

California Wildfire Information for Veterans

During this wildfire season, numerous regions and communities have been affected by devastating wildfires throughout California. Due to this hardship, CalVet has gathered the following resources to help veterans and their families stay informed and get back on their feet.

For the most up-to-date fire information go to the [CalFire page](#). To find the air quality index for an area in California go to the [Airnow](#) site.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

For local and state resources including information on shelters and housing, food banks, employment services, financial assistance, and more see [response.ca.gov](#).

<https://response.ca.gov/resources.html#shelter>

California Department of Veterans Affairs

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) works to serve California veterans and their families. With nearly 1.6 million veterans living in the State, CalVet strives to ensure that its veterans of every era and their families get the state and federal benefits and services they have earned and deserve as a result of selfless and honorable military service. CalVet strives to serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to help them achieve their highest quality of life.

<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/>

Contact us Toll-Free: **800-952-5626**

County Veterans Service Office

We encourage all veterans to call their local County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) at **844-737-8838** for information and assistance with filing claims, replacing service-related and benefits documents, and receiving job placement assistance. Find more information about U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operations and assistance, as well as the status of CVSO offices in areas impacted by wildfires below. A complete list of CVSOs with contact information is available here:

<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CVSO-Locations.aspx>

<http://www.cacvso.org/county-contacts/>

CalVet Home Loans Support

If you have a CalVet Home Loan with CalVet fire and hazard insurance and were evacuated or experienced property damage due to fire and/or smoke, call the 24-hour hotline at **(800) 626-1613** to begin the claim process. For additional information, call **1-866-421-6978**.

For assistance with billing, please call our customer/account services team at **(866) 653-2504**.

Local Assistance Centers

Napa County Health and Human Services - Veteran Advocate Available

2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, Napa, CA 94558

Monday-Sunday, Hours of Operation 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

A virtual LAC is available for Napa County at [here](#).

<https://readynapacounty.org/>

Santa Cruz

140 Front St., Santa Cruz, CA

Monday-Sunday, Hours of Operation 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Virtual resources for Santa Cruz County are available at:

<https://www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery.aspx>

Monterey - Veteran Advocate Available

1 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940

Monday-Sunday, Hours of Operation 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

A virtual LAC is available for Monterey County at:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services/response/2020-fires/virtual-local-assistance-center-2>

R.V.E.T.S. Program

CAL FIRE, recognizing the hardships accompanying reintegration into the civilian workforce, as well as the valuable skills and experiences veterans possess, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has launched Returning Veterans; Enlisting Their Skills for CAL FIRE Service (R.V.E.T.S).

[R.V.E.T.S.](#) is CAL FIRE's grassroots effort to assist veterans with integration and transition into service with the Department. In partnership with CalVet, the California National Guard (Cal Guard), and the United States Armed Services, R.V.E.T.S. explores a variety of employment options and educational opportunities for veterans who have successfully served as well as those who continue to serve in the National Guard and Reserves.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/rvets/>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) may be able to assist eligible veterans with accelerated claims processing, temporary housing, and suspended debt payments. Veterans who are experiencing chronic homelessness or homelessness due to the fire can find information about [housing assistance for veterans](#).

<https://www.va.gov/homeless/housing.asp>

If you have a VA Home Loan, contact the VA Loan Servicing division at **877-827-3702**.

For more information about federal assistance for veterans, refer to:

- VBA Benefits Call Center: **1-800-827-1000**
- Veterans Crisis Line: **1-800-273-8255**