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**Fwd: Wildfires in California: Special Edition for ECE Providers**

1 message

**Linda Asato** <lasato@rrnetwork.org> Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 4:30 PM  
To: Kelly Graesch <kgraesch@rrnetwork.org>, Heather Lang-Heaven <hlangheaven@rrnetwork.org>, Anthony Garcia <agarcia@rrnetwork.org>, Terah Hagy <thagy@rrnetwork.org>

FYI

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From: **California Childcare Health Program** <cchp.ucsf@151805774.mailchimpapp.com>  
Date: Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 2:28 PM  
Subject: Wildfires in California: Special Edition for ECE Providers  
To: Linda Asato <lasato@rrnetwork.org>

# Wildfires in California: Special Edition for ECE Providers

Information and Resources for California's Early Care and Education Providers



The California Childcare Health Program (CCHP) **Health and Safety Newsletter** shares up-to-date information from reliable sources to help Early Care and Education (ECE) providers promote health and safety.  
*This newsletter is made possible with funding from the Heising-Simons Foundation.*

# Supporting Child Care Programs and Families Through Wildfire Challenges

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California has faced significant wildfire challenges recently and in the past. Child care programs are in a unique position to prepare for wildfires while also supporting families during and after these events.

Children, family, and child care staff may experience grief, stress, and trauma during a wildfire. This special edition provides essential resources and practical tips for child care providers and families before, during, and after a wildfire, as well as providing [support for their emotional well-being](#).

To learn about wildfires and children's health, review these resources on [wildfire facts](#) and [wildfire smoke and children](#).

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## Before a Wildfire: Prepare for the Unexpected

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### Create a Preparedness Plan

Preparation is the best defense against wildfires. Child care programs and families should have a written emergency plan in place. For programs, the plan should include:

- Emergency communication with families
- [Evacuation routes](#) and emergency drills
- [Power outage](#) preparedness
- Medication and supplies for children
- Pickup procedures for families

Programs should share their emergency preparedness plans with families when they enroll to ensure everyone is informed. Learn more about preparing for a wildfire [here](#).

Here are resources in English and other languages to share with families from [Listos California](#) and [AirNow](#) to prepare them for a wildfire.

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## Build an Emergency Supply Kit

Child care programs and families should have an emergency supply kit or go-bag ready. ECE providers, click [here](#) for a suggested list of items and share [this resource](#), available in multiple languages, with families to create a personalized list of emergency supplies to prepare ahead of time in case of a wildfire.

## Sign-Up for Emergency Alerts

Child care programs and families can stay informed by signing up for emergency alerts in English and other languages:

- [Listos California](#) for various emergencies (fire, flood, evacuation, public health)
- [FirePLANNER](#) for fire-specific updates



## During a Wildfire: Stay Informed and Stay Safe

### Monitor Air Quality

Use [AirNow.gov](#)'s Air Quality Index (AQI), a simple color-coded system showing the air quality levels and potential health risks in the area and keep track of ongoing fires through [Fire.CA.gov](#). Access more actionable tips in English and

other languages from [Listos California's Smoke Safety Flyer](#).

AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution			
Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

### Monitor Potential Health Risks

Watch for symptoms in children, especially those with asthma or respiratory issues. Contact a healthcare provider or call 911 for a medical emergency.

### Evacuation Readiness

If evacuation is required:

- Take emergency kits or go-bags
- Ensure children and staff wear [N95 masks](#) to lower exposure to harmful particles outdoors.
- Notify families promptly

### After a Wildfire: Heal and Recover Together

Before resuming outdoor activities, check local [air quality](#) reports and encourage the use of N95 masks during cleanup to protect against lingering smoke and ash. Children should never play with ash or be present when ash is being cleaned up.

Read more about disaster recovery in English and other languages from [Listos California's Recovery Guide](#).

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### Support Emotional Well-being

Once the immediate threat is over, prioritize [safety and emotional well-being](#). Resources like [Together For Wellness](#) and the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) can be shared with families for additional support.

Wildfires can impact children's [emotional well-being](#), especially as they process loss and change. We can provide emotional support by:

- validating their feelings
- encouraging expression through talking or playing
- sticking to familiar routines to provide stability

By staying attentive and supportive, we can help children navigate through challenging times with resilience. For additional resources, visit [Child Mind Institute](#) and [Sesame Workshop](#).

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## Support for Those Impacted by the Los Angeles Wildfires

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For individuals currently impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires, resources are available to support you during this challenging time. The [State of California](#) provides recovery information in English and Spanish with phone numbers and individual assistance.

Remember, help is available—don't hesitate to use these resources to protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you would like to support those impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires, consider [volunteering](#) your time or [donating](#) to trusted organizations. To avoid scams, rely on verified sources for your contributions.

Your efforts can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by this disaster.

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If you would like to share a copy of our newsletter, [click here](#).

CCHP Website

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**Our mailing address is:**  
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