



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

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## **SBA Presents First Federal Disaster Loan Checks for California Wildfires; SBA Disaster Loan Assistance Already Nears \$7.9 Million**

**San Diego, CA** – Bruce Thompson, Regional Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), today presented 5 disaster assistance checks to individuals for whom SBA has approved loans totaling \$1,133,800. These loans are to help them overcome the losses caused by the wildfires that began October 21, 2007 and are available because of President Bush’s October 24th Federal disaster declaration for Individual Assistance. “These checks demonstrate SBA’s commitment to providing rapid assistance to the fire victims,” Thompson said.

According to Thompson, as of today SBA has already approved 53 loans for almost \$7.9 million in low-interest disaster loans to individuals and businesses impacted by the wildfires. The average processing time for these loans is five days.

Thompson thanked the individuals receiving the checks for attending the ceremony. “They are helping us get an important message out: help for individuals and businesses is available now, and the service provided by SBA is very prompt,” he said. “It’s important for all individuals and businesses in the impacted communities to hear about today’s disaster loan checks, and for them to know SBA is there for them if they need us,” he emphasized.

“While SBA has found that most property owners have insurance coverage, for many their insurance does not cover the full loss. Together with insurance funds and the SBA loan, these disaster victims will have the funds to rebuild,” he emphasized.

“Low-interest Federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the wildfires,” said Thompson. Disaster loans 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 homeowners and business owners to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses only, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

SBA disaster customer service representatives are still available at all Local Assistance Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s Disaster Loan program, explain the application process, and help each individual complete their application. Individuals and businesses who sustained losses from the wildfires can speak with SBA representatives without an appointment at the following locations on the days and times indicated.

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<p><b><u>Los Angeles County</u></b> <b>CASTAIC</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Castaic Regional Sports Complex 31230 North Castaic Road Castaic, CA 91384</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays &amp; Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p> <p>Center scheduled to close after this Sunday.</p>	<p><b><u>Los Angeles County</u></b> <b>MALIBU</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Malibu Bluffs Park 24250 Pacific Coast Highway Malibu, CA 90265</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays &amp; Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>Los Angeles County</u></b> <b>SANTA CLARITA</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) George A. Carvalho Santa Clarita Sports Complex 20880 Centre Pointe Parkway In the Activity Center Santa Clarita, CA 91350</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>
<p><b><u>Orange County</u></b> <b>IRVINE</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) 125 Technology Drive West, Suite 200 Irvine, CA 92618</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays &amp; Sundays 9:00 am – 4:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>San Bernardino County</u></b> <b>SAN BERNARDINO</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) National Orange Show Fairgrounds 689 South E Street in the Dome Building San Bernardino, CA 92408</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 7:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays &amp; Sundays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>San Diego County</u></b> <b>EL CAJON</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Rancho San Diego - Cuyamaca College 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway El Cajon, CA 92019</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>
<p><b><u>San Diego County</u></b> <b>FALLBROOK</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Fallbrook Community Center 341 Heald Lane Fallbrook, CA 92028</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>San Diego County</u></b> <b>RAMONA</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Ramona Community School 1710 Montecito Road Ramona, CA 92065</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Saturdays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b><u>San Diego County</u></b> <b>SAN DIEGO</b></p> <p>Local Assistance Center (LAC) Rancho Bernardo - Glassman Recreation Center 18448 West Bernardo Drive San Diego, CA 92127</p> <p>Mondays – Fridays 7:00 am – 8:00 pm Saturdays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Sundays 9:00 am – 2:00 pm</p>

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-3362. Additional details on the locations, days and times of assistance centers can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at **(800) 659-2955**, or by visiting SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **December 24, 2007**. The EIDL deadline is **July 24, 2008**.

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

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