

It's Fire and Flood Season

Last week's devastating fires in Boulder County, Colorado, present an immediate need for TWO SPECIFIC TYPE OF DISASTER SUPPLIES – FIRE RELIEF BUCKETS AND ASH SIFTERS.

2020 and 2021 have seen perhaps the greatest number, intensity, area, destruction, and property damage of any fires in known history – not only in the U.S. but around the world. Firefighters, state and federal agencies, and disaster networks in Northern California, Oregon, Washington State, Utah, and Idaho have been working continuously to prevent deaths, to bring fires under control, to save communities, to prevent property loss.

And immediately on the tail end of fires comes flooding caused by forest damage – more property damage. And hurricane season in the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean is just beginning.

Desert Southwest Conference of United Methodist Churches has THREE Disaster Supply Hubs, located at:

- 1) Trinity UMC, 3104 W Glendale Avenue, Phoenix**
- 2) Prescott UMC, 505 W Gurley St, Prescott**
- 3) Christ Church UMC, 655 N Craycroft Rd, Tucson**

So how can churches and church members assist at this time of unprecedented natural (and man-caused) disaster?

Assemble Resource Kits and Supplies. Your church and church groups – youth, seniors, children, men's groups, women's groups, Bible study classes, choirs, mission groups – can assemble disaster resource kits. The Disaster Response Committee needs Fire Relief Buckets and Ash Sifters. If your congregation would like to host (and fund – Ash Sifters cost about \$6 each) an exciting day to assemble Ash Sifters but you don't have the equipment or know where to start, you can get assistance setting up a build. Contact Tom Mattick or Lorraine/Mike Eyer for further information.



Fire Relief Buckets (Approximate cost \$60)

Note: Fire Resource Buckets are especially needed in the Western Jurisdiction as other Jurisdictions do not solicit or stock them (or Ash Sifters)

- 1 5-Gallon bucket with re-sealable lid - Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned -Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner. Advertisements on the outside are acceptable
- Tyvek coveralls—XL or XXL (can tape them up for smaller bodies)
- 5 N95 dust masks (or similar if not available)
- 2 pair work gloves
- 8 pair Nitrile gloves to wear under work gloves
- 1 pack of at least 28 disinfecting wipes or multi-purpose cleaning wipes
- 1 box cutter
- 1 roll duct tape
- 2 Soot sponges (advertised to use for cleaning fireplaces)
- 6 Heavy duty construction trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- 1 Hand hoe
- 1 Hand trowel

Additional supplies not in Fire Resource buckets, but donations are also useful of: Square nosed shovels and rakes



18'x18" Ash Sifter (Approximate Cost \$6-9, depending on lumber cost)

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Please do not alter the dimensions of Ash Sifters to "improve them;" it causes difficulties with transportation and storage. (18" is the MAXIMUM dimension for the hardware cloth square; cutting greater than 18" doesn't make the sifter better, it leaves sharp wire "tails" on the edges of the Sifter! 17½" is better than 18½")

Materials for one sifter: (Provided by UMCOR)

4 – 2" x 3" x 17" boards (You get 5 out of 8' board)

4 – 1" x 2" x 17" boards (You get 5 out of 8' board)

18" square of ½" hardware cloth (Use 36" wide material. Using large tin snip, cut in half length wise, then cut across into 18" squares. Make slightly shorter rather than longer.

(You get 34, 18" squares, out of standard 25' roll of ½" hardware cloth)

8 – 3" screws, with pre-drilled holes)

16 – 2" screws, with pre-drilled holes)

16 – ½" staples

