

Corporation for National and Community Service

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 7/2/12

If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit 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.

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

NEW RSVP

June 28th

20 RSVP volunteers (CERT Trained) are serving in and supporting the DES 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 Campus

June 27th

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 14th.

COLORADO WILDFIRES

GREELY, CO

AmeriCorps VISTA

June 27th

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.

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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

June 27th

Team Fire 7, a seven member team has deployed to support the United Way call center.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

June 27th

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 7/19/12.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

June 27th

Team Fire 8, a ten member team deployed this morning as a second support team to the Red Cross sheltering operation.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

May 14th

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

NEW *Metro Volunteers VISTA*

June 28th

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 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.

NEW *VISTA*

June 28th

An AmeriCorps VISTA has been actively supporting 2-1-1 Colorado's response to the High Park Fire since June 10th. 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

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www.nationalservice.gov

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Recovery Meetings, and has worked with COVOAD to ensure the 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 have proven significantly helpful in addressing coordination efforts in response to the High Park Fire and other wildfires occurring across Colorado.

RSVP

June 27th

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 27th

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 Campus

June 23rd

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 19th.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

June 19th

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 Campus

June 16th

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 scheduled to be deployed for two to four weeks.

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LAKE GEORGE AND LEADVILLE, CO

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus

June 6th

Water 6, a ten member team is serving with the USDA Forest Service, Pike/San Isabel Forest. Water 6 has responded to six fires in the area; Lost Turtle, Webber, Pole Creek, Lost Mountain and Treasure fire north of Leadville, CO. This team has provided mop up, cold trailing, and fire line cutting services. The month of June has been busy with a number of fire responses. They are listed below. At the Treasure fire on June 25, Water 6 were the first fire team on-site and provided initial attack of the fire and lookout assistance.

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>

RSVP: The Gift of a Wheel Chair Ramp

In mid-June the High Park fire started in Larimer County, driving residents from their homes to find shelter in Fort Collins and the surrounding community. One resident, veteran Clint Collins, was forced to evacuate from his home near Horsetooth Reservoir because of the heavy smoke and potential danger of the fire moving in that direction. He was offered a place to stay with a relative in Loveland, Colorado. The house was not wheelchair accessible.

Wanting to make the transition as easy on Clint as possible, the family member started looking for assistance immediately. Larimer County's Office on Aging, an RSVP partner agency, referred her to Volunteers of America Northern Colorado Services. The Volunteers of America Colorado Branch has a handyman program that provides safety related work for seniors and disabled individuals throughout Larimer County. The program has a part-time coordinator and relies on the volunteer work of thirty handymen, most of who are retired. Volunteers of America sponsors the Larimer County RSVP Senior Corps Program. Twenty-seven of the thirty volunteer handymen are RSVP members.

The handyman program coordinator was called to see if they could help by building a wheel chair ramp so Clint would be able to get in and out of the house. On the previous day, a senior citizen called Volunteers of America and offered to donate a wheel chair ramp to someone else that could use it. Volunteers of America's handymen had custom built the ramp months prior. The senior had recovered from hip surgery and no longer needed the ramp.

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The ramp being offered for donation sounded similar to what was being requested. That afternoon, Jack Bartsch, a retired carpenter who coordinates the wheel chair ramp projects in Loveland for Volunteers of America, looked at both sites. The next morning with the help of three other handymen, Jack was able to move the ramp being offered for donation to the home where Clint Collins was living. The ramp turned out to be almost a perfect fit requiring only one small modification. The four handymen had the ramp installed in two hours.

Both the homeowner and veteran were very relieved and appreciative. Clint does not like to be lifted and hauled up and down steps. The ramp allows him to get in and out of the home, independent of others. Thanks to the effort of the handymen volunteers, the ramp was installed the day after Volunteers of America received the call, at no cost. Mobility would be one less worry for this one High Park fire evacuee.

Resources

Colorado Wildfire Assistance

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