

2020 California Wildfire Recovery Assistance



The American Red Cross plays a critical role in helping families and communities recover in the weeks and months after a disaster. All Red Cross services, including financial assistance, are available to individuals regardless of nationality, race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. The Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency and people do not need to be American citizens to receive our help.



Tips on Returning Home

Do not return home until officials say it is safe to do so.

- Inspect the roof immediately and extinguish any sparks or embers. Wildfires may have left embers that could reignite.
- Avoid damaged or downed power lines, poles and wires.
- Keep your animals under your direct control. Hidden embers and hot spots could burn them.
- Wet down debris to minimize breathing in dust particles.
- Wear leather gloves and shoes with heavy soles.
- Throw out any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.



Immediate Assistance Program

The Red Cross is committed to helping the community.

Starting Sept. 11, 2020, the Red Cross will provide financial assistance to households whose homes were confirmed to have been destroyed or sustained major damage from the 2020 California Wildfires.

Households may apply for financial assistance by calling 1-800-RED CROSS, select Option #4 and then follow the prompts to speak to a dedicated call agent to complete an application.



Application Requirements

All Red Cross disaster assistance is free.

To be eligible for the Immediate Assistance Program, households must apply and meet all of the following requirements (damage classification for this operation is determined by CalFire):

- Applicant's pre-disaster primary residence is located in a confirmed disaster-impacted geographic area.
- Applicant is the head of household and is not listed as a household member on any other Immediate Assistance Program application.
- Applicant's primary residence suffered major damage or was destroyed.
 - Major damage is indicated by significant structural damage to a residence that requires extensive repairs. This may include substantial failure of the roof, walls or foundation or a water line above 18 inches.
 - A residence that is destroyed is one that is a total loss or with damage so extensive that repair is not feasible.
- Primary applicant's identity and proof of residence details were verified.

To learn more about Red Cross assistance, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)