Texans on Mission disaster relief units head to California

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DALLAS—Trucks and trailers rolled out of Texans on Mission headquarters in Dallas early on Jan. 15 to support California churches responding to devastating wildfires.

Shower/laundry units are on the way. A semi-truck load of supplies also left Dallas with masks, water filters, Tyvek suits, Bibles, cots and gloves.



The four-member advance team of Texans on Mission serving in Southern California is (left to right) Mitch Chapman, director of Texans on Mission Water Impact; Ann and Curt Neal, volunteer disaster relief coordinators; and Rand Jenkins, chief strategy officer. (Texans on Mission Photo)

A Texans on Mission team already is in California meeting with church

partners to determine how best to respond.

The churches have asked Texans on Mission to help establish on-site services, thus "creating a respite for people that don't have another place to go to get away from the stress, be encouraged and have someone pray with them," said Chief Strategy Officer Rand Jenkins.

"Their children will have a place to play," Jenkins said. "They'll have their clothes washed for them. They'll get a hot cup of coffee and be able to talk to some of our volunteers and some of the local pastors."

While Texans on Mission focuses now on helping churches provide respite for weary residents, fire recovery efforts—commonly called "ash out"—likely will emerge in the coming weeks.

"As with the 2023 fires in Maui, authorities have to keep sites secure for a time," said Texans on Mission Chief Mission Officer John Hall. "And, in this situation, fires are still blazing and battling the flames is a top priority.

"Recovery time will come, and Texans on Mission will continue to work with churches in how best to be of support. As we like to say, we're bringing help, hope and healing now, and we will need to do so for quite some time."

In a <u>video</u> for Texans on Mission supporters, Jenkins said: "Thank you for what you're doing. Thank you for the prayers you're sending this way. This is an amazing need, and you are an amazing group of people that come together every time."

To give financially to support Texans on Mission disaster relief, <u>click here</u>.