



Joint Field Office
75 N. Fair Oaks Ave., 3rd Floor
Pasadena, CA 91103

FEMA

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FEMA/OES: 626-431-3178
SBA: 916-847-2638

Disaster News

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER TO TRANSITION TO AN SBA CENTER

PASADENA, Calif. — The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at the Activities Center – George A. Carvalho, Santa Clarita Complex, 20880 Centre Pointe Parkway in Santa Clarita will become a U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) on Saturday.

The DRC will close today, Fri., Nov. 9, at 5 p.m. and transition to the DLOC on Sat., Nov. 10 with hours on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The DLOC will close in observance of Veterans Day on Nov. 12 and reopen on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 9 a.m.

Normal operating hours will be Mon. – Fri., from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and closed on Sundays.

SBA Customer Service Representatives at the DLOC will be available to issue and accept loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application.

The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners and renters, businesses of all sizes, and private, nonprofit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

This center will also have a FEMA representative on hand to answer questions on federal disaster assistance available for individuals and households.

Businesses or individuals unable to visit the DLOC may obtain information by calling SBA's toll-free number: **1-800-659-2955** (TTY 1-800-877-8339) or visit SBA at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

If you have not registered, you can do so by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. Lines are open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. Those affected by the fires can also register online at www.fema.gov.

Attached is a complete list of assistance service centers that are currently open to serve Southern California wildfire victims.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state-agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES is also responsible for maintaining the State Emergency Plan and coordinating the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 800-659-2955.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

Temporary housing assistance from FEMA does not require that an applicant file for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for additional assistance under the part of the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. There are other ONA grants such as public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses that do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible. FEMA will process applications for housing assistance regardless of whether the applicant has applied for an SBA loan, and eligibility determinations for applicants requesting FEMA's temporary housing assistance will not be held up because the applicant has or has not filled out an SBA application.

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