



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## **July 31 is Deadline to Apply For SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans**

**ATLANTA** - The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding small businesses in the Virgin Islands that July 31 is the filing deadline for Economic Injury Disaster Loans available in Saint Croix. The SBA declared a disaster because of Hurricane Omar that occurred on October 14-16, 2008.

“Small businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the **July 31** deadline,” said Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Loans are available up to \$2 million for small businesses that suffered substantial economic injury from the disaster. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. These loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years. The SBA determines the amount of economic injury and the terms of each loan based on the financial circumstances of each borrower. The SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size and type of business and its financial resources.

To obtain a loan application, interested business owners should contact the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, or by sending an emailing to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Business disaster loan applications can also be downloaded from [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Victims may visit the SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/> to apply for disaster loans.

**The deadline for economic injury applications is July 31, 2009.**

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*For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance)*