



California Sandy Fire 05/19/2026

Office of the Governor

Gavin Newsom
300 S Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90013
916-445-2841

[California secures federal assistance to support response to Sandy Fire in Ventura County | Governor of California](#)

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Press release May 19, 2026

“Evacuation orders in effect, residents urged to follow guidance from local officials California secured federal firefighting funds to help suppress the Sandy Fire as evacuation orders are underway in Ventura County.

***VENTURA** – Moving swiftly to support local and state response efforts to the Sandy Fire, Governor Gavin Newsom announced Monday that California has secured a [Fire Management Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bolster the response to the Sandy Fire burning in Ventura County.*

California is mobilizing resources to support Ventura County communities threatened by the Sandy Fire. This activation will ensure responders have the support needed to continue protecting lives and homes as dangerous fire conditions persist. We are deeply grateful to the crews on the front lines and urge Californians in impacted areas to follow guidance from local officials.

Governor Gavin Newsom

The fast-moving Sandy Fire ignited on May 18, 2026, just after 10 a.m. near Sandy Avenue in Ventura County. More than [1,364 acres](#) have burned, threatening several communities in Simi Valley and forcing the evacuation of more than 10,000 homes — putting an additional 3,500 under evacuation warnings.

*“Cal OES remains committed to ensuring Ventura County has the resources needed to protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure as firefighters continue to battle the Sandy Fire,” **said Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director of Cal OES.** “We are grateful to the firefighters and first responders working to help keep their communities safe.”*

The FMAG, which is provided through FEMA on a cost-share basis, will assist local, state, and tribal agencies responding to the fire to apply for 75 percent reimbursement of their eligible fire suppression costs. Residents are urged to stay vigilant during this heightened heat and fire weather period. Californians are reminded to:

- [Sign up for local emergency alerts](#) to stay informed about changing conditions.
- Prepare a [wildfire action plan](#), including planning evacuation routes and [packing a go-bag](#) with essentials.
- For more information on fire safety and general preparedness, visit [Ready.ca.gov](#)

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Ventura County Emergency Management
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009
805-654-2380

[Welcome - Ventura County Emergency Management Portal](#)

[Ventura County Sheriff's Office | Facebook](#)

[Ventura County Sheriff \(@VENTURASHERIFF\) / X](#)

[LinkedIn Login, Sign in | LinkedIn](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross Central California Region
836 Calle Plano
Camarillo, CA 93012
805-987-1514

[Pacific Coast | Central California Region | American Red Cross](#) [American Red Cross | Facebook](#)

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[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) | TikTok](#)

[American Red Cross \(@RedCross\) / X](#)

[American Red Cross \(@americanredcross\) • Threads, Say more](#)

OpenShelters: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

Department of Transportation

City of Ventura Public Works
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001
805-654-7800

[Transportation | Ventura, CA](#)

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United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

[United Way of Ventura County | United Way Worldwide](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767 [American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com](#).

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.