



U.S. Small Business Administration

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE TOPS \$10 MILLION FOR VICTIMS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Sacramento, CA – Bruce Thompson, Regional Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced today that SBA has approved over \$10 million in Federal low-interest disaster loans to California homeowners, renters and businesses who sustained damages from the wildfires that occurred November 13 through November 28, 2008.

“Since the President declared Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and Santa Barbara counties a disaster, SBA has approved \$10.2 million in loans to homeowners, renters and businesses,” said Thompson.

“SBA is committed to helping California fire victims rebuild their homes, their businesses and their lives as quickly as possible,” said Thompson. Individuals and business owners who sustained damages from the fires are encouraged to tele-register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by calling (800) 621-3362, or (800) 462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. “Don’t miss out on assistance you may be entitled to by not registering for help,” he added.

SBA is the Federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster damaged private property. Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. 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 homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, 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.

For information about SBA programs, or to find the days, times and location of a disaster loan outreach center near you, call SBA at **(800) 659-2955** or visit SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. For hearing impaired individuals the number is (800) 877-8339. Individuals may contact SBA by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Additionally, California 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>. The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **January 21, 2009**. The EIDL deadline is **August 18, 2009**.

For more information visit SBA’s Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

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