

From District 19S District Governor Elaine Cook

On the afternoon of August 2, a fire started in Spokane, Washington. We now know this was unfortunately arson started. Multiple fires are going in the Spokane Area. The fire is now known as the Spokane Complex Fires. It has become the largest wildfire in the United States burning currently. Winds 30-60 MPH have fueled the fires. There is also a fire now in the area of Malden, WA. This small community near Spokane burned down in 2020 and the Lions were there to assist them at that time. We will be there for them again.

Currently:

Over 10,000 total acres burned, in urban areas. The Veteran's Administration Hospital, a Skilled Nursing Center, a Memory Care Facility, multiple Adult Family Homes and many private homes were evacuated or destroyed by the fire. Over 900 structures were damaged or destroyed. The largest fires are 31%-47% contained, with no new fire growth, but a Red Flag Warning remains in place. Those with homes are finally able to return to them to clean up the aftermath of fires. For some, there are no homes to return to. The power and gas companies are working to restore power and gas to homes still standing. The extent of devastation will be felt for a long time. Spokane has set up a Spokane Resource Center where fire victims can come for assistance. The School District has set up free day care for kids, with lunch, shelters set up and staffed. Medical clinics are set up inside the Resource Center to provide services. Many of our own Lions have been affected. Some with homes being evacuated/lost, housing family and friends who were evacuated, work being affected.

Assistance:

District 19S has received a grant from LCIF, which we are very grateful for. We are currently working with the Spokane Resource Center to identify greatest needs for our community and developing the plan for the best use of the funds.

Many clubs have asked about donating to the Fire Victims. We are going through Spokane Central Lions Club Foundation to accept donations. We appreciate any and all donations for our community.

Donations can be sent to:

Spokane Central Lions Foundation: **Attn Spokane Complex Fire**
1212 N. Howard
Spokane, WA 99201

We will be sending updates out as we serve to assist our community.

Where there is a need, there is a Lion. Rooted in Service.