



**American
Red Cross**

Ventura County
836 Calle Plano
Camarillo, CA 93012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Piffero
Phone: (805)687-1331 x6610
Cell: (661)809-2726
Jessica.Piffero@redcross.org

RED CROSS EXTENDS SERVICE CENTER FOR THOMAS FIRE RELIEF

Ventura, Calif., January 7, 2018 — The American Red Cross is extending its service center dates to provide recovery assistance to residents affected by the Thomas Fire. The service center location at the **Ventura County Credit Union, 6026 Telephone Rd., Ventura, CA 93003** will be open **Monday, January 8 – Friday, January 12, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

“The Red Cross will be here as long as there is a need,” said Red Cross Executive Director Kimberly Coley, “We want to make sure that every single family affected by the fire is on the road to recovery.”

Red Cross caseworkers at the service center work one-on-one with each affected family to create an individualized recovery plan. They can help navigate paperwork, locate help from other agencies, and in some cases, provide financial assistance.

After January 12, 2018, residents affected by the Thomas Fire may contact the local Red Cross office at (805) 987-1514 to be connected with caseworker.

The Red Cross delivers help to whoever needs it regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or citizenship status. The Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency, and people who have disaster-caused needs do not need to be American citizens to access Red Cross services.

Landslide Safety

Wildfire burn scars are more vulnerable to landslides, meaning that many neighborhoods recently evacuated due to wildfires may be threatened by landslides or flooding this winter. With rainfall impacting the region this week, the Red Cross is offering the following safety tips:

1. Landslides generally happen in areas where they have occurred in the past. Learn about your area’s landslide risk.
2. Create and practice an evacuation plan for your family or business.
3. Assemble and maintain an emergency preparedness kit.
4. Watch the patterns of storm drainage on slopes near your home, especially where runoff water converges.
5. During severe storms, stay alert and awake.
6. If you suspect imminent danger, evacuate immediately.

7. Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together.

Find these and other safety tips online at redcross.org or by downloading the free Red Cross Emergency App. Search for it in your app store, or text "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999.

How to Help

The Red Cross is able to provide disaster relief services during wildfire season thanks to the generosity of the community. Call, click or text to give: call 1-800 RED CROSS, visit redcross.org, or text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

The Red Cross is accepting new volunteers who are interested in supporting wildfire relief efforts. Visit redcross.org/volunteer to begin an application. Once submitted, Red Cross representatives will contact the applicants regarding orientation and volunteer opportunities.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

Jessica Piffero
Regional Director of Communications

American Red Cross
Central California Region
1300 W. Shaw Ave. Suite 4B
Fresno, CA 93711
Office: (559)455-1000 x6610
Cell: (661)809-2726
jessica.piffero@redcross.org



Join us to *Sound the Alarm* about home fire safety and save lives.

ASK me how.