

# Corporation for National and Community Service

---

## DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 7/5/12

*More than 245 national service members are deployed throughout the country, assisting communities affected by severe weather and wildfires. These members are providing volunteer and donations management, 2-1-1 call center support, cooling station support and direct fire response service. Please read on for additional information.*

---

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METRO AREA SEVERE WEATHER**

A severe storm affected areas in northern Virginia, southern Maryland and the District of Columbia on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. This storm downed trees and has caused severe power outages. To date, 17% of the D.C. Metro area is still without power.

#### FAIRFAX, VA

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Four NCCC members have been deployed to the D.C. Metro Area to support the Delmarva American Red Cross chapter with sheltering operations. These members are expected to end their deployment on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **MISSOURI WILDFIRES**

Increased fire weather has been intensified by extreme heat in Missouri over the past week, with daily temperatures ranging from 102-108 degrees accompanied by very low humidity and fuel moisture. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Governor Nixon "ordered the activation of the *State Emergency Operations Center* in response to fires and a prolonged period of record heat and low precipitation across Missouri."

#### BIXBY AND HIGDON, MO

**NEW** AmeriCorps St. Louis

July 3<sup>rd</sup>

25 AmeriCorps St. Louis fire crew have been deployed to assist the US Forest Service in suppressing two wildfires in the east central part of Missouri near the towns of Bixby and Higdon, MO. Nineteen of these members provided initial attack and mop up support on the 622 acre East End Fire and the 48 acre Madison Fire, both of which are now controlled. An additional 6 member crew remained on fire standby through Sunday in the Southwest portion of the state to provide additional Initial Attack resources.

In addition to wildfire response, AmeriCorps St. Louis has been working with local urban partners in St. Louis to combat heat related illness that often effects the senior and homeless populations. Wellness checks have been performed and cooling resources (water and electrolyte drinks) are being distributed throughout the city.

# Corporation for National and Community Service

---

## **MONTANA WILDFIRES**

Wildfires in Montana have forced evacuation for many residents of Roundup, MT (Musselshell County). To date, 223 structures have been lost, including 73 residences and 150 other buildings

### ROUNDUP, MT

*RSVP*

*June 28<sup>th</sup>*

20 RSVP volunteers (CERT Trained) are serving in and supporting the Department of Emergency Services Office in Roundup. Other RSVP volunteers are assisting those that have been evacuated find places to stay. This same area flooded just one year ago.

## **WESTERN WILDFIRES**

Approximately 200 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers have been deployed to fight wildfires, manage volunteers and donations, operate emergency shelters, and support call centers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Members of AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State & National, and RSVP programs are working with federal, state, and local government agencies, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Adventist Community Services, and other organizations. Additional teams are being deployed as conditions evolve.

## **UTAH WILDFIRES**

### PRICE, UT

*AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Gold 6 and Green 4 with 16 members total, have been deployed to Price to assist El Dorado Forestry Service to combat the Seeley Fire. These teams will be cutting fire line and other duties as assigned. Gold 6 and Green 4 will end this deployment on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **COLORADO WILDFIRES**

### GREELY, CO

*AmeriCorps VISTA*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Four AmeriCorps VISTAs are staffing the United Way of Weld County 211 Call Center. These members are directing callers to resources available for those affected by wildfires in the area.

### COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

*AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Fire 7, a seven member team has deployed to support the United Way call center. Fire 7 is expected to end this deployment on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

# Corporation for National and Community Service

---

## *AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Team Sun 2, a nine member team has sent half their team to the town of Divide to assist with shelter evacuation. The other half of the team is in Colorado Springs assisting with shelter evacuations. They have also been assigned by the Red Cross to assist the Humane Society with large animal evacuation in Colorado Springs. Sun 2 is expected to end this deployment on July 19th.

## *AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Fire 8, a ten member team deployed this morning as a second support team to the Red Cross sheltering operation. Fire 8 is expected to end this deployment on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## *AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*May 14<sup>th</sup>*

Team Fire 4, a nine member team has been deployed to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office to assist with the Waldo Canyon fire. Fire 4 has been providing structure protection, cutting fire break line, cutting trees and putting out spot fires. Fire 4 should be expected to be deployed until 7/19/12.

## FORT COLLINS, CO

### *Metro Volunteers VISTA*

*June 28<sup>th</sup>*

An AmeriCorps VISTA is working through the Governor's Commission (Serve Colorado) assisting in the High Park Fire, working closely with Colorado VOAD and Emergency Managers as a liaison. This VISTA is using the capacity that she helped build through her regular VISTA duties. In addition, she's working as the CVCN representative as well as the COVOAD liaison at the EOC. Her work for CVCN has been to respond to agencies requesting volunteers. She provides CVCN with information gathered through [www.HelpColoradoNow.org](http://www.HelpColoradoNow.org) and AidMatrix. Her work for COVOAD has been to facilitate communication between the Emergency Managers and the COVOAD agencies. She's providing status information on daily update calls on behalf of COVOAD and CVCN.

