

FIRES IN GREECE - 24 AUGUST 2007 up to date

SITUATION REPORT No 1, - PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL 27 August 2007

Summary

Greece has been experiencing an ordeal, since Friday the 24th of August 2007, when a number of wildfires started burning forests and villages in most of Peloponnesus peninsula, namely regions of the Prefectures of Helia, Messinia, Achaia, Lakonia, Argolida, Korinthia and Evia Island. The situation on the 26th deteriorated with more new fires in different regions of the country. Today, Monday the 27th the situation is still devastating most of the affected areas.

These fires have already burned hundreds of thousands of square km of forest areas, olive groves as well as a vast number of residences in villages in the above mentioned areas. On Saturday the 25th the Prime Minister declared Greece in a state of emergency. International assistance has been requested from several countries in fire-fighting means.

In addition to these damages the death toll seems to have no ending. The number has risen to approximately 63 casualties, for the time being, while there are serious fears that this number will rise again, since there are people still missing. Many people have been in need of first aid, psychological support and medical care due to burns, traumas and respiratory problems.

Moreover, as a result of the fires a lot of regions - not only the affected ones – face breakdowns in telecommunication, power (electricity) and water supply.

There is a great number of people who have been left homeless, however, it is too early to measure the extent of the damages and the affected populations, since the disastrous fires are still ongoing.

The Hellenic Red Cross relief response so far

Search and Rescue activities

The Hellenic Red Cross has already provided assistance through Samaritans Rescue Teams currently operating in all of the areas affected by the fires. Additionally, it has been announced an emergency appeal along with the opening of bank accounts for raising cash contributions from the general public.

Since the onset of the emergency, the HRC has been responding to the disastrous fires through the following teams and forces:

- *Helia Prefecture, Zacharo Region*

Total number of volunteers: **50 rescuers.**

1 ambulance, 3 rescue jeeps, 2 vehicles for personnel transport, 1 Central Warehouse track with 50 tents, as well as all the rescue equipment of Patras and Pyrgos regions.

Our volunteers had been offering there services all night long carrying out search & rescue, evacuation and fire fighting operations in the villages of :Neochori, Tholo, Anhelio, Agios Helias, Kaiafa forest, Xirochori, Taxiarhes and Lepreo.

Our volunteers and forces are present and operating in the region.

- Attiki Prtefecture: Athens Ymitos, Kalivia, Lagonissi.

Total number of volunteers: **25 rescuers.**

- Prefecture of Arkadia: Megalopolis

Total number of volunteers: **15 rescuers**

- Prefecture Xanthis, Municipality of Avdira – Prefecture Rodopis Fanari region.

Total number of volunteers: **40 rescuers.**

- Prefecture of Evia : Municipalities of Aliveri and Stira.

Total number of volunteers: **30 rescuers.**

Search rescue volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross branch in Chalkida branch are taking part in the operations.

All the rescue equipment of Chalkida branch is in place.

Our volunteers are present and operating in the region.

- Prefecture of Etoloakarnania: Municipality of Agrinio (Bambini and Skourtou regions)

Total number of volunteers: **15 rescuers.**

- Prefecture of Achaia: Portes and Velitses regions

Total number of volunteers: **15 rescuers.**

- Prefecture of Argolida : Municipality of Nafplio , Lefkafia region

Total number of volunteers: **5 rescuers.**

Health and Care - Relief activities

Moreover, in the latest Hellenic RC press release of today, it is stated the ready wit of our volunteers and personnel as well as the fields of our contribution as follows:

- Professionals and volunteers nurses are supporting the operation of the local hospitals and the Health Centers in the affected areas.
- 300 volunteer nurses already operating.
- 1.700 volunteers nurses in state of preparedness.
- 51 social workers are organizing mobile units of needs assessment in close cooperation with the competent Authorities of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity for granting foodstuffs and psychological support services.
- 1.500 volunteers Social Welfare food suppliers in state of preparedness.

