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# Disaster News

## **FEMA AND STATE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SERVE THOSE IN NEED**

**PASADENA, Calif.** – Federal and state assistance programs can help Californians as they start to rebuild their lives—changed drastically by the recent wildfires.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Individuals and Households Program includes:

*Housing Assistance (FEMA funded) for:*

- Temporary residence (rental assistance or lodging expenses), or;
- Repairs for homeowners to make their homes safe, sanitary and habitable.

*Other disaster-related assistance (state and FEMA funded) for:*

- Personal property — clothing, furnishings, appliances and certain clean-up items;
- Transportation — vehicle repair or replacement or additional costs for public transportation;
- Medical, dental and funeral expenses; and
- Other disaster-related expenses — moving and storage, etc.

California's State Supplemental Grant Program (SSGP), administered by the California Department of Social Services, assists those who suffered damages and losses as a result of the wildfires. Individuals who have received the maximum grant assistance from FEMA and still have eligible losses may be eligible for SSGP.

“Ensuring that everyone eligible for fire assistance has the opportunity to access all the federal and state assistance they are eligible for under the law, including safe housing, is one of our top priorities,” said Henry Renteria director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and state coordinating officer for the fire recovery effort.

“We realize the anguish of those who have been displaced from their homes or lost personal property because of these devastating fires,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Hall of FEMA. “Registering for disaster assistance is one of the first steps to recovery.”

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Those affected by the wildfires may register for federal and state assistance by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1- 800-462-7585**. Lines are open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily. Each situation is unique, and every application is handled on a case-by-case basis.

When calling to register for housing assistance, wildfire victims with disabilities should communicate their special needs, so FEMA can ensure their housing is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

*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 the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.*

*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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