

## How to Help Victims of the California Wildfires; California Today

The New York Times

September 18, 2020 Friday 07:41 EST

Copyright 2020 The New York Times Company All Rights Reserved

**Section:** US

**Length:** 925 words

**Byline:** Marie Tae McDermott

**Highlight:** There are a number of ways to help, including donating to relief organizations and signing up to host displaced community members.

### Body

---

There are a number of ways to help, including donating to relief organizations and signing up to host displaced community members.

Good morning.

Record-setting wildfires in California have leveled entire communities and displaced thousands of residents. As the fires continue to burn, relief organizations are on the ground providing support for victims and emergency workers.

For those looking to help people affected by the wildfires, we've compiled a list of organizations operating in the state. Remember, unsolicited donations of items like food can actually overwhelm relief organizations, so it's best to check what is needed before giving.

For a comprehensive list, California's Office of Emergency Services has also partnered with Philanthropy California to maintain a vetted list of relief funds where you can safely donate cash. You can also consult GuideStar or Charity Navigator for a list of trustworthy organizations that are working to provide aid to wildfire victims.

- The Red Cross is providing food, shelter and relief supplies to people affected by fires. You can make a one-time contribution [here](#) or sign up to be a volunteer.
- Baby2Baby is distributing essential items like diapers, wipes, portable cribs, blankets and cleaning supplies to families affected by the fires. You can buy supplies directly off its Amazon registry [here](#) or make a cash donation.
- The California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund supports relief and recovery efforts for communities affected by wildfires. You can donate directly to its wildfire fund [here](#).
- The California Fire Foundation provides immediate short-term relief to victims by handing out \$250 gift cards so that people can buy basic necessities that were lost in fires. You can donate [here](#).
- The Latino Community Foundation provides support for Latino-led organizations that are helping Latino and immigrant families who have been displaced by fires throughout the state. You can donate [here](#).
- Open Homes by Airbnb matches hosts with disaster victims and relief workers in need of a safe place to stay. You can sign up [here](#) to provide a free space.

## How to Help Victims of the California Wildfires; California Today

- World Central Kitchen's relief team is providing meals to emergency workers and people affected by wildfires in Northern California. You can make a single or monthly contribution [here](#).
- Red Rover shelters and cares for animals during national disasters and reunites them with their owners. You can donate to the organization [here](#). You can also sign up to foster animals or donate to the Humane Society or local animal rescue organizations.
- United Way Bay Area established a fund to help recovery efforts in communities in Northern and Central California after the August fires. You can donate [here](#).
- The Los Angeles County Fire Department Foundation supports firefighters, paramedics and other personnel. You can donate [here](#).
- Food banks across California are providing meals to communities affected by wildfires. You can find a local food bank to donate to on the California Association of Food Banks' website or donate directly to the organization.

### Here's what else to read today

- California laid out new rules to make insurance more affordable in fire-prone areas. But the changes could backfire, pushing more insurers to stop offering coverage in areas where fire risk is rising. [The New York Times]
- On Thursday, Bay Area residents were able to enjoy blue skies for the first time in weeks after experiencing 30 consecutive days of "Spare the Air" warnings. [The Mercury News]
- Dozens of people and nine firefighters mounted a last stand, hoping for a miracle, after wildfires left them trapped on the shores of a reservoir near Detroit, Ore. [The New York Times]
- Providing disaster relief to wildfire victims has changed during the pandemic, with no mass dining halls, in-person counseling or hugs given to traumatized evacuees. [Los Angeles Times]
- A statewide survey released on Tuesday by the Public Policy Institute of California found that fewer than a third of likely voters would vote in favor of Proposition 16, which would remove the ban on affirmative action involving race-based or sex-based preferences from the California Constitution. [EdSource]
- Travelers from California can now head to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut without facing a required 14-day quarantine. [Los Angeles Times]
- Two men died 18 months apart from each other at the home of a West Hollywood political donor. Dark conspiracy theories abounded — but the truth is even darker. [The New York Times]

### We want to hear from you

Several of our readers have showed us what it's like to experience the devastation caused by wildfires. If you are in a safe place and able to do so, we would like to see how you have been affected by this year's fires. Were you forced to evacuate? Did you lose your home? Please send your photos and stories to [catoday@nytimes.com](mailto:catoday@nytimes.com).

California Today goes live at 6:30 a.m. Pacific time weekdays. Tell us what you want to see: [CAToday@nytimes.com](mailto:CAToday@nytimes.com). Were you forwarded this email? Sign up for California Today [here](#).

Jill Cowan grew up in Orange County, went to school at U.C. Berkeley and has reported all over the state, including the Bay Area, Bakersfield and Los Angeles — but she always wants to see more. Follow along [here](#) or on Twitter, [@jillcowan](#).

California Today is edited by Julie Bloom, who grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from U.C. Berkeley.

PHOTO: The E&J mobile kitchen provides food and water to evacuees of the Bear Fire in Oroville. (PHOTOGRAPH BY Christian Monterrosa for The New York Times FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

## How to Help Victims of the California Wildfires; California Today

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2020

---

End of Document