Additionally, the Hellenic Red Cross is undertaking the management and the administration of camps wherever is requested and provides assistance in the domains of public health, food distribution, first aid material and psychological support, though its professional and volunteer nurses, social workers and their volunteers as well as Samaritan team volunteers

As far as concerns the relief operation, the Hellenic RC has provided 200 beds, 200 mattresses, 50 tents (capacity 8 persons), 100 towels, 200 bed sheets, 200 shampoos, 200 hand soaps, while more relief operations are being organized according to the needs of the affected areas.

Furthermore, an evacuation plan of the Centre for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers is ready to be enacted upon request, in the Kallithea district in Municipality of Sperchiada – Prefecture of Fthiotida.

Outstanding needs

In light of the great mobilization of all the state Authorities/Services and the Hellenic Red Cross response to the deathliest fires in the history of Greece that cost several lives and loss of properties as well as loss of the valuable flora and fauna of our country, we appeal to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for both financial and in kind assistance in response to this tremendous situation.

Below you can find a list of the items needed.

<i>Kinds</i>	<i>Quantities</i>	<i>Specifications/type</i>
Tents (capacity 4 persons)	500 items	
Tents (capacity 6 persons)	1.000 items	
Tents (capacity 8 persons)	1.000 items	
Slipping bags	500 items	
Blankets (single)	1.000 items	100 % wool

Bed sheets along with pillow cases in set (single)	1.000 items	Cotton, washable 90 ⁰ C
Pillows	1.000 items	
Metallic folding beds (single)	1.000 items	
Mattresses (single)	1.000 items	
Chemical toilets	300 items	
Kitchen sets:		
Plates	500 items	
Forks	500 items	
Spoons	500 items	
Knives	500 items	
Pots	500 items	
Bed quilts (single)	1.000 items	
Gas lamps	400 items	
Hand soaps	500 items	
Shampoo	500 items	
Baby diapers	1.000 parcels	Of one use
Sanitary pads	1.000 parcels	
Toothpaste	500 items	
Toothbrush	500 items	
Men's underwear:		
Mini briefs	1.000 items	
Athletic vests	1.000 items	
Women's underwear:		
Panties	1.000 items	
Men's jackets	1.000 items	Various sizes
Women's jackets	1.000 items	Various sizes
Children's underwear	1.000 items	
Men's socks	2.000 pairs	
Women's socks	2.000 pairs	
Towels	2.000 items	
Men's shoes	2.000 pairs	Size 42
Men's shoes	1.000 pairs	Size 43
Men's shoes	1.000 pairs	Size 44
Men's shoes	500 pairs	Size 45
Pasteurized milk	2.000 items	1 lit packing
Beans' (or other) cans	5.000 items	
Ham (cans)	5.000 items	
Fish, canned, tuna (or other)	10.000 items	
Sugar	1.500 kg	1 kg packing
Wat/san equipment (machines)	5	For potable water for the rescue teams.
Mobile soup-kitchens	2	
Active coal masks	50	
Fire – proof gloves	50 pairs	(Type COMFO THERM) of 3 coatings

Fireman's helmets	50	GALLET
Fire – proof uniforms	20	
Satellite phones	2	

The listed items will be mainly disposed to the local Authorities for urgent use.

Any in kind donation of the above mentioned items by the Federation and the sister National Societies will be much appreciated. However, we encourage cash contributions due to the fact that some of the above mentioned items are of top urgency in the response phase and can be purchased locally.

Cash contributions can be deposited in the following Hellenic Red Cross central bank account at “Bank of Attica”, with physical address in 23 Omirou Str, Athens – Greece, under the indication ‘Fires in Greece’:

Bank account: 069/84298361
IBAN: GR54 0160 0690 0000 0008 4298 361
Swift Code: ATTIGRAA XXX

Hellenic Red Cross contact persons and details:

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Hellenic Red Cross delivery address:

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Astrous 111- 113
Kolonos Athens 104 42
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Tel: ++ 30 210 36 21 681 (international relations dept.)
E-mail : ir@redcross.gr

Consignee:

Hellenic Red Cross
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Athens 106 72
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These are still preliminary estimations. In the next days there might be more needs to cover, as the picture of the situation becomes clearer.