



California Wildfires 2018

THREE-MONTH UPDATE | FEBRUARY 2019



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Provides Relief and Support after Devastating Fires

Last year's wildfire season in California saw multiple destructive fires inflict devastation across the state—reducing thousands of homes to ash and cinders. On November 8, the fast-moving Camp Fire struck with little warning, taking at least 85 lives and tragically destroying the town of Paradise and other nearby communities in Butte County. The deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history and one of the worst on record in the U.S., the Camp Fire destroyed over 13,900 homes.

In Southern California, the Woolsey Fire ignited on the same day and eventually burned over 96,000 acres. The fire took three lives and destroyed over 1,600 structures in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, prompting the evacuation of more than 295,000 residents. These deadly fires were the latest of a busy and destructive wildfire season in California, where thousands were also impacted by last summer's Carr Fire and the massive Mendocino Complex fires.

The Red Cross Responds

In response, local teams across the state opened shelters and provided care for those affected. Thousands of American Red Cross volunteers and employees mobilized to augment this immediate response, along with resources, supplies and emergency response vehicles to serve each community. Working closely with community and government partners, we helped shelter and feed thousands of displaced residents, many of whom lost everything to the terrifying blazes. Our disaster workers also distributed critical relief and cleanup supplies and provided basic health services, emotional support and spiritual care for heartbroken residents and bereaved family members.

Since the catastrophic Camp Fire struck, the Red Cross has been there to help meet ongoing needs for shelter, food and other necessities. With affordable

Response at a Glance



More than **381,000**
meals and snacks
served with partners



More than **81,200**
relief items distributed



More than **61,200**
overnight shelter stays
provided with partners



More than **66,700** **health and**
mental health contacts made



More than **2,500** **cases** opened
to help people in need

—Cumulative figures as of February 8, 2019

Above: A Red Cross volunteer speaks with resident Gene McNally at the Red Cross shelter in Chico, California. "Thank God for the Red Cross!" Gene said. "I never knew all of the things you do for people like me...I am just so thankful." Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

housing scarce and many displaced residents having limited options, Red Cross caseworkers have worked with people still living in shelters to develop recovery plans, find additional recovery resources and identify longer-term housing solutions.

The Red Cross has also provided emergency financial assistance to individuals and families whose homes were most affected. This emergency financial assistance helped support urgent needs, such as replacing lost clothes and food or paying other expenses. And we will continue to support people in the impacted communities in the months to come as they begin to recover and rebuild their lives.

“On November 8, 2018, our entire town burned.... We lost everything. With help from the American Red Cross, I’m able to clothe and feed my family. I’m able to pay a few bills and get the medicines we need. When the people affected by the Camp Fire wildfire looked for help, the Red Cross was there.”

Robert Blanchard, Paradise, California

In Red Cross Shelter, Camp Fire Survivor Finds a Place to Mourn and Recover

Brandi Cloutier was asleep in her Paradise, California, home when she was alerted to the approaching Camp Fire by her dog, Boss. Her neighbor’s house was already on fire, and she had only minutes to get out of her home.

She hopped into a friend’s car, but they were quickly caught in traffic as people tried to escape the fast-moving blaze. When the car’s back tire ignited from the intense heat and popped, they fled on foot until another friend picked her up.

Brandi doesn’t remember the time of day, but she told us that everything was pitch black because of all the smoke. All around her, there were explosions every few minutes from propane tanks. She was petrified; it was like a war zone. Finally, the traffic eased, and they were able to escape, driving directly through the flames at one point.

After her harrowing escape, Brandi (and Boss) found refuge and comfort in Red Cross shelters, first in Oroville and then at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico. She was grateful for her life, but mourns the loss of her hometown.

“The Red Cross has been very kind and supportive,” she said. “My hometown, where I got married, had a child, went to church, worked and had friends. It’s all gone.”



Brandi Cloutier and her dog, Boss, found refuge at a Red Cross shelter after narrowly escaping the devastating Camp Fire. Photo by Vivian Moy/ American Red Cross

“[The Red Cross has] been especially accommodating to my dog, Boss,” Brandi said. “They’ve been really cool with him. They didn’t have to make accommodations, but they did, so we could be near one another while I figure out what’s next.”

Providing Ongoing Support for Immediate and Longer-Term Needs

Our response to the devastating 2018 California wildfires is far from over. While countless survivors like the Blanchard family and Brandi Cloutier begin to pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives, the Red Cross is joining with government, nonprofit partners, businesses and faith-based organizations, to help them move through the recovery process and access the critical services and resources they need to get back on their feet. In shelters and at family assistance centers, Red Cross workers and our partners have connected with wildfire survivors one-on-one to help them plan next steps and provide them an opportunity to share their needs and ask questions.

The Red Cross is also implementing plans to provide financial assistance for people whose homes were most affected. We are reaching out directly to these severely impacted households using a combination of Red Cross damage assessment information and FEMA inspection data.

Individuals and families recovering from the California Wildfires have different needs. This financial assistance will allow people to make their own decisions and prioritize what their family needs

Compassionate Supporters Power Relief and Recovery

Thanks to our compassionate supporters, the Red Cross has raised \$62.4 million, including the value of critical donated goods and services, to help people impacted by the 2018 California wildfires.

As of February 8, 2019, the Red Cross had already spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$16.5 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts for people affected by the California wildfires of 2018. We will continue to program the remaining funds to provide and support services for both individual and community long-term recovery in the impacted communities.



Red Cross volunteer Vicki Eichstaedt shares a moment with Patrice Murillo and her 7-year-old daughter. The Murillo family fled their home and took refuge at the Butte County Fairground shelter in Gridley, California. "It's hard on us and the kids, but it's better. We have our own space, good food, and lots of attention from you all here at the shelter," Patrice said. Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

most to continue recovering. Funds can help families replace household items, offset transportation costs or support other recovery needs. Spending these funds locally will also support California communities as they continue recovering from the enormous economic losses inflicted by the wildfires.



Red Cross volunteers work together in Yuba City, California, to produce wildfire relief kits for affected residents. The kits contain cleanup supplies like trash bags, gloves, rakes, shovels, and air filtration masks, essential hygiene items and more. Photo by Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

California Wildfires 2018 Expenses and Commitments (in millions)¹

as of February 8, 2019 (\$62.4 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	\$1.5	\$0.2	\$3.8	\$3.4	\$8.9	53.9%
Deployment and maintenance of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$2.6	\$0.6	\$0.1	–	\$3.3	20.0%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$0.8	–	–	–	\$0.8	4.8%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.5	\$0.1	\$0.1	–	\$0.7	4.2%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$0.6	–	–	–	\$0.6	3.6%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.2	–	–	–	\$0.2	1.2%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.1	–	\$0.4	–	\$0.5	3.0%
Temporary disaster hires	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%
Total Program Expenses	\$6.3	\$0.9	\$4.4	\$3.4	\$15.0	91%
Management, general and fundraising ²					\$1.5	9%
Total Expenses					\$16.5	100%
Program dollars remaining to be spent					\$41.8	
Management, general and fundraising remaining to be applied					\$4.1	
Total Budget					\$62.4	

¹Dollar figures in all tables are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.

²Management, 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 Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of more than 62,000 disasters per year—including single-family or apartment home fires, severe weather, mass casualty events and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and through their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.