



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: August 26, 2004
Release Number: 3617-01

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SBA Opens Disaster Office to Help Victims of Bear and French Fires

Sacramento, CA – Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today declared **Shasta** County a disaster area due to damage caused by the Bear and French fires. The fires have burned more than 100 homes and businesses. SBA’s disaster declaration makes low-interest Federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the fire. This action responds to a request from Henry R. Renteria, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s authorized representative. Individuals and businesses in Shasta County and the neighboring counties of Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity are eligible to apply.

According to Bruce Thompson, SBA Regional Administrator, SBA is opening a disaster center in **Redding on Thursday, August 26 at 1 pm** to assist victims in applying for these low-interest disaster loans. “An SBA loan officer will be on hand at the **Boggs Building, in front of the Social Services Building, 2420 Breslauer Way** (intersection of Breslauer Way and Eastside Road) to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Thompson said.

The office will be open **Thursdays, from 1 pm to 5 pm, Fridays, from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, and Saturdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**, until further notice. “SBA will answer specific questions about how a disaster loan from SBA may help each victim recover from the disaster damage and will provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan application,” Thompson continued.

According to Jim O’Neal, SBA’s Sacramento District Director, disaster loans of 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 \$1.5 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. Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to small businesses,” O’Neal said.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA’s disaster center may obtain information and loan applications by writing to SBA at P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004, or by calling toll-free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683. Applications for property damage must be returned to SBA by **October 25, 2004**. Applications for economic injury must be returned by **May 25, 2005**.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 4 — P.O. Box 419004 — Sacramento, CA 95841