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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update #2 5:00 pm

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Taos County Local Governments EC-COAD & KCEC Collaborate on the Wildfire Evacuee Response

Taos, NM- Taos County local governments, the EC-COAD and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative are collaborating to provide aid and shelter to those affected by the Cooks Peaks Fire, located north of Ocate, NM, approximately 46 miles north of Las Vegas. Dangerous high winds and rough terrain are making it difficult for crews to contain the fire.

The joint partnership ensures precise and accurate information to the community members regarding donation centers, supplies, shelters for residents and livestock. These entities are working together to find the unmet needs for those affected by the fires in the region. Local food pantries and churches are providing supplies and food to shelters set up in the area. Taos County has opened community centers and local high schools for residents or families displaced by the fires.

There are shelters set up at the following locations and are open 24 hours for those affected:

Taos Agricultural Center

Address: 202 Chamisa Rd, Taos, NM 87571 (575)-770-6416

Taos Rodeo Grounds

Address: 230 Camino de la Merced, Taos, NM 87571

For housing large livestock, please get in touch with Ruben Baca at (575)-770-1490

Peñasco High School

Address: 13 Old School Rd, Peñasco, NM 87553

(575)-587-2502

Red River Convention Center

Address: 101 E River Street, Red River, NM 87558

(575)-754-1708

Currently, approximately thirteen residents are utilizing the shelters for housing and livestock. Food, water, power, and supplies are available. Wi-fi is accessible at some locations. We want to

encourage residents to utilize the emergency shelters. For those that have RV's, please make sure to call in advance to arrange adequate space. HELPNM will be onsite at the Taos County Agricultural Center. Meals can also be picked up at the Taos County Agricultural Center.

Other services available include:

Taos Youth & Family Center will have showers available 6:00 am-5:30 pm
407 Paseo del Canon East Taos, NM 8757

For updated fire information, please visit **nmfireinfo.com**.

If you want to volunteer, please sign up at Taos Connects: <https://app.vomo.org/org/taos-connects>.

Monetary donations for those affected by the fire can be made to the FUND FOR TAOS at <https://www.taoscf.org>.

To enroll in KCEC's communication system please text **KCEC** to 85700

If you are a college student from any NM institution who has been displaced by the fires and are staying in or around Taos, [UNM-Taos](#) is here to support you! You are welcome to use our campus facilities to use a computer, study spaces, library resources, etc.

We are located at 1157 County Road 110, Ranchos de Taos or our downtown space is at 115 Civic Plaza Drive.

Call 575-737-6215 or email taos@unm.edu for more information.

To report damage, call the state fire hotline at 1-800-432-2280, select option number 4 or you can go to nmdhsem.org. Click on the link to report fire damage.

We will continue to provide daily updates on information regarding shelters, supplies, aid, food and water availability. During these difficult times, we want to pray for the residents, families and businesses that are affected. There is a lot of false information on social media and to the public regarding shelter information and other resources available. The Wildfire Fire Evacuee Response (Taos County local governments, EC-COAD, and KCEC) will provide accurate information to the public, as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Santistevan.

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