



NALC

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Bulletin



Firefighters battle the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles in January.

Helping carriers affected by L.A. fires

The devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, CA, continued to rage as this issue went to press in mid-January. According to news reports, at least 28 people had died, 22 others were missing and thousands had been evacuated. The largest of the fires destroyed nearly the entire Pacific Palisades neighborhood and consumed 37 square miles. More than 12,000 structures have burned down in the Los Angeles area, leaving untold numbers of people homeless.

In all, 150,000 people in Los Angeles County had been ordered to evacuate. Some took refuge in nine emergency shelter sites in the area. Firefighting crews from California and eight other states, joined by crews from Mexico and Canada, had responded. More than 14,000 firefighters using 1,300 fire engines and 84 aircraft were battling the blazes.

The devastation was expected to continue as Santa Ana winds up to 70 mph were forecast. Not only did emergency personnel have to contain spreading fires, they needed to respond to any new fires that popped up, complicating their efforts.

With such a large disaster unfolding, letter carriers already have been affected.

“NALC continues to stand with our members affected by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area,” NALC President Brian L. Renfro said in a statement. “These fires have devastated communities. Homes have been destroyed. A number of our members have been displaced from evacuation zones. While the situation remains critical, together we will persevere.

“Letter carriers are more than just deliverers of mail. We are an essential part of our communities. In times of crisis, we step up for the people we serve and for each other. Many of our members have adjusted rapidly to ensure the safe delivery of mail and service to our communities. These members exemplify the standard of service we proudly provide.

“The NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) is here to assist members who have been affected. If you have experienced property damage due to wildfires, we encourage you to immediately apply for aid through the DRF. The fund provides grants rapidly when assistance is needed most. The application and more information can be found at nalc.org/disaster.

“For those able to contribute, I ask you to consider donating to the DRF during this crisis. Every dollar donated goes directly to helping letter carriers in need—there are no administrative costs deducted. Your generosity ensures that our fellow members can begin rebuilding their lives as quickly as possible. Donations can be made by mail or online, and since the DRF is a 501(c)(3) organization, contributions may be tax-deductible.”

The DRF is contacting affected carriers and providing assistance.

“We know that multiple carriers have lost everything in the fires,” DRF President Christina Vela Davidson said, while others had to evacuate from their homes, she said. “We are working through the local branches to find and reach out to any carriers who need help.” As this *Bulletin* was going to press, about 80 carriers were displaced from their homes by evacuation, with at least 11 of them whose homes were destroyed. Some carriers have been able to return to their homes.

Fortunately, DRF isn’t aware of any carriers or carriers’ family members killed or injured.

Of course, postal operations are affected by the fires. Some postal facilities were damaged, delivery is suspended to affected areas, firefighting crews have blocked access to some roads and smoke is a hazard for carriers working outside. USPS and NALC are working to ensure that carriers remain safe on the job.

The foundation identifies carriers who are affected by disasters and disseminates aid as soon as possible. The aid can include emergency grants or supplies such as water, food, clothing and postal uniform items. Working closely with local branch leaders, DRF also helps NALC members whose homes are uninhabitable by offering emergency grants so a member might be able to find temporary housing or transportation, as well as helping them apply for additional grant funds once the weather clears and they are able to assess their damage.

Grants are provided for property damage sustained to a primary residence, automobile or personal property from causes such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes or severe storms, along with wildfires, and are provided only to NALC members.

Members do not have to wait for emergency relief or insurance claims to be settled to apply. Applications must be received within 120 days from the date of the natural disaster, unless the applicant can provide sufficient reasons for a delay. The application for a relief grant is on the foundation’s website, nalc.org/disaster.

The foundation relies on donations from NALC members. Donations can be sent to: NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144; or made by credit card at nalc.org/ndrfdonate. It is recommended that you consult your tax advisor.

“As the fires continue to affect so many, NALC is here to support you,” President Renfro said. “Whether you need help or want to assist others during this difficult time, we are stronger together. Stay safe and keep taking care of one another.”

Help letter carriers hit hard by wildfires



NALC Disaster Relief Foundation

Make a donation by sending a check or money order to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or by going to nalc.org/disaster.

