



**ALLIED JEWISH  
FEDERATION  
OF COLORADO**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**FEDERATION COORDINATES COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COLORADO FIRES**

**DENVER, Colorado – (June 27, 2012)** – Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado (Federation), in conjunction with local synagogues and community organizations as well as our national partners, has launched the **Colorado Fire Relief Fund** to help victims, firefighters and other first responders as well as others impacted by the fires. One-hundred percent of all donations to the Colorado Fire Relief Fund will go to directly combat the fire and help victims. There will be no administrative fees taken out of these funds.

“Our Jewish community responds quickly to crisis around the world and now we are mobilizing to help victims and relief efforts in response to the massive fires across Colorado,” said Nancy Gart, Federation’s Coordinating Council Chair. “Through our existing crisis relief structure, Federation has established an effective way for our community to respond with all donations going directly to help disaster relief efforts during this terrible crisis.”

Colorado is appealing for help as the fires are still out of control. As of 1:30 pm, June 27<sup>th</sup>, another fire broke out in Durango, Colorado and the Waldo Canyon Blaze is consuming more land.

“Our mountains are a veritable tinderbox due to drought conditions through the winter combined with record-breaking temperatures, extremely dry air with almost no humidity, and plenty of dead trees due to the insidious pine beetles, creating the “perfect storm” conditions in mountain forests,” said Federation president and CEO Doug Seserman. “Currently there are fourteen fires raging in Colorado and it’s only the

beginning of the summer. When we face fire conditions, it's usually not until August and not of this magnitude."

As the community convener, Federation mobilizes resources to respond quickly to crisis situations. "Our tradition says whoever has saved one life, it is considered that he has saved the whole world," said Seserman. "We have a responsibility to our greater community to assist in saving and sustaining as many lives as we can."

To support victims and first responders as well as support for local, please visit Federation's website to help.

To donate, Federation has the following options:

- To make a donation online: <http://www.jewishcolorado.org/> or go directly to our donation page: <http://jewi.sh/cofires>
- To donate by check, send your check with the notation "Colorado Fire Relief Fund" to: Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, 300 S. Dahlia, Suite 300, Denver, CO 80246.

For more information about crisis assistance and referrals, visit [www.jewishcolorado.org](http://www.jewishcolorado.org) or call Federation's hotline at 720.934.5365.

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