### *VISTA*

*June 28<sup>th</sup>*

An AmeriCorps VISTA has been actively supporting 2-1-1 Colorado's response to the High Park Fire since June 10<sup>th</sup>. Her primary work has been to facilitate accurate information sharing between the Joint Information Center and the 2-1-1 Call Centers, and acting as the liaison between 2-1-1 and local and state partners. This VISTA member has also played a key role in linking responding local non-profits to COVOAD in order to allow those organizations to utilize donations and volunteer offers that are coming forth from the community. This member has coordinated logistics for the Joint Information Center, actively represented 2-1-1 at the State Operations, DCT/VCT, and Recovery Meetings, and has worked with COVOAD to ensure the [www.helpcoloradnow.org](http://www.helpcoloradnow.org) website is updated and accurate. She also has trained and supported volunteers working at the United Way of Larimer County 2-1-1 Call Center to assist with answering the phones. The planning and preparedness work that this member accomplished in the months leading up to this crisis

# Corporation for National and Community Service

---

have proven significantly helpful in addressing coordination efforts in response to the High Park Fire and other wildfires occurring across Colorado.

*RSVP*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

RSVP members from 4 partner agencies: Salvation Army of Fort Collins, American Red Cross Centennial Chapter, United Way of Larimer County and Catholic Charities of Denver, (a roughly estimated 100 members) are assisting with volunteer and donations management, assisting with Elbert County tornado and wildfire events. Some RSVP members are also assisting in Colorado Springs COVOAD response. They are hosting 1-2 state conference calls a day for fire updates and disaster recovery planning.

*United Way of Larimer County AmeriCorps State Program*

*June 27<sup>th</sup>*

Four AmeriCorps State members are assisting with 2-1-1 Call Center support. This call center is helping those affected by surrounding wildfires to access support resources.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 23<sup>rd</sup>*

Fire 8, a ten member team has been deployed to the American Red Cross to support sheltering, distribute comfort and clean-up kits, client case work and logistics. Fire 8 will end this deployment on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 19<sup>th</sup>*

Water 5, a twelve member team from AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus has been deployed to Fort Collins, CO to support the American Red Cross Mile High Chapter. Water 5 will be supporting sheltering operations for evacuees from the High Park wildfire that has forced many residents from their homes. The team will also be distributing comfort and clean-up kits, client casework and supporting logistical operations. Water 5 will be deployed for two weeks.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region*

*June 16<sup>th</sup>*

Fire Team 3, a team of 10 members, has been deployed from the AmeriCorps NCCC Campus in Denver to Fort Collins, CO to assist ACS Community Life/Adventist Community Services Disaster Response with the High Park fire disaster response. Fire Team 3 will provide leadership and assistance managing volunteers and donations. These members will assist in scheduling volunteers to staff the donations collections center and the distribution center. The team is expected to end this deployment on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW DISASTER EVENTS**

For information on new disaster events, please visit FEMA's daily situation report at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

# Corporation for National and Community Service

## AmeriCorps NCCC Water 6 Report from Colorado Wildfire Deployment

*Water 6, a nine member team has just concluded a 23 day deployment to various wildfire responses in Colorado. The following is an account of their deployment, written by their Team Leader, Alex McGrew:*

Initially, we were called to respond to the fire on Saturday along with USDA Forest Service Engine 2-2 based out of Salida, CO. Upon arrival, we were briefed when the fire was counted at roughly 10-15 acres. Our first assignment was direct attack split into two different squads. One squad was sent to start direct line at the anchor point near the origin of the fire, while the other squad was sent to establish control line around a spot fire. Once completed, we began direct attack digging fire line up the left flank of the fire. One AmeriCorps member was posted as a lookout, as well. On that first day, the fire took off from 10-15 acres to 300 acres, spitting over 200 foot flames and plumes of smoke above the tree line of Treasure Mountain. For the remainder of the time spent on the fire, the AmeriCorps NCCC crew was bunked at the forest service bunkhouses in Leadville. Then, what turned out to be 420 acre fire was split into two divisions, Alpha and Bravo. AmeriCorps NCCC worked in the Bravo division alongside the Grayback crew and Juniper Valley Prison crew. Each day the crew hiked in 2 miles up to roughly 12,000 foot facing the effects of altitude sickness as well as the dangers of exhaustion that come with working 16-17 hour days for seven consecutive days. The rest of our tasks included cutting and prepping a road for a possible burnout, holding line for a burnout, building a footbridge across a creek for all units to use, mopping up and cold trailing.

## Resources

### ***Montana Governor's Office of Community Service***

The Montana Governor's Office of Community Service focuses on emergency preparedness with a Homeland Security Grant to fund the [Ready Montana](#) initiatives with a specific focus on the [fire](#) and [winter](#) seasons. We strive to connect the Ready Montana initiatives with AmeriCorps as much as possible. The Montana Conservation Corps has an agreement with CNCS and is available for deployment if needed. In addition for the 2012 grant year we will require all AmeriCorps members serving in Montana to take an emergency preparedness or recovery course. By engaging all AmeriCorps members we hope to strengthen local preparedness and recovery efforts by adding boots on the ground in the disaster services areas.

### ***Colorado Wildfire Assistance***

For those interested in assisting those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, please visit: [www.HelpColoradoNow.org](http://www.HelpColoradoNow.org). This website identifies ways to donate time or resources to those in need.

# Corporation for National and Community Service

---

*If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>. If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) .*