



**Big Hearted People from All Over the U.S. Come to California State Fair to Help Those Impacted by California Wildfires**



**October 20, 2018 - Sacramento, California - The California State Fair sends our thanks to all American Red Cross volunteers from throughout the country who have come to help those affected by the California wildfires.**

*"During this time of severe disaster in California, we greatly appreciate the many hard working Red Cross volunteers that came from 17 states to the California State Fair to assist us as a regional evacuation and recovery facility. Big hearted people helping people in need, and making an impactful difference," said Rick Pickering, CEO and General Manager of Cal Expo and the California State Fair.*

**On Tuesday, October 10,** the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) designated Cal Expo and State Fair to open as an emergency shelter managed by the American Red Cross for people directly impacted by the wildfires in Northern California.

Cal Expo, designated as an overflow shelter, also quickly became a staff operations center for emergency response personnel and emergency response vehicle (ERV) drivers.

Hundreds of volunteers deployed to the region by the American Red Cross came to Cal Expo and State Fair emergency shelter for check-in, inspections, rest and replenishment. These volunteers came from Minnesota, Ohio, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Texas, West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Colorado, Oregon, Virginia, Tennessee, Michigan, Arkansas, Arizona, Nevada and Illinois.

Twenty-two fairgrounds across California are contributing to the response and recovery from all of the California fires by sheltering evacuees, animals and serving as fire camps.

*“Partnerships like the one we have with Cal Expo and State Fair are invaluable in fulfilling our mission to help those affected by these fires,” says Gary Strong, CEO of the Gold Country Region of the American Red Cross. “We are so comforted to know that The California State Fair can be counted on as a valued partner in service to the needs of the community”.*

Cal Expo and State Fair is grateful to all who have traveled far from home to join in the wildfire response. We also thank our fair network for opening its doors in this time of crisis.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Volunteers pictured from American Red Cross:**

**TOP PHOTO:** *(From Left to Right)*

Row 3: N/A, Tara Dalka - WI, Louis Geiger - LA, N/A, & John Lusk - NV

Row 2: Christine Reagan - TN, Melanie Foley - MI, Joe Childers, Leah Gilbertson - AR, Cheryl Flores - AZ, Fran Matheny - IL, Charlotte Anderson - CA, Ashley Turner - CO, Slamson - Sacramento Kings - CA, Albert Reiter - MN, Sandy Ramirez - OR, N/A, & Mike Hofmann - MN

Row 1: Woody Wilson - WV, Deborah Kohlbrand - OH, Jenna - Sacramento Kings Dancer - CA, Mackenzie - Sacramento Kings Dancer - CA, Cathy Ventura-Merkel - VA

**PHOTO ON RIGHT:** *(From Left to Right)*

Albert Reiter - MN, Mike Hofmann - MN, Faye Schuur - MN, Slamson - Sacramento Kings - CA

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** *(From Left to Right)*

Jenna - Sacramento Kings Dancer - CA, Jim Lyons - WY, Richard Conner - TX, Woody Wilson - WV, Slamson - Sacramento Kings - CA, Louis Geiger - LA, Joel Hoffman - NC, Mike Hofmann - MN, Mackenzie - Sacramento Kings Dancer, Tara Dalka - WI, Stu Nieburg - CO

**ABOUT CAL EXPO**

Cal Expo is home to the California State Fair and plays host to hundreds of other signature events each year. Featuring 400 acres of open space along the American River Parkway and 350 beautifully landscaped acres, Cal Expo facilities were

dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, preserve a slice of Americana, and provide a window into the future.

Originally established in 1854, the California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, industries, agriculture, diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. We invite you to join us for the 165th California State Fair July 13 - 29, 2018.

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