



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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Port Arthur Disaster Recovery Center Transitions to SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center

SACRAMENTO – Manuel R. Gonzalez, Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Houston District Office, announced today that the Port Arthur Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), located at the Port Arthur Civic Center, will transition to an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) at 9 a.m. on Friday, December 19, 2008.

SBA customer service representatives will continue to be available at the Disaster Recovery Center until it closes and at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process, help each individual complete their application and close their approved disaster loans.

The Port Arthur DRC located at the Port Arthur Civic Center, 3401 Cultural Center Drive, will cease operations at the close of business on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 5 p.m. The SBA DLOC will be open Friday, December 19 at 8 a.m. at the same location and operate Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., until further notice.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the SBA opened the DRC to provide personal assistance and disaster information to individuals and businesses who suffered damage as a result of Hurricanes Ike in September. “At this stage of the recovery process, the emphasis for assistance is to meet the long-term needs of victims. We believe the transition of the Port Arthur Disaster Recovery Center to an SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center will better meet the current needs of Jefferson County residents and businesses,” said Gonzalez.

SBA offers low-interest Federal disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed by the disaster. So far, SBA has approved more than \$442 million in low-interest disaster loans to Texas residents and businesses hurt by Hurricane Ike.

SBA disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

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For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

SBA customer service representatives continue to be available at Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers and Business Assistance Centers (BACs) throughout Texas. Individuals and business owners may obtain the location of a DRC, SBA DLOC, or BAC near them by calling toll-free (800) 659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free (800) 877-8339 or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Information on SBA programs may also be obtained at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Disaster victims may now go online to file an SBA application for disaster loan assistance. The Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims should first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-3362, or visit their web site at www.fema.gov.

The filing deadline for Hurricane Ike to return applications for property damage is **January 12, 2009**. The EIDL deadline is **June 15, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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