

Special Update to the Board of Governors

Israel on Fire

Over the last five days, dozens of fires broke out throughout Israel. We are happy to report that firefighters have gained control of most of the blazes. We would like to update you about Jewish Agency activities vis-à-vis the victims of the fires who were left homeless.

Assistance for Homeless Families

After coordinating with the Jewish Federations of North America and Keren Hayesod, we will be distributing special grants immediately to families who have lost their homes due to the fires. Currently the estimate is that there are around 700 such families, and they will be receiving a grant of \$1,000 per family. At this point it is important to mention JUF Federation of Metropolitan Chicago who have already advanced \$500,000 to JFNA in connection with the emergency situation in Israel brought about by the fires.

Amigour

When a nursing home in Haifa caught fire, Amigour stepped up to provide shelter to nearly 30 elderly residents, who were evacuated from their facility to the newly-expanded Amigour building in Kiryat Yam.



The fact that we are two months ahead of schedule on that construction was especially fortuitous. We received permission to open the new floors ahead of schedule to provide solutions for these elderly individuals whose long-term care facility was on fire.

We salute Amigour staff for their hard and dedicated work throughout the last few days in helping these individuals feel safe.

Amigour directs rehabilitation for war damages to properties on behalf of the Israeli government. It is prepared, at the request of the state, to manage the repair and, in some cases, renovation, of those facilities that are determined to have been damaged as the result of arson.

Hanita Absorption Center

As the fire spread in Haifa, our staff deployed a special team to evacuate our Absorption Center in the Neve Sha'anun neighborhood. The team visited each apartment and guided the olim in preparing for temporary relocation. They also prepared apartments in Kiryat Yam and buses for the transfer. Luckily, firefighters were able to stop the flames on the ridge in front of the absorption center, so an evacuation was averted.

Throughout the country, our professional staff have reviewed fire safety guidelines at absorption centers, ulpanim, and other Jewish Agency facilities.

We will continue updating you, and hope for quiet and rainy days ahead.