



U.S. Small Business Administration

# DISASTER NEWS

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## *Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses*

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in 14 Montana counties (plus neighboring counties in Idaho and Wyoming) 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 adverse weather conditions in three primary Montana counties, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA’s Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions on the incident dates in each disaster:

EIDL	Primary Counties	Neighboring Counties	Incident Type	Incident Date	Deadline
11586	Big Horn	Carbon, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone in Montana and Big Horn and Sheridan in Wyoming	Severe storms with heavy winds, excessive rain and hail	5/1/08 through 08/3/08	07/27/09
11587	Gallatin and Madison	Beaverhead, Broadwater, Jefferson, Meagher, Park and Silver Bow in Montana; Fremont in Idaho and Park and Teton in Wyoming	Severe storms with heavy winds, excessive rain, hail and flooding	7/22/08	07/27/09

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 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 restricted to small businesses 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 these disasters 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.

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>.

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

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