



24-hour media hotline

855-559-0333 and ggsmedia@redcross.org

Food Truck Strike Team Provide Free Lunch in Middletown to Residents Impacted by Valley Fires

Middletown, CA (September 27, 2015) – In coordination with Lake County and the American Red Cross, a Food Truck Strike Team, sponsored by Stanford Federal Credit Union, will be at the Lake County Local Assistance Center (CLAC) on **Monday, September 28, 2015 at noon**. The CLAC is at the Middletown Senior Center (21256 Washington Street) and will be providing a variety of delicious free lunch offerings for up to 1,000 residents. The Food Trucks that will be participating include:

- **Red Rooster**, offering Mexican foods such as tacos, burritos, tortas and quesadillas to spice up your day
- **Adam's Grub Truck**, offering blended traditional Asian flavors with a contemporary twist of good ol' American comfort food
- **Sam's Chowder**, offering Lobster Rolls, Sam's famous New England clam chowder, Fried Calamari, Fish and Chips, and more
- **Curry Up Now**, offering blend of traditional Indian flavors and street foods presented in a friendly, recognizable way
- **3 Brothers Kitchen**, offering the flavors of the Filipino, Hawaiian, Thai, Vietnamese, and other cultures to take Asian Fusion to a new level

The idea of a Food Truck Strike Team originated with Simon Williams, who works for the Office of Emergency Service in Palo Alto. Within a couple of days of the Valley Fire, he was able to secure funding, the trucks and connect with Lake County and the Red Cross to coordinate a central location to the relief effort.

"By combining forces we can make a stronger impact and help more people at one time," said Simon Williams. "Individually these food trucks felt they could do little to help, as the travel time and gas costs alone are extremely costly. However with the support of the Credit Union and the Strike Team plan, we are able to pull together to help the community at large."

"When we heard of the devastation and destruction caused by the Valley Fire we wanted to be a part of the relief efforts for all those affected. The unique idea of a dedicated team of food trucks providing some respite follows our philosophy and that of all credit unions, 'people helping people.' All of us at the Stanford Federal Credit Union are here for our community at large during the good and bad times," said Joan Opp, President and CEO of Stanford Federal Credit Union, Palo Alto, CA

The Valley Fire is currently the third largest in California state history, covering more than 76,000 acres and destroying nearly 2,000 structures, including more than 1,200 homes. Firefighters have made significant progress and many evacuations have been lifted. On Saturday night, more than 300 people found a safe place to sleep and break from the heat and smoke in American Red Cross and community shelters in California.

The difficult recovery from these fires makes this a frustrating and emotionally draining time for everyone involved. Red Cross mental health volunteers are available to help. Red Cross caseworkers are meeting one-on-one with people to create recovery plans, navigate paperwork and locate help from other agencies. In some situations, the Red Cross is providing direct financial support to people who need extra help. And in areas where evacuation orders have been lifted, the Red Cross is distributing food and relief supplies to support people as they return home.

Red Cross Response by the Numbers:

- Served more than 81,000 meals and snacks
- Supported more than 10,700 overnight shelter stays
- Handed out nearly 38,000 relief items
- Provided more than 5,500 health and mental health contacts
- Opened more than 730 cases to provide individualized recovery support

Where To Find Assistance

Red Cross Information Hotline

People affected by the Valley, Butte and Rough fires can also [\(855\) 224-2490](tel:8552242490) to learn about Red Cross services available.

Valley Fire

The Red Cross currently has the following shelters open:

- Grace Church, 6716 Live Oak Dr., Kelseyville
- Clear Lake Senior Center, 3245 Bowers Avenue, Clearlake
- Twin Pine Casino, 22223 CA-29, Middletown

The Red Cross and many community partners are operating the following assistance centers to ensure that the right resources and support are provided to those who have been affected by this disaster:

- Lake County Local Assistance Center: Middletown Senior Center, 21256 Washington St., Middletown (daily, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
- Red Cross Client Assistance Center: Middletown Community Methodist Church, 15833 Armstrong St., Middletown (daily, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Butte Fire

The Red Cross and many community partners are working to ensure that the right resources and support are provided to those who have been affected by this disaster:

- Shelter: Jenny Lind Veterans Hall, 189 Pine Street, Valley Springs
- Calaveras Local Assistance Center: Calaveras County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

HOW YOU CAN HELP People can help by donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations to Disaster Relief will be used to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. We respond to nearly 70,000 other disasters every year, from home fires to wildfires and more. Learn more about how Disaster Relief donations have helped people affected by [previous disasters](#) including [home fires](#)

[DOWNLOAD EMERGENCY APP](#)

People can download the all-inclusive Red Cross Emergency App which combines more than 35 emergency alerts to help keep the user safe, including information about what to do in case of wildfires and more. Users can find it in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

Users are also encouraged to utilize the 'Family Safe' tool inside the app to alert loved ones that they are safe.

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 visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross)

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