



Disaster Operations Report #1

Southern California Wildfires Overview

Update as of October 27, 2003 -- Noon

This report consists of important statistical information and facts from all of the major ongoing relief operations, and will be posted daily whenever the Disaster Operations Center (DOC) is activated. Presently, the DOC will be activated from 11 AM to 6 PM (EDT) until further notice.

Impact Assessment

- Governor Gray Davis declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino, Ventura, San Diego and Los Angeles Counties. A major disaster declaration has also been requested for these counties.
- The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) reports over 245,000 acres have burned from the following fires: Cedar, Grand Prix, Simi Incident, Verdale, Old, Piru, Paradise, Mountain and Roblar 2. Santa Ana winds are hindering firefighting efforts, with gusts up to 70 MPH.
- Media reports conflict, but between 650 and 850 homes are estimated to be destroyed by the wildfires.
- Approximately 50,000 residents are reported to have fled their homes.
- Fourteen deaths are blamed on the fires -- eleven in San Diego County and three in San Bernardino County.
- The Monday night football game between the San Diego Chargers and the Miami Dolphins has been moved to Arizona because of the wildfires. The Qualcomm stadium has been turned into a major evacuation center.
- Air traffic nationally was disrupted when a wildfire forced the evacuation of a Federal Aviation Administration control center near San Diego that coordinates many flights arriving and departing Southern California.

Red Cross Chapters Impacted

- American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles (Lead);
- Inland Empire Chapter, San Bernardino;
- High Desert Chapter, Victorville;
- Inland Valley Chapter, Ontario;
- Pomona Valley Chapter, Pomona;
- Ventura County Chapter, Ventura;
- Claremont Chapter, Claremont;
- San Diego/Imperial County Chapter, San Diego

Red Cross Response and Activation

- DR 616-04 was issued to Southern CA 10/03 Wildfires.
- 23 shelters/evacuation centers have opened so far. The latest report stated 3,198 residents combined.
- 10 in-state Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) are providing Mass Care support to evacuees, as well as the firefighters who are relentlessly trying to contain the fires.
- The state lead chapter in California is actively recruiting for the level five relief operation. The Response Staff Deployment Center is filling the vacancies in the leadership positions.
- A headquarters is being established at the old Norton Air Force Base Exchange in San Bernardino.