



U.S. Small Business Administration

# *DISASTER NEWS*

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

**Release Date:** November 26, 2008

**Release Number:** MT 11545-01

**Contact:** Rick Jenkins

**Phone:** (916) 735-1500

## *Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses*

**Sacramento, CA** – Small, non-farm businesses in 27 Montana counties (plus neighboring counties in North Dakota and South Dakota) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). “These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the combination of drought, excessive heat, hail, severe storms, high winds, wildfires and insects affecting the primary Montana counties beginning January 1, 2008,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary **Montana** Counties: Broadwater, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Golden Valley, McCone, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Wibaux;

Neighboring **Montana** Counties: Carter, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone;

Neighboring **North Dakota** Counties: Bowman, Divide, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Slope and Williams;

Neighboring **South Dakota** County: Harding;

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. “Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to small businesses and most private, non-profits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ed Schafer declared this disaster at the request of Governor Brian Schweitzer.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. SBA’s Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **July 6, 2009**.

*For more information visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

###

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841