



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**VA Northern California Health Care System**

Office of Public Affairs

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# VA NorCal Wildfire Update

A summary of the VA Northern California Health Care System's response to the Carr Fire of Shasta County as of Friday, August 3, 2018

As of Friday morning, the Carr Fire of Shasta County had spread to more than 130,000 acres with 39 percent containment. In its wake, the fire has left the destruction of nearly 1,100 homes.

The VA Redding Outpatient Clinic (OPC) continues to serve as the center of VA NorCal's response to the Carr Fire. Though several Redding OPC employees lost their homes and dozens more were forced to evacuate, **177 of the clinic's 199 employees have returned to work.**

"The VA NorCal staff in Redding has set a standard in their commitment to local Veterans," said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. "Despite personal loss in many cases, they've managed to not only keep open the Outpatient Clinic's doors, but travel deep into the community to ensure displaced Veterans are receiving the care they need and deserve."

The Redding OPC staff has taken several steps to better serve the approximately **11,000 Veterans that use the clinic each year.** This includes partnering with the Redding community to deploy a Mobile Vet Center to the Local Recovery Center (LRC) at Shasta High School, which will serve Veterans throughout the weekend. Staffed with three social workers, a registered nurse, and a program support assistant, the **Mobile Vet Center provided services to 23 Veterans in its first hour alone.** In addition, VA NorCal has established regular shuttle services between local evacuation sites and the Redding OPC to serve those Veterans lacking transportation.

To ensure **air quality** at the Redding OPC remains at healthy levels, the VA NorCal outpatient clinic in Martinez transported **three additional HEPA filters** to the Redding OPC. Alongside the arrival of **air-filtration masks** and respiratory-related medications, the HEPA filters have safeguarded the clinic's air quality for Veterans and staff throughout the Carr Fire.

**Veterans seeking assistance should contact the Advice Line at 1-800-382-8387** and state they are from the Redding area. Outside normal work hours, please choose option No. 4 to speak to an advice nurse.

**Media or seeking information** can contact Will Martin, VA NorCal Chief of Public Affairs, at 916-365-1590 (cell), [William.Martin6@va.gov](mailto:William.Martin6@va.gov), or via Twitter at [www.twitter/wmartin89](https://www.twitter/wmartin89).

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