**Our Post Continues Supporting the Victims of Kentucky Tornado of December 10, 2021**

The December 10, 2021 massive tornado struck six different southern states and did a mountain of damage and caused a mountain of misery for thousands of our people who were victims of the fierce winds that destroyed 15,000 buildings (mostly homes) and initially killed 71 people. Another dozen perished in the days after.

Media reported that there are not enough local people to restore all the leveled buildings. With the rising cost and shortage of raw materials (due to wildfires, lumber for building construction has tripled in the last few months), it is estimated that it would take a decade to rebuild the homes and other buildings flattened. In the meantime thousands of affected people live in tents, many staying in state parks, where there is a least very basic bathroom facilities. Shower facilities are extremely limited, and there are no kitchens for victims who are camping out indefinitely. Most worrisome are the many nights and days of very cold weather, often below 32 degrees F. Those of us in the Bay Area recently suffered low 30 degrees F but still had shelter (our homes) and most of us had electric blankets. Imagine sleeping on the ground in a sleeping bag in below freezing temperatures in definitely, and no electric blankets. And you won't have a bathroom to use at night either.

Many of these victims are seniors and we assume that there are a number of veterans included in this location and nearby affected areas hit by the same tornado. Unfortunately, under these extreme conditions the elderly and those with medical problems will suffer immensely, and some may die.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) does not have sufficient personnel or financial resources during this period because there have been to many repeated huge storms, wild fires, and tornadoes that have occurred the past year, and which are still occurring. Many towns and cities have been flooded due to heavy rains accompanying the storms.

Our Cathay Post has initially donated $2,000 to our Legion Headquarters National Emergency Funds to aid in this type of disaster. Our historian promised to match additional donations and we have at least another $3,000 more to send to American Legion HQ's National Emergency Fund.

A big **THANK$** to Anthony Lyau, Raymond Ong, Helen Wong, Philip Leung, Herman Jeong, David Wong, Virginia Yee and our Historian for these additional donations for our fellow suffering citizens in Kentucky.

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**2021 Mayfield, Kentucky tornado response**

**February 18, 2022 12:00 pm**

On December 10, 2021, the deadliest tornado outbreak on record, for the month of December, rumbled across the southern United States, producing catastrophic damage. **More than 15,000 buildings were destroyed and 71 people died**.

The surprising, late-season, storm led to 22 deaths in Kentucky, the scene of a massive emergency response. Part of the reason it was a record-breaker, according to a Verizon crisis response official, is that December tornadoes are rare.

“It was an unusual time for any type of tornadic activity. In December, we don’t think of that as being a time that we’re going to be affected with the type of weather that’s going to cause any type of damage”, said Jason Mitchell, Senior Manager, Verizon Crisis Response Team.

“Generally”, he said, “it’s going to be a freeze, blizzards, bomb cyclones, This [tornado] was one that kind of crept up on us.”

An EF4 tornado, characterized by wind speeds between 116 and 200 mph, is the second most intense on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. The strength, path, and duration of the December 10th event were also surprising.

“It was on the ground for nearly three hours; tracking 160 miles in total. What was so bad about this was the areas that were hit, were very rural,” said Mitchell.

He indicated that the unpredictability of twisters is also a major concern.

“A tornado just doesn’t go to the ground and stay on the ground in a straight path. It bounces around, it goes back up and that’s what we saw here.”

The devastating path of the tornado started in Arkansas.

“It bounced around for a little bit, came down and slapped into Kentucky and affected Tennessee as well,” Mitchell said.

The violent, nighttime tornado rumbled across Western Kentucky, producing severe to catastrophic damage in numerous towns, including Mayfield, Princeton, Dawson Springs and Bremen.

There was widespread damage to communications infrastructure.

“As it hit that night, quite a bit of infrastructure was affected, whether it be landline, through our Teleco providers, or our infrastructures, our existing towers. We’ve seen towers that looked like someone reached up and pulled them to the ground,” Mitchell said.

In addition to the obvious devastation, Mitchell said, people often don’t realize the scope of the damage.

“We have multiple regions and a lot of people hear about the damage from Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Ida, down in the Louisiana area, but they really don’t think about what it did to West Virginia? We have to get to communities that were underwater because of that same storm. The same is true for a tornado.”

Powerful storms can leave customers in the dark with no communications capabilities .