



Joint Field Office
75 North Fair Oaks Ave
Pasadena, CA 91103



FEMA

November 20, 2008
DR-1810-CA NR-03
FEMA/State News Desk:
(626) 431-3910
SBA: William Koontz
(916) 847-2338

Disaster News

FEDERAL-STATE ASSISTANCE BEGINS WITH A PHONE CALL

PASADENA, Calif. — Residents of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and Santa Barbara counties who suffered damages to their dwellings in the recent wildfires can begin the federal and state assistance process with one telephone call. They are encouraged to register by calling the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) toll-free telephone number **1-800-621-3362 (FEMA)** (TTY 1-800-464-7585) or online at www.fema.gov.

“Applicants do not have to go to a Local Assistance Center or LAC to register for federal and state assistance,” said State Coordinating Officer Tom Maruyama. “They can apply for federal and state aid over the phone or computer. If they have insurance they should call their agent and begin the settlement process, too.”

People who have registered with the American Red Cross or other helping agencies must also register with FEMA if they want access to federal and state aid. FEMA and the state do not duplicate losses covered by insurance, so it is important to begin the settlement process at the same time.

“Anyone who has been affected by the fires may be eligible, but there’s no way to know if they don’t register,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Mark Neveau. “That’s the first step to qualifying for federal and state assistance.”

To begin the federal and state application process, call **1-800-621-3362** or go online to www.fema.gov .

###

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 maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters. OES assists local governments and their state agencies in developing their own emergency preparedness and response plans in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the State Emergency Plan.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do no duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. For information about SBA programs, applicants may call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY 1-800-977-8339).