**1212RECOVERY**

12/07/2022

Claudia

In late October, a fire raged through Wooldridge in Cooper County – destroying eight houses. After the damage assessment was done, Wooldridge residents realized their options for temporary housing and recovery efforts were limited.

KBIA’s Claudia Rivera has the story.

**1212RECOVERY TRT ~ 1:17 SOC**

Only two out of the eight houses were insured, and the destruction did not meet the federal threshold for relief funding. So, nonprofits worked in collaboration with first responders, many of whom are volunteers.

Ben Webster is the Wildland Fire program supervisor at the Missouri Department of Conservation, which employs 700 staff to cover the entire state.

**Webster trt :10 oc: “to make the program work.”**

*“We don't have staff, enough staff, to go out and do all these plans for all the counties and communities within the state of Missouri, it has to have that community buy in to make the program work”*

After the fire was extinguished, the American Red Cross transferred the residents they were helping to partner organizations - like Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. They are directly helping 10 of those residents. Alissa Marlow is the senior director of programs and services of the organization.

 **trt :11 oc: “from the disaster.”**

*“Our agency provides long term disaster case management. Households worked with a disaster case manager to come up with a recovery plan, identifying needs and impacts from the disaster of the fire.”*

Marlow says housing is the most pressing need. She adds that the organization plans to advocate in the future for legislation that would put some government money aside to assist people impacted by other low attention disasters.

I’m Claudia Rivera. KBIA News.