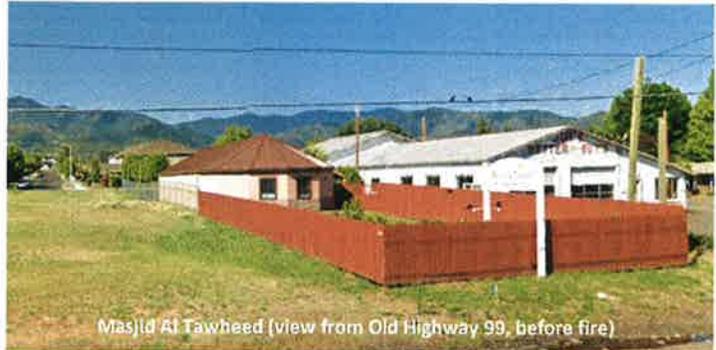


A Day of Community Devastation Update Talent and Phoenix, Oregon September 25, 2020

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

It's been 17 days since the "Almeda Fire" devastated the Southern Oregon communities of Talent and Phoenix. In less than a day the high wind spread more than 7 miles. It crossed Interstate 5, closing it for several hours. More than 2400 residential structures were reported burned—including apartments, mobile homes, family homes— affected 42,000 people, including 50% of the children in local schools. And more than 100 businesses were lost.



Masjid Al Tawheed was in the heart of the fire zone. Could it survive when all around it perished? Since authorities closed the entire burn area due to danger from downed power lines, broken gas and water lines, and general hazards, we had to wait. After a week, entry was finally permitted to allow us to view the masjid and the neighborhood. Photographs below show our masjid still standing! Alhamdulillah! While it looks great, the extreme heat still melted and fried nearly everything on the exterior of the building—lights, cameras, landscaping. The inspection report is due soon to tell us exactly how serious.

Photographs below also show how complete is the destruction of our immediate neighbors' homes. These almost new homes housed a vibrant community of young families. Now they are ashes. Our neighbors have been very friendly and welcoming to our presence, and their losses are heartbreaking to us. As survivors, we feel obliged to help them, and we greatly appreciate everyone's assistance to help us raise funds to help them restore their lives and ultimately rebuild. With your support, Alhamdulillah, donations from outside our area are starting to come in. Southern Oregon, with Medford as its center, is a significant urban area, and many organizations are stepping up to provide immediate initial assistance with food, clothes and have opened shelters. As the displaced move into their own housing, we look forward to working with other organizations to assistance our neighbors readjust and rebuild. They will need will then need just about everything imaginable to restart their lives, including compassion.

Photos below taken September 19th of Masjid Al Tawheed and surrounds, illustrating the damage.



Above: Masjid Al-Tawheed after the fire



Above: Neighborhood of the masjid before and after

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Talent will rebuild. Insha-Allah, we will be active participants.

Masjid Al-Tawheed
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