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**FEMA**

# Disaster News

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## LATEST MALIBU FIRE VICTIMS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER AID

**PASADENA, Calif.** — Homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the most recent Malibu fire may register for disaster assistance from federal and state agencies along with Southern California residents who lost property during the October/November wildfires.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has dispatched teams of community relations specialists to visit shelters to talk to Malibu evacuees. These specialists will explain the disaster assistance process and encourage people to register if they return home and find their homes damaged or destroyed. Phone lines are open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

FEMA cannot duplicate what insurance already covers, so residents with insurance should contact their insurance agency immediately and then register with FEMA online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **TTY 1-800-462-7585**.

The deadline for all residents affected by October and November wildfires in Southern California to register for federal and state assistance is Jan. 9, 2008.

Nearly 18,000 people have requested disaster assistance from the October wildfires, and FEMA has distributed **\$9.8** million to California wildfire victims in the past month. That includes **\$7** million in housing assistance and **\$2.8** million to meet residents' other needs.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved **\$38** million in federal low-interest disaster loans for individuals and businesses. The state of California has approved **\$1.2** million in state supplemental grants.

*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.*

*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.*

**AID**

*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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