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FEMA

November 21, 2007
DR-1731-CA NR-45
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Recovery News

MORE THAN \$822,400 APPROVED FOR CRISIS COUNSELING

PASADENA, California —The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved an \$822,438 grant to the California Department of Mental Health for crisis-counseling services for victims of the recent Southern California wildfires in the disaster-affected counties.

“Losing a home, business, or personal property to the wildfires takes not only a financial toll on victims, but also levies an emotional impact,” said Mike Hall, head of the federal effort for the disaster. “This grant demonstrates the commitment of FEMA and the state to those suffering the emotional toll of this disaster.”

Crisis counseling can help wildfire victims deal with the normal stress brought on by an abnormal situation. Common reactions to a disaster may include nightmares, difficulty sleeping, feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, increased anger or aggression, domestic violence, frustration, and feelings of powerlessness. These feelings can be exhibited by people of all ages. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to post-disaster stress.

Crisis counseling is available for those who live or work in disaster-affected counties. **Those who need help may call one of the hotline numbers below. Lines are open 24/7.**

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

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 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.

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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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