

October 5, 2020



American Red Cross
Northern California
Coastal Region

Dear Red Crossers:

It's been a few weeks since I've written. So I wanted to reach out to just thank you all again for the amazing work that you have done — and, in some cases, are still doing — in support of the many people who have been so traumatically affected by the wildfires that began in our region back in mid-August.

I am more proud than I can say, really, of everything that our amazing volunteers, our dedicated staff, and our committed partners have done during these past seven weeks.

Whether in support of evacuees and others affected by the Lightning Complex Fires (LNU, SCU, and CZU Fires), the Monterey County Fires (River, Carmel, and Dolan), the Woodward Fire in Marin County, or — now — the Glass Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties, your collective work has been so impactful and helped so many people begin to heal.

As I write this message, nearly 200 Red Crossers are still working around the clock to provide food, shelter, relief supplies, and comfort to the people affected by these wildfires. They are part of a team of nearly 850 Red Crossers who have responded to these fires in our region. The numbers, which grow daily, help tell the story of these responses. Please go to this [regional blog post](#) for the most recent tally on overnight stays, food, and supplies we've helped provide to evacuees. Our amazing volunteers have also made approximately 10,000 individual care contacts with people to help them with medical or disability needs or provide emotional and spiritual support during this challenging time.

And take a minute to read moving stories that are posted there that speak to the quality of our volunteers and the kindness of their work with clients.

I also want to salute our regional volunteers and staff who have kept up with our steady-state work during these past seven weeks. While our Red Cross work in other areas may not garner headlines during times of disaster, we all know that our regular work is also so vitally important. Many of you have not only kept focused on steady-state work, you may have done so with fewer team members because some of your colleagues have been deployed.

So, whether you've responded to wildfires, answered office phones remotely, helped blood donors at our lifesaving drives, provided support for a military family, welcomed new volunteers, shared information about our activities, or fulfilled one of our many other tasks, please know how personally grateful I am for everything you are doing to deliver our mission.

Lastly, I'd be remiss in not saying to our incredible volunteers that we continue to be concerned about a fire season that may last many more weeks. So, if you are interested and available to help as part of a Disaster Response, please log into Volunteer Connection > My Shifts > [Disaster Relief Operation - Volunteer Shifts](#). If you are available for any of these shifts (4-8 hours each), please sign up directly in the calendar. (Please note that you will only be able to view the shifts available within 50 miles of your home address listed in Volunteer Connection. If you are currently assigned to a DRO, you will not be able to see available shifts.)

If you are a trained Disaster Responder and have 5 or more days of availability, we encourage you to update your availability by logging into Volunteer Connection > [My Profile > Disaster Cycle Services > Disaster Responder Availability](#). We are looking for 5 or more days of availability that matches a needed DRO position.

In closing, please know how very grateful I am for each and every one of you — and how very proud I am to work alongside you.

Thank you again!

Jennifer

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