted.
- CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 5 (Parkes) assigned. IMT#5 managing both Hill and Woolsey fires

Cal OES Established Task Forces

Cal OES established multiple task forces that focus on specific areas of need including schools, housing, debris removal, watershed, volunteer and donations management, utilities and more. Each of these serve a very important role by bringing together groups of people whose sole purpose is to identify needs and problems and work to solve those problems with speed, efficiency and effectiveness.

Communications

Cal OES is committed to bi-lingual communications for many of its multimedia products and methods. This includes Spanish translations for videos produced about disaster assistance, resource website WildfireRecovery.org, social media posts and video distribution assistance by the Sacramento Consulate to its constituency on Facebook and Twitter.

California Highway Patrol



FEMA

Page 3 of 8

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) continues to render aid and assistance to those affected by the Camp Fire by supporting the Butte County Sheriff's Office and the Paradise Police Department, in search and rescue operations and in the apprehension of looters. CHP personnel continue to staff roadside access points to evacuated areas, are actively patrolling the affected areas, and are assisting in the clearing of roadways.

Currently, there are 81 CHP personnel including nine non-uniformed employees providing assistance during the wildfire disasters. CHP personnel continue to provide shelter security in several state owned buildings, like the Glenn County and Yuba City Fairgrounds, as well as the unified command post. CHP officers are providing escorts to for emergency services, through the affected area.

CHP continues to recover vehicles. There have been approximately 200 vehicles recovered as of Nov. 16. To obtain information about a stored vehicle, please visit www.chp.ca.gov -- click on the Fire Update banner, and click on the Camp Fire Recovered Vehicles link.

California National Guard

The California National Guard is a close supporting partner of Cal OES during every major disaster. The CalGuard has been providing general use shelters and 28 "Alaska Shelters" at the Chico Airport staging area, for Wild Land Forest Fire operations. The CalGuard has deployed 930 personnel, 13 aircraft (both rotary and fixed-wing) and 115 vehicles.

California Conservation Corps

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) has deployed 179 members to the Camp Fire and continues to support response and recovery operations. The CCC assisted with establishing the base camp at the Chico Airport, which has a capacity of 200 people. They also helped establish a base of operations for Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) which can support up to 50 medical staff.

Emergency Medical Services Authority

Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) deployed 31 California Medical Assistance Team (CalMAT) members and continues to support shelters in Butte



FEMA

County. At the request of Butte County, they will soon be supporting four shelters. EMSA is working with CDSS to provide shelter tents to Butte County and has staged 10 of 12 tents at the Gridley Fair Grounds; two more will be set up at the Neighborhood Church. Disaster Healthcare Volunteer and Medical Reserve Corp members have been deployed to the field to assist. EMSA continues to assist in the coordination of nursing support to Butte County as needed.

California Department Of Public Health

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided over 1,000,000 N95 masks throughout the state for the wildfires. CDPH has dispatched vital records staff to assist at LAC's and DRC's, and has also dispatched two teams from their immunizations branch to the shelters to help train and install protocol on limiting the spread of diseases. CDPH is pushing guidance on how to protect you from Norovirus, and is working with Kaiser Permanente to help provide flu shots for staff at the SOC.

California Air Resources Board

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) deployed multiple portable air monitors and air quality sensors to the town of Palermo, the community of Chico-Tuscan Ridge, City of Santa Rosa, South Sacramento and Natomas.

CalVolunteers

CalVolunteers has set up disaster resource pages for the Camp, Woolsey, and Hill fires (<https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov/current-disasters/>).

FEDERAL RESPONSE

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE (IA)

- FEMA provides grants to renters and homeowners with uninsured and unmet needs to help start recovery. In the first three full days of operation, FEMA approved \$814,164 through the Individual & Households Program.
- Survivors should file insurance claims and may contact disasterassistance.gov or call 800-621-3362 if they have questions about available assistance or to



FEMA

Page 5 of 8

apply for unmet needs.

DISASTER SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE (DSA)

DSA has 57 staff in the field. Crews are reaching out to survivors in storm-damaged communities to answer questions, register survivors and make referrals to whole community partners. Survivor registrations total 141.

DSA teams are also visiting shelters in Butte, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties to assist survivors with their registrations.

- The Butte County Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in the former Sears store at 1982 E. 20th St. in Chico opened on Friday, Nov. 16, 2018. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration also opened a Business Recovery Center on Friday, Nov. 16 2018 at the Chico DRC location. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily; closed on Thanksgiving Day.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.
- Applicants may apply to the SBA online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>, visit their nearest disaster center for one-on-one assistance, call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339.
- SBA offers low-interest disaster loans of up to \$2 mil for businesses and private nonprofits, up to \$200,000 for homeowners, and up to \$40,000 for renters to replace personal property.
- SBA representatives are currently staffing all State / FEMA disaster recovery centers (DRCs), Local Assistance Centers (LACs), and Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs). SBA has also established its own Business Recovery Center (BRC) in Butte County to serve the unique needs of the business community.



FEMA

Page 6 of 8

- SBA is committed to serving the needs of those affected by the devastating wildfires in the counties of Butte, Los Angeles and Ventura.
- With hundreds of loan officers processing loan applications and a field staff of over 75 individuals supporting all phases of the recovery efforts, including incident management at the Joint Field Office, customer service representatives in all disaster centers and Public Information Officers on the ground in the affected communities, SBA is positioned to strengthen the collective recovery team.
- SBA's low-interest disaster loan program(s) will provide the much needed funding to assist with rebuilding business communities, rebuilding and repairing damaged homes, and helping to replace damaged and destroyed personal property.
- SBA also offers economic injury disaster loans (working capital loans) to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

FEMA and federal partners are also supporting the California wildfire response through mission assignments for specialized resources and capabilities, including the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- DOD will provide pilots and support to the California Military Department to gather information and assess fire impacts.
- The EPA will help collect household hazardous waste in the impacted counties.

Please keep in mind that that this is only a snapshot of the overall effort by thousands of dedicated people and additional updates will be made to this page highlighting more resources.

###

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency, economic status, or retaliation. If you



FEMA

Page 7 of 8

believe your civil rights are being violated, call 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585(TTY/TDD).

FEMA's mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For more information, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster) Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call 800-877-8339.



FEMA