

CASE STUDY 3

Emergency Response:
How Mobile Clinics Responded to the L.A. Fires

Medical Mission Adventures and VIDA Mobile Clinic

The Problem:

During the devastating January 2025 Los Angeles fires, thousands of residents fled their homes with little more than the clothes they were wearing. In the chaos, people lost access to vital medications, routine care, and emotional support. Vulnerable families were cut off from healthcare and social services just when they needed them most.

Barriers to Health:

- ❗ Sudden loss of healthcare after evacuations
- ❗ Displacement creates confusion, as people don't know where to seek help
- ❗ Health needs multiply during crisis, including medication refills, wound care, anxiety, and trauma

This response proves that mobile health is a powerful tool for disaster relief, delivering rapid, trusted care when and where communities need it most.

The Mobile Solution:

Mobile health organizations with deep community roots, including Medical Mission Adventures and VIDA Mobile Clinic, pivoted instantly from routine care to disaster response. Within hours, they deployed mobile units to the fire zone, mobilized volunteers, and delivered urgent medical and social services.

Services included:

- ✔ Medication refills and blood pressure checks
- ✔ Mental health support for trauma and stress
- ✔ Case management and resource navigation
- ✔ Distribution of emergency supplies
- ✔ Coordinated support with partners, including veterinary care and vision care

Their Impact:



Nearly 700
fire survivors
treated
at 48 pop-up
clinics



Volunteer
force
expanded
from 400
to 600+



Strengthened
community
partnerships
and ongoing
support beyond
the immediate
crisis



Provided a safe,
familiar, and
supportive
care setting
for traumatized
residents



Ensured
continuity
of care
and access
to medications
during emergency
displacement



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We set up two mobile units right at the outskirts of the fire zone, the burn area, and began seeing patients right away.

*— Dr. Evelyn Wong,
Executive Director and Medical
Director, Medical Mission
Adventure*