



SITUATION REPORT

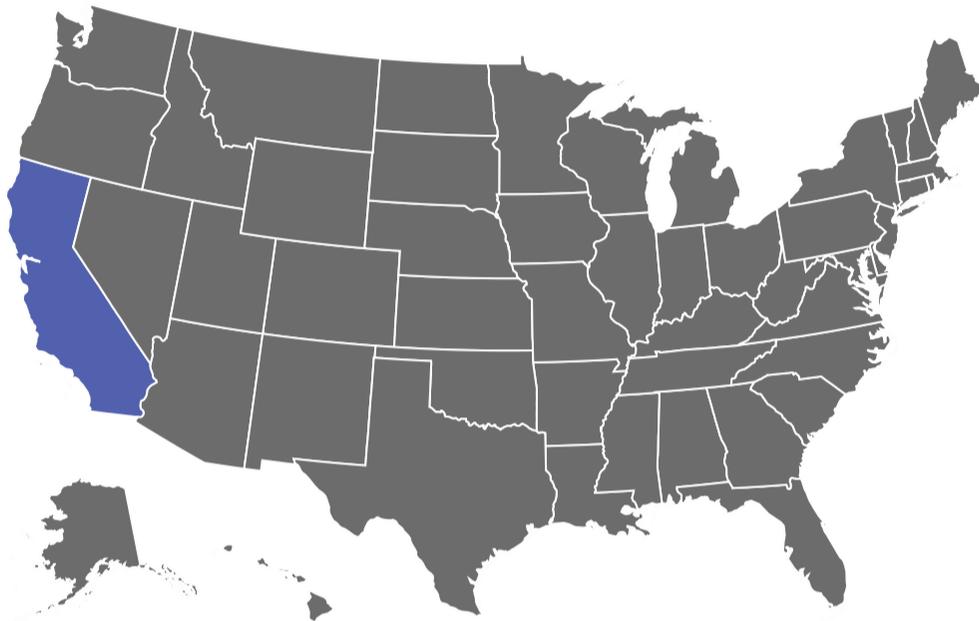
California Fires



DECEMBER 13, 2017



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



SITUATION

Earlier this week, in Southern California, fast-moving wildfires fueled by intense winds have forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. These fires come on the tail of several other fires that devastated multiple areas within the state.

At the start, FEMA reported that the Thomas (Ventura County), Creek (San Fernando/ LA County) and Rye (LA County) fires had burned about 72,000 acres combined, destroying more than 150 structures and threatening about 20,000 more.

A few days later, there were two additional declared fires (Skirball (Los Angeles) and Lilac 5 (San Diego)) and the others had grown. FEMA also reported nearly 200,000 acres had burned, leaving about 195,000 residents with mandatory evacuation orders. Also, about 420 homes were destroyed with about 25,000 more under threat.

Today, reports show that while four of the other fires have been contained, the Thomas fire, affecting Santa Barbara and Ventura counties continues to burn. So far, about 240,000 acres have burned and 93,000 people remain on mandatory evacuation. About 11,000 homes and other structures have been damaged or destroyed with 18,000 remaining under threat.

RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners and affiliates, including Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, will be responding to address the needs of all those affected by wildfires. Although the extent of the fires' impact are not yet known, Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to responding to help our neighbors in their path, and has a long history of responding to wildfires in California. Your gifts will help make possible a robust response on the long road to recovery for survivors.

We invite you to stand by our neighbors in California during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those devastated by the fires.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. Wildfires" will be used to help those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide both immediate and long-lasting support.

Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

