



In the wake of the needs for wildfire survivors, we ask that you consider donating responsibly. Your **monetary** donations can go much further and more strategically than donated goods or items. Monetary donations also allow for discounts through bulk purchasing that can't be achieved through single items. Furthermore, *infusion of cash helps to rebuild the local economy* through local spending and allow survivors to get back to a new normal faster. Use sites like Charity Navigator to assess an organization's history to make choices in where to direct your donation. Local food banks typically provide immediate needs, while re-building organizations help months down the road in recovery.

The following donation entities need assistance in Butte County:

- Per Butte County website, monetary Donations can be made via the North Valley Community Foundation website: <https://www.nvcf.org/fund/camp-fire-evacuation-relief-fund/>
- Hope Center in Oroville (1950 Kitrick Ave Ste. A) is taking in-kind donations. Hours: Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 - Needs: warm clothes, shoes, socks, coats (primarily for elderly residents).
- The Butte County Office of Education created the Schools Fire Relief Fund to provide a one-stop location where individuals or organizations could provide support directly to schools in Butte County. Donors can either specify a specific district or use (textbooks, clothes, etc.) for the funds or make an open donation.
 - Website: <https://www.nvcf.org/fund/butte-county-schools-fire-relief-fund/>

If you are looking for organizations to direct your resources, look first to 501c3 community foundations in the area affected, make sure they have a connection to the emergency operation center and are documenting donations (in a state proclamation or federal declaration, documented donations can receive a match towards the agency's financial obligation). Additionally, seek out members of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). These organizations are dedicated to service provision during disaster and remain for recovery long after professional rescuers have left and returned home to their jobs. Recovery takes YEARS - so consider donating a month, a year or even 5 years from now... the communities will still need that assistance.

While many hearts are in the right place, collected goods can clog the system and burden rescuers and volunteers with managing un-asked-for items.

If you would like to volunteer please go to www.caring-choices.org to complete the application process and wait for direction. They are the assigned volunteer coordination organization. DO NOT drive into the area without instruction or permission. It is still an actively dangerous place and your presence may impede first responders and relief workers.

Lastly, be part of the solution with personal responsibility. Be prepared for a disaster coming your way:

1. Register for www.Sacramento-Alert.org so you may receive emergency messages from the city and county. If and when an evacuation order is issued, follow it, don't stay behind.
2. Set aside emergency items in a disaster kit. Think about what you would need to be comfortable in a prolonged power outage, most of those supplies will help maintain some normalcy in disaster. Or visit www.ready.gov for suggestions based on all sorts of threats.
3. Assess your financial health and weigh your risks. Make sure you are properly insured. Just because you are not in a "FEMA" floodplain does not mean you shouldn't purchase flood insurance. Make sure all your other insurance needs are met and set aside an emergency fund so you may access cash rapidly.
4. Get trained and volunteer. You can take Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to help your neighbors in the aftermath of a disaster. VOAD and many religious institutions have dedicated groups who assist in disaster response and recovery - get involved.