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## 67 ARE KILLED IN D.C. MIDAIR CRASH

Control tower staffing was 'not normal' when jet and Army chopper collided, officials say.

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR, TARA COPP, BRIAN MELLEY AND SARAH BRUMFIELD

ARLINGTON, Va. — A midair collision between an Army helicopter and an American Airlines flight killed all 67 people aboard the two aircraft, officials said Thursday as they scrutinized the actions of the military pilot and reported that control tower staffing was "not normal" at the time of the country's worst aviation disaster in a generation.

At least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the helicopter apparently flew into the path of the jet late Wednesday while the plane was landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport, just across the river from Washington, officials said. The plane carried 60 passengers and four crew members. Three soldiers were aboard the helicopter.

One air traffic controller was doing work normally assigned to two people in the tower at Reagan National when the collision happened, according to a report by the Federal Aviation Administration obtained by the Associated Press.

"The position configuration was not normal for the time of day and volume of traffic," the report said.

President Trump said at a White House news conference that no one had survived.

"We are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation," said John Donnelly, the fire chief in the nation's capital.

The plane was found upside-down in three sections in waist-deep water, and first responders were searching an area of the Potomac as far south as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. [See Collision, A5]

### Gabbard faces Senate skeptics

Trump's choice for national intelligence director defends her views at confirmation hearing. **NATION, A4**

### Urban lifestyle for the displaced

Apartment landlords are pitching the benefits of living in downtown L.A. to fire victims. **BUSINESS, A8**

### Our picks for Grammy wins

Pop music critic Mikael Wood makes his awards predictions ahead of Sunday event. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

### Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 64/44. **B6**

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**MARGARET MARTIN**, 96, sits silently outside what's left of the Altadena home built in 1966 by her husband, Henry. Her daughter, 54, and granddaughter, 34, are trying to figure out whether they can afford to rebuild.

Photographs by **ROBERT GAUTHIER** Los Angeles Times

## Facing the unthinkable: What if they can't rebuild?

Shovel in hand, Hendrena Martin dug through the ruins of the home her father had built nearly 60 years ago, searching for any surviving link to the past.

She took stock of what was left: the bricks that her dad laid at the base of the house, the chimney, screen doors that had been blown off their hinges. The home was her family's legacy — where her father's memory resided, where she cared for her mother, who now sat silently before the wreckage.

Martin couldn't abandon it. But how, she wondered, could she afford to rebuild?

"How can a whole city just go up in flames in one night, and you lose

Their homes were their legacies. Now burned-out Altadena residents grapple with how to move forward.

By **Colleen Shalby**

everything that you struggled to hold on to?" said Martin, 64.

Martin's annual insurance premium under the California FAIR Plan more than doubled last year to nearly \$1,700. But even with that payment, she learned after the fire that her property was underinsured: what she qualifies for as reimbursement is far less than what it will take to rebuild.

"I've got my mom — I'm caring for her. I've got my daughter, who's trying to start her life. This is a new thing on my plate — just to survive," she said.

Martin escaped the Eaton fire with her daughter, LaShondra [See Rebuild, A7]



**HENDRENA MARTIN** and her daughter, LaShondra Ellis, sift debris. "How can a whole city just go up in flames in one night, and you lose everything that you struggled to hold on to?" Martin said.

## Safety worries amid toxic cleanup

Fires vaporized metal, plastic and worse. It's in the air and in debris being picked over.

By **TONY BRISCOE** AND **IAN JAMES**

Nearly two weeks after the Eaton fire forced Claire Robinson to flee her Altadena home, she returned, donning a white hazmat suit, a respirator and goggles.

The brick chimneys were among the few recognizable features of the quaint three-bedroom 1940 house neighboring Farnsworth Park. Nearly everything else was reduced to ashes.

The scorching heat melted the glass awards her daughter had received for her theater performances, leaving behind deformed globs of crystal. Where her washer and dryer once stood, Robinson found only a blackened metal frame. The flames even managed to consume her cast-iron bathtub.

"The screws were the only thing that didn't vaporize," Robinson said after she scoured through the debris. "Everything else is in the air."

"How do we live in this highly toxic environment and make sure that people aren't being sent back to their homes prematurely?" she said. "Families are just being told, 'You're clear to go in.' They're calling us and saying, 'Is it safe?' I'm like, 'I don't know.'"

Tens of thousands of wildfire survivors, including Robinson, have returned to ash-cloaked neighborhoods, even as serious questions about what could be lurking in the debris remain unanswered.

Environmental regulators and public health officials have warned survivors that fire-damaged neighborhoods are probably brimming with toxic chemicals and harmful substances, such as brain-damaging lead and lung-scarring asbestos fibers. Air monitors have measured elevated levels of heavy metals miles downwind of the wildfires.

However, despite the dire warnings from environmental and health officials, fire officials and law enforcement have decided to reopen large swaths of the evacuation zones before disaster personnel could sweep residential communities for [See Toxic, A6]

## Trump's executive orders upend U.S. immigration

A look at how his actions have reshaped system and what legal routes remain for undocumented people

By **JESSICA GARRISON** AND **REBECCA PLEVIN**

Promising the largest deportation effort in U.S. history, President Trump, in his first days in office, has released a dramatic series of executive orders and other policy changes that will reshape the country's immigration system — and the experience of what it means to live in the U.S. as an immi-

grant, particularly one who is undocumented.

There are an estimated 11 million to 15 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., including more than 2 million in California.

That includes people who crossed the border illegally, people who overstayed their visas and people who have requested asylum. It does not include people who entered the country under various temporary

humanitarian programs, or who have obtained Temporary Protected Status, which gives people the right to live and work in the U.S. temporarily because of disasters or strife in their home countries.

However, many of the people who came to the U.S. using those legal pathways could also be at risk of deportation, because of other actions the Trump administration [See Immigration, A9]



**SISTERS** wait with their parents seeking asylum in the U.S. outside a customs office in Tijuana last week.

Photograph by **ROBERT GAUTHIER** Los Angeles Times



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