

#### 4. Eaton Fire Local Health Emergency

Ensure vulnerable community members like low-income and immigrant workers working in post-disaster recovery/cleanup know about safety and have access to personal protective equipment (PPE).<sup>1</sup>

Nonprofit Worksafé has been tracking alleged labor violations during wildfires across the state. "This is one of the most dangerous kinds of situations that a worker can be in." When a wildfire burns through a neighborhood, the low-wage immigrants who work there lose jobs they rely on. Sometimes, they're recruited into new jobs that could jeopardize their health and safety.<sup>2</sup>

In the course of Climate Resolve's research, it became apparent that vulnerable members of the community - people who work as caretakers, day laborers, farm hands, landscape specialists and housekeepers - were neglected during the Woolsey, Hill and Thomas fires.<sup>3</sup>

"I cleaned all the ash out of certain properties," [Socorro] says. Socorro is one of dozens of domestic workers across California who've shoveled wildfire ash out of houses [after the Tubbs fire]. Wildfire ash can be toxic, but a previous KALW investigation<sup>4</sup> found that many domestic workers are not provided with masks, gloves, or other safety gear by their employers. [Socorro] remembers her head throbbing as she worked; at one point, her nose started bleeding. When the job was over, she says her doctor prescribed her an inhaler to treat the respiratory problems she developed.<sup>5</sup>

...domestic workers who participated in cleanups [after the Tubbs fire]... ended up breaking out in rashes, and a couple people had respiratory issues and had to go to hospital.<sup>6</sup>

Cal/OSHA has investigated a range of safety violations during wildfire cleanups over the past few years, including workers who cleaned burnt or damaged homes.<sup>7</sup>

According to IDEPSCA<sup>8</sup>, domestic workers described deep-cleaning homes in Malibu [after the Woolsey Fire] often without masks, gloves or other basic safety gear.

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Yadi  
Pasadena City Council Special Meeting  
January 17, 2025  
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<sup>1</sup><https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/californias-wildfires-get-worse-domestic-workers-fight-protecti-on>

<sup>2</sup><https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/when-fires-burn-through-neighborhoods-some-immigrants-wor-kers-become-first>

<sup>3</sup> [https://climateresolve.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WoolseyReport\\_Final.pdf](https://climateresolve.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WoolseyReport_Final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kalw.org/post/california-s-wildfires-get-worse-domestic-workers-fight-protection>

<sup>5</sup> <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/domestic-workers-learn-past-disasters-new-labor-rights-fight>

<sup>6</sup> <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/domestic-workers-learn-past-disasters-new-labor-rights-fight>

<sup>7</sup><https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/californias-wildfires-get-worse-domestic-workers-fight-protecti-on>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.idepsca.org/node/16>