

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Karuk Tribe

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KARUK TRIBE DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE WAKE OF DEADLY SLATER FIRE

Tribe Requests State and Federal Aid

Happy Camp, CA – As of this morning, the Slater Fire has burned more than 140,000 acres between the community of Happy Camp on California Highway 96 and O’Brien along Oregon Highway 199 along the California/Oregon border. About 150 homes have been damaged or destroyed in the small community of Happy Camp, CA. Many of these homes belong to Karuk Tribal members and their families.

“This fire is devastating our Tribe and our community,” said Karuk Chairman Russell ‘Buster’ Attebery. “The fire moved so fast that folks had little time to collect essentials before fleeing for their lives. A lot of people have nothing left but the clothes on their backs.”

Surrounding communities are rallying to help those in need, but the fire danger has not passed and horrific air quality conditions hamper relief efforts.

“We desperately need California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA to make resources available immediately. We need a mobile emergency operations center to help coordinate recovery efforts,” added Attebery.

In the [Tribal Resolution](#) passed today, the Tribe authorized the use of Department of Treasury CARES Act funding to address the unbudgeted housing needs created by the fires while adhering to COVID protocols.

The resolution will be forwarded to President Trump and Governor Newsom asking the both to add Karuk Tribal lands and surrounding areas to the list of California counties approved for assistance to individuals and households as part of the [Major Disaster Declaration](#), which President Donald J. Trump initially granted on August 22, 2020 due to multiple massive wildfires.

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Editors’ notes:

Get the latest updates on the [Slater Fire](#) including evacuation orders and emergency services.