



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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### **Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps Springs into Action for Lake County Fires**

**Stanislaus County** - The Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps (SCMRC), part of the Emergency Preparedness unit of the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, has deployed several volunteers to assist with the "Valley Fire" that has been burning in Lake County since September 12. At this time the fire has been reported to be 90% contained and, with close to 2,000 structures being destroyed, officials are estimating that the fire has left roughly 3,000 people homeless. To address this devastation, emergency management officials have reached out to counties across the region to request aid and assistance during the long process of disaster recovery.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 individuals with the Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps were deployed to Lake County to take part in phone hotline operations that will assist affected residents with grief counseling and connecting them with the resources to help them in the disaster recovery process. The hotline will also be assisting officials in documenting damaged locations by phone.

"Our thoughts are with the citizens of Lake County that have been overwhelmed by this event and we are honored to be able to provide specialized services to those in need through our committed volunteers," said Mary Ann Lee, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Managing Director. SCMRC volunteers will be working 12 hour shifts through the weekend, and are expected to return to Stanislaus County by Tuesday of next week.

The Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps is part of a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. The MRC network comprises 996 community-based units and over 200,000 volunteers located throughout the United States and its territories.

MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities and build community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, blizzards, and floods, as well as other emergencies affecting public health, such as disease outbreaks. They frequently contribute to community health activities that promote healthy habits.

For more information about the SCMRC, please call (209) 558-8332.

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