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**FEMA**

# Recovery News

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SBA: 916-216-9915

## **\$8.2 MILLION IN THE HANDS OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE VICTIMS**

*Another \$30.4 million approved for SBA loans*

**PASADENA, Calif.** —Less than one month after President Bush signed a disaster declaration, \$8.2 million is in the hands of California wildfire victims who live in the disaster-designation counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

Individual assistance is available for the counties listed above as well as public assistance (for state, county and local governments) for emergency work such as debris removal and reimbursement for protective measures. President Bush amended the Oct. 24 declaration on Nov. 8 to allow the counties of Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego to apply for assistance for public work, such as road repair, public utilities, public buildings, and public parks.

- Disaster assistance summary:
  - \$6.1 million - Housing assistance for rental expenses, home repair or replacement.
  - \$2.1 million - Other needs assistance for losses and damage to personal property; vehicle repair or replacement; moving expenses; and other disaster-related costs.
  - \$30.4 million – SBA low-interest loans approved.
- 17,300 have registered for state and federal disaster assistance online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by phone at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**. Phone lines are open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. The registration line will be closed Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22 but will be operational at 5 a.m. on Friday.
- 7,200 home inspections have been completed in the disaster-designated counties.
- \$5 million is the estimated value for the goods and services donated thus far. Voluntary agencies continue to address the unmet needs of wildfire victims. Long-term recovery committees are being formed in San Bernardino and San Diego counties.
- 2,500 Californians have visited Lowe's building supply stores and met with FEMA outreach teams to gather important information on rebuilding and mitigation techniques.
- 12,000 people have visited assistance centers seeking disaster assistance and mitigation information in English and many other languages. American Sign Language interpreters are on site at these centers as well as Spanish translators.

**Page 2 of 3 –\$8.2 MILLION IN THE HANDS OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE VICTIMS**

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- Crisis counseling is available for those who live or work in disaster-affected counties. **Those who need information may call one of the hotline numbers below:**

<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>(800) 854-7771</b>
<b>Orange</b>	<b>(866) 830-6011</b>
<b>Riverside</b>	<b>(800) 706-7500</b>
<b>San Bernardino</b>	<b>(888) 743-1478</b>
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>(800) 479-3339</b>
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	<b>(888) 868-1649</b>
<b>Ventura</b>	<b>(800) 671-0887</b>

- People living or working in the seven disaster-designated counties whose jobs were affected by the California wildfires may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance from the California State Employment Development Department. **The deadline to apply is Nov. 26.**

The fastest and easiest option for individuals to file claims for DUA benefits is on-line at <http://www.edd.ca.gov/fleclaim.htm>.

**Claimants can also file by telephone:**

<b>English.....</b>	<b>1-800-300-5616</b>
<b>Spanish.....</b>	<b>1-800-326-8937</b>
<b>Cantonese.....</b>	<b>1-800-547-3506</b>
<b>Mandarin.....</b>	<b>1-866-303-0706</b>
<b>Vietnamese.....</b>	<b>1-800-547-2058</b>
<b>TTY (non-voice).....</b>	<b>1-800-815-9387</b>

- The California State Bar has a **legal assistance hotline at 1-866-636-9041**. Wildfire victims can call the line with disaster-related basic legal questions such as those on replacing lost documents, housing-landlord-tenant disputes, and insurance issues.
- All Disaster Recovery Centers will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22 and the Local Assistance Center in Rancho Bernardo will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23.
- There is one U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Outreach Center open in San Bernardino at the National Orange Fairgrounds, 689 South “E” Street. Hours are: Mon.– Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The center is closed on Sundays and will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.
- Three assistance centers in San Diego County (Fallbrook, Ramona, and Rancho San Diego) will transition to Disaster Recovery Centers on Nov. 19. A complete list of assistance centers, with operating hours follows this release.

*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.*

**Page 3 of 3 –\$8.2 MILLION IN THE HANDS OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE VICTIMS**  
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*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 California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 1-800-462-7585.*

*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.*

*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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*Attachment: Assistance Centers, Southern California Wildfires*