Anti-privatization resolution to be reintroduced in House, Senate

A bipartisan House and Senate resolution calling on Congress to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the federal government, not subject to privatization, was set to be introduced as this *Bulletin* was going to print.

The resolution will be identical to the ones introduced in previous Congresses. In recent years, when privatization talks and threats were heightened, the resolution reached a bipartisan majority of co-sponsors in both chambers of Congress.

NALC members’ outreach and advocacy were key to reaching that bipartisan majority. Once again, to gain support for this priority resolution, letter carriers’ letters, emails, calls and district meetings will be key to increasing co-sponsors.

Check the “Government Affairs” section of nalc.org and NALC’s Legislative Action Center at nalc.org/action for updates.

Protect Our Letter Carriers Act scheduled for reintroduction

As this *Bulletin* was going to print, final plans were being set for the reintroduction of the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act.

The bipartisan bill will again be led by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Greg Landsman (D-OH) in the House and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Josh Hawley (R-MO) in the Senate. Last Congress, the bill reached 138 co-sponsors in the House.

The bill will be identical to the previous version, including three important elements to deter the increasing crimes and assaults committed against letter carriers on the job:

- Funding to replace and modernize postal infrastructure that is often sought out by criminals.
- Designation for an assistant district attorney in each judicial district to prioritize in a timely manner cases involving an assault against a letter carrier.
- Increasing prosecution rates for those who are found guilty of committing these crimes.

While the Postal Service has started to roll out modernized technology in certain areas and the prosecution rates for these crimes have increased some, this bill is the next step to stop these crimes from happening and to send the message that an attack on a letter carrier is a federal crime with serious consequences.

Check the “Government Affairs” section of nalc.org and NALC’s Legislative Action Center at nalc.org/action for updates.

NALC submits comments on OSHA’s proposed heat safety rule

Last year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a proposed rule on heat injury and illness prevention. The agency accepted public comments on the proposed rule through Jan. 14. NALC submitted comments that are available on nalc.org.

An informal public hearing on the proposed rule is scheduled for June 16. The complete proposed rule is available in the *Federal Register*.

“NALC has fought for years to protect letter carriers from the increasing dangers of excessive heat,” NALC President Brian L. Renfro said. “This proposed national standard is the ultimate solution to achieve that protection for letter carriers and other workers who are exposed to heat while on the job. We appreciate OSHA’s commitment to this necessary regulation and stand ready to help in any way possible to move this proposed rule forward.”

MDA Branch Challenge update

This year, NALC will be changing the MDA branch challenges into quarterly challenges:

- Q1: Jan. 1-March 31
- Q2: April 1-June 30
- Q3: July 1-Sept. 30

- Q4: Oct. 1-Dec. 31. No challenge, please use this time to get all 2025 donations turned in for the 2025 Honor Roll.

NALC will be providing monthly leaderboard updates and will announce the Branch Challenge winners at the end of each quarter.

To get your branch involved:

- Step 1—Branch presidents or MDA coordinators can find their branch page or get help customizing it by connecting with us at 312-392-1100 or at nalc@mdausa.org.
- Step 2—Fundraise. Encourage members to fundraise or donate. Set up a Facebook fundraiser in October. Host an event. Or send in your donation from an event that has been completed.

All donations must be received by the last date of the quarter to count. Otherwise, they will be counted toward the next quarter’s challenge. Sending in checks? Be sure to use the NALC Allocation Form and send to:

Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc.
Attn: NALC
P.O. Box 7410354
Chicago, IL 60674-0354

Please mail NALC copies of any receipts or checks along with a copy of the NALC/MDA Allocation Form so that your branch can be properly recognized. The NALC/MDA Allocation Form must be turned in the same calendar year of the event (no later than Dec. 31) to qualify for the NALC Honor Roll for that year. Please send copies posted marked by Dec. 31 to Christina Vela Davidson at the Region 9 NBA office: 1101 Northchase Parkway SE, Suite 3, Marietta, GA 30067.

Please contact MDA with questions, for help with fundraising, or to confirm that we have contact information for your branch. You can reach MDA at 312-392-1100 or nalc@mdausa.org. For more information, go to mda.donordrive.com/event/NALC2025.



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