



FEMA

Fact Sheet

February 4, 2005

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FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS FOR CALIFORNIA DISASTER RECOVERY

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Bush's major disaster declaration issued for California.

Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families Can Include as Required:

- Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance may be provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on a review of individual applicant requirements. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants for home repairs and replacement of essential household items not covered by insurance to make damaged dwellings safe, sanitary and functional. *(Source: FEMA funded and administered.)*
- Grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs. *(Source: FEMA funded at 75 percent of total eligible costs; 25 percent funded by the state.)*
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals. *(Source: FEMA funded; state administered.)*
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$1.5 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*
- Loans up to \$1.5 million for small businesses that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$1.5 million. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration.)*

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DISASTER AID PROGRAMS--Add One

- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. (*Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.*)
- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans benefits and social security matters.

Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include as Required:

- Payment of 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, schools, recreational areas and similar publicly owned property, as well as certain private non-profit organizations engaged in community service activities. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)
- Payment of 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public areas and for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)
- Payment of 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)

How to Apply for Assistance:

- Those in the counties designated for assistance to affected residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.
- Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.



Disaster News

February 9, 2005

DR-1577-CA, NR-03

Contacts:

OES – Greg Renick, 626-431-3648

FEMA – News Desk, 626-431-3091

SBA – Rick Jenkins, 626-431-3091

LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS TO OPEN IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PASADENA, Calif.—The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced that two Local Assistance Centers (LACs) will open in Los Angeles County on Thursday, February 10, 2005, to serve victims who suffered damages during the severe storms of December 27, 2004 – January 11, 2005.

Disaster victims should register for assistance first by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or by logging onto www.fema.gov for online registration. The TTY number is **1-800-462-7585** for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired.

The centers will provide people with an opportunity to meet face-to-face with recovery specialists. The new LAC locations:

Los Angeles County

Castaic Regional Sports Complex
31230 Castaic Road
Castaic, Calif.
Open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

North Hollywood Recreation Center
11430 Chandler Blvd.
North Hollywood, Calif.
Open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., February 10 – 16 only

Representatives of state, federal, and voluntary agencies, as well as loan officers from the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be on hand to answer questions and provide recovery information. Written materials about various assistance programs are also available to individuals and business owners.

OES coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for ensuring California’s readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery efforts.

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Local Assistance Centers to open—page two

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 not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available to any individual without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, economic status, or disability. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against in receiving disaster assistance, you may contact one of FEMA's Equal Rights Officers (EROS) at 1-800-525-0321, or contact your State Office of Equal Right.



Disaster News

February 10, 2005

DR-1577-CA, NR-07

Contacts:

OES – Greg Renick, 626-431-3646

FEMA – News Desk, 626-431-3091

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THIRD LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER TO OPEN IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PASADENA, Calif.—The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced that an additional Local Assistance Center (LAC) will open in Los Angeles County on Saturday, February 12, 2005, to serve those who suffered damages during the severe storms of December 27, 2004 – January 11, 2005.

On February 10, 2005, LACs opened in Castaic and North Hollywood. The centers provide people with an opportunity to meet face-to-face with recovery specialists.

Affected homeowners, renters and business owners should register for assistance first by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The TTY number is **1-800-462-7585** for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired.

The new LAC location:

Los Angeles County

Altadena Community Center

730 East Altadena Road

Altadena, Calif.

Open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., daily

Representatives of state, federal, and voluntary agencies, as well as loan officers from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), will be on hand to answer questions and provide recovery information.

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